

council

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**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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SEPTIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
SEPTIMA SESION PLENARIA

(6 November 1987)

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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 92/PV/1

Ninety-second Session

Quatre-vingt-douzième session

92º período de sesiones

FIRST PLENARY MEETING PREMIERE SEANCE PLENIERE PRIMERA SESION PLENARIA

(3 November 1987)

The First Plenary Meeting was opened at 10.45 hours

Lassaad Ben Osman, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La première seance plénière est ouverte à 10 h 45, sous la présidence
de Lassaad Ben Osman, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la primera sesión plenaria a las 10.45 horas, bajo la presidencia
de Lassaad Ben Osman, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

LE PRESIDENT: Monsieur le Directeur général, honorables délégués, Mesdames et Messieurs, c'est pour moi un grand plaisir de vous souhaiter la bienvenue et de déclarer ouverte la quatre-vingt-douzième session du Conseil. Je suis convaincu que nos débats seront, comme toujours, inspirés par le souci de l'intérêt général attaché à la mission qui incombe à notre organisation et à ses responsabilités essentielles pour l'alimentation dans le monde.

I. INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION

I. INTRODUCTION - QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE

I. INTRODUCCION - CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO

1. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable

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

1. Aprobación del programa y el calendario

Nous allons passer à l'adoption de l'ordre du jour qui figure dans le document CL 92/1.

Permettez-moi cependant de vous faire au préalable quelques considérations d'ordre général.

Notre présente session va durer trois jours. Son ordre du jour est particulièrement chargé et important. Il comporte seize points dont plusieurs font l'objet de subdivisions, l'un d'eux ne comprend pas moins de neuf sous-points. Il s'agit pour nous de faire en sorte de tenir en trois jours, un débat sur autant de questions si importantes. Bien sûr je ne veux et ne peux en rien restreindre la liberté de parole des délégués membres du Conseil. Cependant je me dois de signaler qu'une grande partie des questions de fond que nous allons aborder vont être en définitive soumises à l'examen et à la décision de la Conférence générale, puisque notre Conseil a essentiellement pour mission de préparer la Conférence générale. Notre travail a été préparé utilement par les organes constitutifs du Conseil, à savoir le Comité du programme, le Comité financier, qui nous ont soumis leurs rapports, et nous avons dorénavant déjà le bénéfice de leurs analyses. Je pense donc que notre travail pourrait s'inspirer de l'optique de préparer les décisions de la Conférence générale, et sans anticiper, bien entendu, sur le contenu de ces délibérations de la Conférence générale.

C'est ainsi que dans l'ordre du jour nous avons plusieurs points: le Point 6 Relations et consultations interinstitutions, qui sont des questions d'intérêt commun; le Point 7 Programme de travail et budget 88/89 et objectifs à moyen terme qui a été déjà examiné à deux reprises par le Comité du programme et le Comité financier ainsi que par le Conseil à sa Session de juin; il y a également le Point 8 examen du Programme ordinaire 86-87, le Point 9 examen des programmes de terrain 86-87. J'ajouterai pour ma part le point II qui traite des rapports du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier. En effet ces documents sont adressés au Conseil et ne seront pas transmis à la Conférence en tant que tels; ce que nous avons à faire c'est d'indiquer à la Conférence nos éléments d'appréciation sur ces rapports. Plusieurs des sous-points du point II nous sont soumis pour examen et éventuellement décision mais, dans ce cas, "décision" veut dire en fait décision de transmettre à la Conférence avec mention, s'il y a lieu, de l'appréciation que nous en donnons.

C'est ce que je me devais de souligner au départ, et, compte tenu du délai relativement restreint -trois jours - dont nous disposons, je me permets de faire instamment appel à Messieurs les honorables délégués pour que nous puissions éclairer la Conférence et plus spécialement la Commission II, mais en réservant l'essentiel des débats à la Conférence générale. Je pense que c'est le seul moyen de parvenir à épuiser l'ordre du jour dans le temps qui nous est imparti.

Ce sont des observations liminaires que je me devais de faire en introduction à nos travaux de trois jours. Bien entendu si le temps ne suffit pas, nous serons amenés à faire des séances de nuit, à arriver dans les délais et finir jeudi après-midi.

Compte tenu de ces réactions préliminaires, je voudrais demander au Conseil s'il est prêt à adopter l'ordre du jour provisoire qui nous est proposé et qui figure dans le document CL 92/1.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Deseamos referirnos al documento CL 92/1, Programa Provisional sobre el tema 5, informe sobre la aplicación del Código Internacional de conducta para la distribución y utilización de plaguicidas. Observamos que este tema 5 figura para información. Hemos revisado el Programa de la Conferencia y no aparece ese tema. La Resolución que adoptó el Código reconoció su carácter dinámico y dispuso que los gobiernos siguieran el cumplimiento del Código.

Usted, Sr. Presidente, ha dicho muy bien que es un período corto y que tenemos muchos temas, pero el Gobierno de Colombia atribuye mucha importancia a este asunto. Por ello proponemos que este tema 5 sea para debate y/o decisión, o que en alternativa se translade al Programa de la próxima Conferencia.

LE PRESIDENT: Y a-t-il des observations sur cette proposition de Monsieur le délégué de la Colombie? Pouvons-nous retenir sa suggestion qui consiste à ce que nous disions: le Point 5 pour décision étant entendu que la décision finale interviendra à la Conférence générale?

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: La question n'est pas inscrite à l'ordre du jour de la Conférence générale; elle n'est inscrite qu'à celui du Conseil. Je crois que le délégué de la Colombie voudrait qu'elle soit inscrite par le Conseil à l'ordre du jour de la Conférence, or celui-ci a déjà été établi par le Conseil à sa dernière session; le Conseil peut néanmoins décider à la majorité, de suggérer à la Conférence d'ajouter un point à l'ordre du jour; il faudrait pour cela qu'il y ait évidemment débat,

Nous avons pensé que deux ans d'expérience étaient insuffisants pour obtenir des réactions, proposer des changements et des amendements. Le Conseil peut parfaitement décider d'aller plus loin et de recommander à la Conférence d'ajouter ce document, en tenant compte des contraintes de temps, de traduction etc. Cela étant dit, le Secrétariat n'a pas d'opinion, c'est une affaire qui concerne le Conseil qui est souverain et libre dans ses recommandations.

Fred J. ECKERT (United States of America): The view of the United States is very similar to what the Director-General has just said, that this is an area for the Conference to decide. It is not appropriate at this point to inject a new element. We believe that we have had a previous consensus view on this issue and that ought to be adhered to. There is no reason at this time, at this place, for the Council to try to impose upon the Conference as a whole that particular course of action. It is better to continue in the path which we have embarked upon and to make no last minute changes at this point.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous pouvons donc peut-être maintenir l'ordre du jour en l'état.

Leopoldo ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Primeramente queremos saludarle a usted, Sr. Presidente; nos complace mucho verlo presidiendo de nuevo nuestro Consejo.

Sobre este punto nosotros tenemos un criterio bastante particular; creo que este Código de Conducta fue una obra de la FAO que tuvo mucha discusión y que tiene que jugar un rol muy importante; no sólo la agricultura con vistas a obtener más rendimiento, sino que su discusión nos llevó a momentos en que su cuidado y aplicación había que verlo con bastante detalle por los problemas en general que tienen nuestros países para su utilización.

En el Consejo pasado hubo una discusión muy interesante sobre incumplimientos que ya estaban siendo notorios, publicados a todos los niveles en distintos países. Nos parecería muy importante que no sólo fuera de información y que sí, coincido con usted y con el Director General en que ya la Conferencia tiene su Programa, sin embargo, nos parecía que era muy limitativo esto de información solamente. Y además creo que en este Consejo tampoco hay espacio para una discusión, por lo tanto,

nosotros sí consideramos que se podía pasar a discutirse en la Conferencia, que tendríamos más espacios. Aquí no va a haber oportunidad de discusión. La información aquí sería suficiente, pero este tema sí creo que debemos tenerlo en cuenta para una discusión en la Conferencia.

Ronald F.R. DEARE (United Kingdom): We have read the paper very carefully and we agree very much with what the Director-General has said. This is a very early stage in the implementation of the code, it is a very useful and interesting progress report but we see nothing in here which requires discussion at this stage and certainly nothing which requires decision. Therefore, we think that the Director-General is absolutely right to put it on the agenda for information, as he did. That brings it to our attention but I think it would be completely wrong to burden the Conference agenda at this stage with this item.

LE PRESIDENT: Pouvons-nous considérer que nous maintenons le Point 5 pour information, tout en laissant au Conseil le soin, lorsqu'il abordera ce point, d'approfondir la question? Y a-t-il d'autres remarques sur l'ordre du jour? Nous pouvons donc, avec votre permission, considérer que l'ordre du jour est adopté.

Nous allons passer à l'adoption du calendrier. Il s'agit du document CL 92/INF/1 dont vous disposez. Y a-t-il des remarques au sujet du calendrier provisoire?

Nous pouvons donc considérer, s'il n'y a pas de commentaires, que le calendrier provisoire est adopté.

Y a-t-il des objections à ce que les séances, comme de coutume, se tiennent tous les jours de 9 h 30 à 12 h 30 et de 14 h 30 à 17 h 30, étant entendu qu'afin d'épuiser l'ordre du jour, nous serons peut-être amenés, le moment venu, à tenir des séances supplémentaires?

S'il n'y a pas d'objections, nous allons donc considérer que le calendrier proposé dans ce document est approuvé.

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

Nous passons au point 2 de l'ordre du jour, qui s'intitule comme suit: "Election de trois Vice-Présidents et nomination du Président et des membres du Comité de rédaction".

Nous allons commencer par l'élection des trois Vice-Présidents. Je prie les délégués de bien vouloir me présenter les candidatures éventuelles.

Joachim WINKEL (Germany, Federal Republic of): I have the honour and the pleasure to propose to the Council, on behalf of the member countries of the OECD, the permanent representative of Italy to FAO, Ambassador Elio Pascarelli, as one of the Vice-Chairmen of the Council.

Mr. Pascarelli is so well known in our Organization that there is normally no need to introduce him, but I should like to underline his creativity and the initiative he has often taken in our work; so he has the full support of us all in our group.

Leopoldo ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Queremos brevemente hacernos eco de la proposición que ha hecho la distinguida representación de Alemania Federal para apoyar la candidatura del Embajador Pascarelli para la Vicepresidencia. Estamos totalmente de acuerdo en que Pascarelli es uno de nuestros representantes más dinámicos y que puede ayudar mucho en este Consejo, que consideramos que va a ser un Consejo extraordinario e histórico, y él es una persona cabal para la ayuda a Ud.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous avons donc la proposition du délégué de la République fédérale de l'Allemagne appuyée par le délégué de Cuba.

Waliur RAHMAN (Bangladesh): My Delegation has the great pleasure and honour to propose the name of Mr Roberto Ansaldo, Deputy Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Government of the Philippines, for one of the posts of Vice-Chairman of the 92nd Session of the Council.

Mr Ansaldo has made a name for himself in this particular field of discipline, and his especial innovative approaches in the particular field of operation in the Philippines have earned him wide recognition, not only nationally but internationally.

With the election of Mr Roberto Ansaldo the Chairman of the Council will have an excellent hand to assist him.

M. Afzal QADIR (Pakistan): Having regard to the impressive qualifications of Mr. Roberto Ansaldo, my delegation has great pleasure in endorsing the nomination made by the Bangladesh Delegation.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous avons donc la proposition d'élire les délégués Elio Pascarelli et Roberto Ansaldo à la vice-présidence. Je pense que nous pouvons considérer que cette proposition recueille l'agrément du Conseil.

Y a-t-il la proposition d'une candidature à la troisième vice-présidence? Je vous propose donc de reporter à cet après-midi la présentation des candidatures au troisième poste de vice-président.

Nous allons passer maintenant à la nomination des membres du Comité de rédaction. Nous espérons que, comme de coutume, les différentes régions et langues de la FAO seront représentées à ce Comité. Le nombre des membres du Comité de rédaction n'est pas limité. Je me permettrai de signaler que nous avons toujours tenu à ce que les sept régions de la FAO y soient représentées en plus du Président du Comité de rédaction.

Y a-t-il une proposition à cet effet?

Bashir El Mabrouk SAID (Libya) (Original language Arabic): As concerns the members of the drafting group, I believe that it would be wise to defer this until this afternoon so as to conduct negotiations, when the Chairman of the Group of 77 will be able to inform you of the nominations representing the Group of 77.

LE PRESIDENT: Y a-t-il une objection au report à cet après-midi de la présentation des candidatures au Comité de rédaction? Retenons-nous cette proposition, étant précisé toutefois que, le Conseil ne devant durer que trois jours, il nous semble impérieux de proposer ces candidatures au Comité de rédaction le plus tôt possible afin d'achever le débat dans les délais impartis? Retenons-nous donc que l'élection du troisième vice-président et la nomination des membres du Comité de rédaction, y compris le Président, sont reportées à la séance de cet après-midi? Oui, bien sûr.

II. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP
II. ACTIVITES DE LA FAO ET DU PAM
II. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y EL PMA

3. Preparations for the Twenty-fourth Session of the FAO Conference, including:
3. Préparation de la vingt-quatrième session de la conférence de la FAO,
notamment:

3. Preparativos para el 24º período de sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO, en particular:

3.1 Nomination of the Chairman of the Conference, and of the Chairmen of the Commissions of the Conference

3.1 Propositions de candidatures aux fonctions de Président de la Conférence et de Présidents des commissions de la Conférence

3.1 Elección del Comité de Candidaturas

Avec votre permission, nous passons au point 3 de l'ordre du jour, qui s'intitule comme suit: "Préparation de la vingt-quatrième session de la Conférence de la FAO, notamment: 3.1 Proposition de candidatures aux fonctions de président de la Conférence et de présidents des commissions de la Conférence" - il s'agit, bien entendu, d'une recommandation à la Conférence - et. ensuite "3.2 Elections des membres de la Commission des candidatures".

Comme vous le savez, dans le cadre des préparatifs de la Conférence qui commencera samedi prochain, le Conseil doit proposer ses candidats aux postes de Président de la Conférence et de présidents des trois Commissions de la Conférence. Il doit également élire les onze membres de la Commission des candidatures. A cet égard, je voudrais donner lecture de l'article du procès verbal de la dernière session du Conseil qui a traité de la question:

"Le Conseil a noté que, comme l'avait proposé le Président indépendant du Conseil, les chefs des délégations présentes à la session ont constitué un groupe de contact afin de parvenir rapidement à un accord sur les candidats qui pourraient être désignés par le Conseil à sa quatre-vingt-douzième session pour remplir les fonctions de Président de la Conférence et de Présidents des Commissions I, II, et III. Le paragraphe 8 du document CL 91/12 sera amendé en conséquence."

Comme vous le savez, en ce qui concerne le Président de la Conférence, nous sommes saisis de deux candidatures: celle de Son Excellence Abdel Razik Al-Khalic, Ministre du commerce et de l'industrie de Koweït, et celle de Son excellence Colin Moyle, Ministre de l'agriculture de la Nouvelle-Zélande.

Avant d'aller plus avant, puisque le Conseil a constitué un groupe de contact avec deux co-présidents, je voudrais proposer de donner la parole à chacun de ces deux co-présidents pour qu'ils rendent compte au Conseil de la mission qui leur a été confiée dans le cadre du groupe de contact par cette résolution du dernier Conseil. Ces deux co-présidents sont M. Ryan, de l'Australie, et M. Mabrouk Said, de la Libye.

Michael J. RYAN (Australia): The Contact Group met on a number of occasions since the last Council meeting, and while we argued or discussed backwards and forwards the relative merits of both sides of the case we eventually reached a situation where we could not come to a result between the candidate from the Near East and the candidate from my region. I think it would be wasting the time of the Council to go through the blow-by-blow description of what actually occurred during those meetings. That was the result at the end.

As I understand it now, we have an agreement here that I will present a quick summary of the case for the South West Pacific, and then Mr Said from Libya will do the same for his region.

As you have said, Mr Chairman, our region is proud to nominate the Honourable Colin Moyle, the New Zealand Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries, as Chairman of the 24th FAO Conference. The South-West Pacific Region last held the Conference Chairmanship in 1971 and, based on the principle of regional rotation as practised in FAO and other international organizations, we believe it is now the South-West Pacific Region's turn to propose a candidate for the Chairmanship of the 24th Conference.

The principle of rotation clearly signifies that when a particular office such as the Chairmanship of the Conference falls vacant, then the various electoral groupings take turns on a regular basis to fill that particular office. In this respect it is most significant that all other regional groups have held the Chairmanship of the Conference more recently than the South-West Pacific Region.

Other considerations, such as one particular region following another in the past, or the number of times a region has held the position since the inception of FAO, are extraneous to this fundamental principle and serve only to confuse the issue, we believe. For instance, on that latter point, Europe would not hold the Chair until the year 2035, that is in another 24 Conferences' time.

The last point I should like to make on this is that those extraneous matters that have been brought into question have the potential to create uncertainty and division amongst the members of FAO. We thoroughly checked the position and the circumstances surrounding the nomination of the Chairman of the last Conference.

Prior to the last Conference, Australia, as Council Member representing the Region, was approached by the Director-General with the proposition that the South-West Pacific stand aside on that occasion to allow an African to take the Chair. After consultation within our Region, we decided to step aside, recognizing the special situation facing African agriculture at that time and the vital role played by agriculture in the development of the African continent. It was an extraordinary and special circumstance, and thus we decided to forego our turn, believing that we would take the Chair at the next Conference - that is, this one.

Two matters are of relevance here. At that time, under the principle of rotation, our right was clearly recognized; secondly, there was no attempt by the Near East Region to lay claim to the Chairmanship at that time. I would add that, apart from one or two occasions when special circumstances have applied, such as the last Conference, the principle of rotation has applied; furthermore, if a Region had expressed a desire to take its rightful turn under that principle, then it has been allowed to do so without challenge or the need for a contest: until, that is, at this particular Council/Conference. I must say that our Region was very surprised by the action of the Near East, and we have been rather saddened by the maintenance of its candidature over the subsequent months since June. It is a sad fact that we now must go, it seems, to a vote.

The South-West Pacific Region does not believe that this issue should be seen in North/South terms. Indeed, of the nine countries comprising the South-West Pacific Group, seven are developing countries. The New Zealand candidature is one on behalf of the South-West Pacific Region, not on behalf of any particular economic group. The South-West Pacific Region is one of the nine electoral groupings which reflect the special characteristics and role of FAO, which have been in place since the inception of the organization. This regional grouping arrangement is an integral part of the electoral process for FAO Council, and has stood the test of time well.

As far as the candidature itself is concerned, New Zealand is an agricultural country substantially dependent on the production of and trade of agricultural products. It is a founding member and a long-time supporter of FAO and its work. New Zealand firmly supports the international development of agriculture, and is working actively, together with other agricultural countries, towards freer trade in agriculture.

As to Minister Moyle, he is an experienced Minister for Agriculture who has had a long association, both at the practical level - he is a practising farmer himself, he knows the problems that confront agricultural producers; he has also had long and extensive experience at administrative and policy levels. We are confident that he will make an excellent Chairman of the forthcoming Conference.

For the reasons which I have outlined, I strongly commend the South-West Pacific candidate, Minister Moyle, to members of the Council.

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Je regrette de devoir prendre la parole en ce moment. Seulement, le délégué de l'Australie m'a cité, disant que j'avais approché les délégations de l'Australie et de la Nouvelle-Zélande en 1985. Il voudra bien me dire qui j'ai rencontré et quand.

Je nie absolument avoir jamais rencontré une délégation de la Nouvelle-Zélande ou de l'Australie au sujet de la Présidence de la Conférence. Où cela s'est-il passé et à quelle heure?

Je regrette qu'il ait fait cette déclaration sans me consulter. Si c'est un argument, je crois que c'est un mauvais argument. Je n'ai aucun rôle dans l'élection du président de la Conférence. C'est votre président à tous et je voudrais ici affirmer, le plus tranquillement du monde, que ces contacts n'ont pas eu lieu. Il s'agit là d'une erreur.

Bashir El Mabrouk SAID (Libya) (Original language Arabic): I promise that I shall be very brief, and that I shall not deal with the merits of our nomination of Mr Faisal Al Khaled, because all participants know him well - he was a Governor of Kuwait in IFAD. However, I would like to deal with the essence of the matter. As Chairman of the Near East Group and also by virtue of being a member of the Contact Group which was mandated by the last Council in order to reach a consensus on the Chairmanship of the forthcoming Conference, I would like to highlight the following points: First: Respecting prevailing practices and the principle of unity in our democratic process, we did all that we could in order to reach a solution which was agreeable to all countries which are members of this Organization. Second: Foremost amongst our convictions and among practices followed is the principle of rotation regarding the Chairmanship of the Conference among the various regional groups, and, when implementing this principle, we found that the Chairmanship of the Conference legitimately goes to the Near East Group. Third: In a constructive spirit, we worked with the Contact Group in order to understand this reality, because of our keenness to continue cooperation between various countries and groups. However, the insistence of the South West Pacific Group on its position impeded the search for conviction and conciliation, despite our open-mindedness in the search for positive proposals. Fourth: We can but regret the failure to reach understanding: we were working towards achieving this role and we had sincerely hoped to reach it. However, we did not wish to deviate from common practice, and we did not want to establish a harmful precedent which would stand in the way of consensus and unanimity. Fifth: Our keen interest in unity of orientation was clear, as was our deep conviction in the right of the Near East Group, which is openly supported by the Group of 77. Therefore, any positive readiness on our part is an invitation of good will on the one hand, and of our conviction of our right and ability on the other. Sixth: In any case, if we do actually reach a deadlock and are forced to proceed to a vote in order to express our views in this respect, on behalf of the Near East Group I pledge our genuine cooperation with whoever is chosen by the Council as Chairman of the Conference. I sincerely hope that all countries which are members of the Council and Conference will cooperate with the next Chairman in accordance with the democratic premise governing our behaviour. On the last point, by way of comment on what was said by the distinguished Representative of Australia: I was a chairman of the Group of 77 in 1985 when this topic of chairmanship was considered, and a meeting was held in my office which was attended by all chairmen of the regional groups. The only factor raised at that meeting was that the African Region had had the chairmanship twice, the Near East Region twice, and the Pacific Region three times. The Chairmanship was therefore given to Africa for this reason only - there was no other factor involved - and everybody knows what happened at that meeting.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie le délégué de son intervention. Je voudrais dire qu'au point où nous sommes arrivés et dans les trois jours qui nous sont impartis nous n'avons malheureusement pas d'autres alternatives que de passer au vote. Cependant le vote est une procédure exceptionnelle que personnellement je regrette mais à laquelle nous sommes contraints d'avoir recours. Nous n'avons pas d'autres alternatives puisque nous avons épuisé toutes les possibilités pendant trois mois. J'avais insisté lors du dernier Conseil pour éviter le vote, c'est la raison pour laquelle nous avons créé ce groupe de contact. Notre Conseil vient d'écouter les deux coprésidents du groupe de contact et nous n'avons malheureusement pas d'autres alternatives que de passer au vote pour en finir étant précisé que, quel que soit le choix du Conseil Président que nous aurons recommandé à la Conférence est le Président de nous tous. Je voudrais à tout prix éviter toute forme de diacrise, toute forme de tiraillement entre

délégués et je souhaite vivement que, quel que soit le résultat du vote, nous considérions que c'est notre Président à tous, auquel nous devons respect, auquel nous

devons appui, auquel nous devons soutien plein et entier. Avant de passer à la procédure de vote, Monsieur le délégué d'Australie a demandé la parole, je la lui passe mais je voudrais arrêter là le débat, nous n'allons pas jouer au ping-pong.

Michael J. RYAN (Australia): I would like to give a short explanation in View of the comments made by Dr Saouma. As we understand it, here, at some time - I cannot give the exact dates but prior to the Conference in 1985 - a Mr David Gregory, who was my predecessor here as the Alternative Representative here from Australia to FAO, was telephoned and asked to meet with the Director-General in his office. It was at that meeting that it was put to Australia that we step aside and that an African candidate - to wit, the Cameroun - would take the chairmanship. I just want to make that explanation - I don't want to make a big thing about it, but that is what I was told.

LE PRESIDENT: J'arrête là cet entretien et je voudrais maintenant demander à l'honorable Conseiller juridique de la FAO de nous indiquer le mode de scrutin qu'il convient d'appliquer dans ce cas-là.

LEGAL COUNSEL: As you have pointed out Mr Chairman, the Council is now in a situation of a rather unusual kind which, to the best of my knowledge, has never taken place before. There has always been, in the past, consensus in the Council on the nomination for the office of Chairman of the Conference, which the Council is called upon to make in accordance with Rule VII, paragraph 1, of the General Rules of the Organization.

In my view, there is no mandatory provision in the General Rules governing the method of Voting by which the decision is to be taken. I should draw the Council's attention to the fact that in taking its decision it is exercising the function which is referred to in Rule XXIV, paragraph 5(b) of the General Rules of the Organization.

Thus, at this stage, the Council is merely proposing a candidate. It is not proceeding to an election, because, as you are aware, the Chairman of the Conference is actually elected by the Conference itself in accordance with Rule VIII (a) of the General Rules of the Organization.

In the circumstances the decision that the Council will now have to take could be taken in accordance with its normal voting procedure. That is to say, by a show of hands or, if it so wishes, by a roll call vote. The latter would perhaps be the most convenient and expeditious way of proceeding. However, I wish to emphasize that it is up to the Council to decide what method of voting it wishes to adopt.

LE PRESIDENT: Merci à l'honorable Conseiller juridique. Donc il revient au Conseil de décider de la manière dont nous devons voter. Y a-t-il des propositions à ce sujet?

Vanrob ISARANKURA (Thailand): Having listened to the Legal Counsel and looked at Rule VIII of the Basic Texts, Rule VIII says "The Conference shall, after consideration of the Report of the Council Nominations Committee, elect: from the delegations, a Chairman and three Vice-Chairmen". Therefore my question is, do we need to nominate only one candidate to the Conference? I do not think we need it. We should put two candidates to the Conference and vote at the Conference, as I understand it.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous devons assumer nos responsabilités, en tant que Conseil après une élection proposer un nom et si l'Assemblée générale veut prendre une autre décision, elle est souveraine. Nous devons terminer notre travail puis l'Assemblée générale a toute qualité pour revenir sur la question si elle le considère nécessaire. Mais nous avons intérêt à nous en tenir à cette question malheureusement dans des conditions que j'aurais souhaitées différentes. Le Conseil est appelé à décider la manière dont il entend voter. Est-ce qu'il y a des propositions sur le mode de scrutin?

José Ramón LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (Mexico): Nos parece, Señor Presidente, que como bien ha aconsejado el Asesor Jurídico, la mejor fórmula expedita es la de una votación nominal. Por lo cual proponemos a este Consejo que sea éste el medio de votación.

Michael J. RYAN (Australia): I should like to get this debate rolling because I look at page 34 of the Basic Texts. I will read this: "For the purpose of the Rules, the term "election" means the selection or appointment of one or more individuals, nations or localities. The election of Council Members shall take place in accordance with the procedure laid down in Rule XXII, paragraph 10 (g). In other cases, more than one elective place shall be filled at the same election, unless the Conference or Council decide otherwise."

Paragraph 9 (a) "The appointment of the Chairman of the Council and of the Director-General, the admission of additional Member Nations and Associate Members, and the election of Council Members shall be decided by secret ballot. Other elections shall likewise be decided by secret ballot, except that in the case of an election in which there are not more candidates than vacancies the Chairman may submit to the Conference or Council that the appointment be decided by clear general consent."

I would submit that that is a clear indication from the Basic Texts that what we should be doing in this instance is voting in the form of a secret ballot.

I would also like to make a couple of additional comments, not legalistic ones but ones which will help the whole membership of this Organization. I think a secret ballot will help to avoid any acrimony. Very importantly, it will help to avoid any embarrassment of the two candidates who are for election, i.e. New Zealand and Kuwait. It will also avoid any possible embarrassment for delegations. We believe that a secret ballot is the normal way to proceed in such matters and it is wholly within the spirit of the Rules of the Organization.

Ronald F.R. DEARE (United Kingdom): Much of What I wanted to say has in fact already been said by the distinguished delegate of Australia. Legal Counsel has explained that there is no specific provision in the rules for this situation. Far be it from me to challenge his legal ruling, but I do believe that in reading the General Rules the spirit that comes through is that in a situation such as this, where it is a question of a selection -- it may be a nomination technically but for the purposes of the nomination we have to make a selection between two candidates -- the intention of the people who actually drew up these rules, although they did not specifically provide for this situation, was that if we do get into a position of having to choose between two or more individuals or countries, we should go into a secret ballot. I very much endorse what the distinguished delegate of Australia said about the need for a Secret ballot in the sense of responding to your appeal to rally round the Chairman when he is elected to avoid acrimony and to avoid embarrassment to delegations. I would strongly urge this Council to adopt the Secret ballot. I would ask the Legal Counsel to confirm that it does lie within the power of this Council to take that decision under General Rule XII paragraph 9 (b) which says, "Any other matter shall be decided by secret ballot if the Conference or Council so determines". I interpret that -- but I would be grateful for confirmation -- that it does give this Council power to move to secret ballots if it so decides.

Atif Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (Original language Arabic): We should like to endorse what was said by the distinguished Ambassador of Mexico. We would prefer to have a clear, outspoken roll call vote or rather a show of hands to get through this issue quickly and put an end to it, because if the General Rules allow it, as has been explained by our Legal Counsel, then we have this possibility before us. We do not want to embarrass anyone; perish the thought. We certainly do not want to embarrass anyone at all, but this is my suggestion to get through things more quickly.

Humberto CARRION M. (Nicaragua): En realidad lamentamos que nos encontremos en esta situación y la mayoría, diría todos los delegados presentes, hubiéramos querido que se evitara llegar a una votación sobre los candidatos para la Presidencia de la próxima Conferencia; sin embargo, nuestro deber es ineludible, es tomar una decisión al respecto.

Es cierto que el Consejo puede decidir qué tipo de votación podemos realizar, a nivel de procedimiento, que sea secreto o nominal. Me llama la atención que se haya argumentado que el voto secreto es más conveniente porque así de esta manera se evita incomodar a algunas delegaciones; en realidad no entiendo este tipo de argumento porque no se trata de una pugna, no se trata de una controversia que no se pueda resolver amigablemente o democráticamente. El hecho de que se hable de voto secreto indica que hay inicialmente a priori un ánimo no tan conciliatorio porque después de todo el voto nuestro sea nominal o secreto tendría que conllevar una posición conciliatoria desde el punto de vista de la democratización del voto como tal y de la característica del organismo del que somos miembros.

Tengo la sensación o la impresión de que más delegados querrán hacer uso de la palabra para opinar sobre el procedimiento y pasaremos toda la mañana discutiendo el asunto de cómo proceder para designar al Presidente de la próxima Conferencia. Particularmente creo que es más expedito después de que usted escuche a algún que otro delegado pasar directamente al voto nominal; en última instancia y si no se pudiera hacer sería conveniente votar sobre el modo de proceder.

LE PRESIDENT: Je crois qu'effectivement pour ne pas prolonger le débat nous allons demander quels sont les membres du Conseil qui seraient d'accord pour le vote à bulletins secrets. Nous avons encore trois interventions, j'aimerais assez rapidement passer au vote lui-même. Nous terminons la liste sur laquelle il y a trois noms: la France les Etats-Unis et Madagascar, après quoi nous allons passer au choix du mode de vote et voter.

Georges EGAL (France): Monsieur le Président, je parle à titre personnel. Je crois que dans ce vote nous n'exprimons pas des opinions personnelles, mais que nous votons en fonction d'instructions qui nous sont données par nos gouvernements respectifs. Le vote auquel nous procédons est un vote politique, c'est un choix politique. Cela dit, je crois que lorsque le vote au scrutin nominal public aura lieu et que je voterai et que je verrai les autres voter, je n'éprouverai aucun sentiment particulier. Je ne comprends pourquoi j'éprouverais des sentiments acrimonieux envers le délégué d'un pays et suivant la manière dont il vote. Donc personnellement, la délégation française est pour un vote public et que chaque votant prenne sa responsabilité.

Fred J. ECKERT (United States of America): The United States would like to raise a question of information of the Legal Counsel. A few moments ago there was a question put directly to him by the distinguished delegate from the United Kingdom which was for clarification. Under the interpretation of the Legal Counsel, is it or is it not so, that a secret ballot is permissible under the Rules?

LEGAL COUNSEL: I should like to confirm that the delegates of the United States and the United Kingdom are perfectly correct. Any matter for which a secret ballot is not mandatory may, if the Council so decides, be decided by a secret ballot.

Fred J. ECKERT (United States of America): That; was, of course, our interpretation of the Rules and I assume it would be most other countries', but the question was put and there was no response. I thought as a matter of clarification there should be an answer to it.

That being the case then, if we are going to have a vote on whether it should be a secret ballot, then the United States would propose that that vote be a roll call vote.

Apolinaire ANDRIATSIATAJATO (Madagascar): La Delegation de Madagascar regrette infiniment que l'on soit arrivé à cette situation de confrontation en passant au vote. Nous aurions souhaité, bien entendu que le groupe des contacts ait pu remplir sa mission avec tous les éléments de négociations en main, mais comme d'après le rapport qui nous a été fait ce matin il nous est apparu que ce groupe de contact n'a pu parvenir à une conciliation à l'amiable pour ce poste, qui me semble très important de Président de la Conférence. En tout cas les deux candidats qui sont en présence sont aussi valables pour nous, l'un que l'autre. Ce sont des gens qui sont au coeur des problèmes de la FAO, des gens qui ont toujours manifesté un grand intérêt aux questions touchant l'agriculture, et quel que soit le Président qui sera élu, comme vous l'aviez si bien dit Monsieur le Président, quels que soient les résultats du vote, il sera le Président de tous, en tout cas il pourra compter sur l'appui et le soutien actif de la délégation malgache qui n'aura d'autre souci que de lui faciliter la tâche.

C'est pourquoi Monsieur le Président je ne me trouverai pas dans l'embarras, ayant été muni d'instructions précises de la part de mon pays en le manifestant publiquement, et ni l'un ni l'autre des candidats ne pourra me reprocher cette attitude que j'aurai prise ici, j'aurai pris mes responsabilités au nom de mon pays, pour la question de la Présidence de la Conférence. Il y a d'autres questions où nous pourrions nouer des relations efficaces, fructueuses, fécondes, autres que la présidence de la Conférence. Il y a des relations bilatérales qui peuvent être entretenues avec l'un ou l'autre des pays qui présentent ces deux candidats, en tout cas, j'en suis profondément convaincu Monsieur le Président, et je demanderai à l'Assemblée pour plus de rapidité de passer au vote par appel nominal.

Le PRESIDENT: Je crois que nous sommes devant deux choix: le choix de l'appel nominal pour aller vite ou celui de voter sur le mode par appel nominal pour faire un vote secret, ou le vote secret. Il y a trois cas de figure; vote secret direct, vote à scrutin nominal ou voter pour le mode de vote. Pour gagner du temps, pouvons-nous demander au Conseil s'il a une objection puisque ce sont des votes politiques comme l'a dit Monsieur le délégué de la France et que chaque délégué est muni d'instructions de la part de son gouvernement, que ce soit nominal ou secret, a priori c'est la même décision. Le seul avantage que nous avons en secret c'est d'éviter quelques petites acrimonies ultérieures.

Si le Conseil accepte l'idée de faire un vote secret pour pouvoir ménager toute susceptibilité ultérieure, nous pourrions passer directement au vote, sans avoir à voter sur le mode de vote. Y a-t-il une objection?

Bashir El Mabrouk SAID (Libya): (original language Arabic): I have followed closely the various proposals on this issue of voting procedure, as to whether it is to be a secret ballot or a roll call vote. I would not have any difficulty in accepting such a vote. As the delegate of France said, we have had instructions from our Governments, and this is a political form of vote. I have the impression that some of the opinions expressed here for a secret ballot are in order to avoid offending people's sensitivities, the feelings of member countries. It would appear that the candidate in a secret ballot would not be embarrassed, whether he is elected or not, because it would have been a secret ballot. Therefore, if the Chairman is elected using a secret ballot, he will feel freer and will be more acceptable to all of us because he will be Chairman of all of us rather than of one group. Personally, I would be happy with either of these proposals but I wished to make that point.

LE PRESIDENT: Je pense que nous avons beaucoup de travail, que chaque délégué a des instructions de son gouvernement auxquelles il sera automatiquement fidèle. Pour éviter les retombées - que nous voulons éviter - je propose clairement que nous donnions mandat à notre secrétaire général d'organiser tout de suite un scrutin secret et que nous passions au vote.

João Augusto de MEDICIS (Brazil): We had a proposal from the Mexican delegate for a roll call, think we should vote on that.

Mohamed Said AL-SAHAF (Iraq): There are two proposals. I suggest that in order to bring this issue to an end we have a roll call vote. That is my proposal.

Akbar Mirza KHALEELI (India): I think we should resort to whichever is faster, and I would seek your advice on this matter. We should do whichever will finish faster.

LE PRESIDENT: La procédure la plus rapide serait le vote par appel nominal mais si l'on doit voter sur le mode de vote ce sera une procédure plus longue, nous perdrons du temps; je vais demander que se désignent à main levée ceux qui sont pour un vote secret. Actuellement il s'agit de choisir un mode de vote.

Fred J. ECKERT (United States of America): During the course of my remarks a few moments ago I made a motion, which, under Roberts' Rules of order will precede the other motion. On every rule, whether it is Roberts' Rules or any other, the motion I laid on the floor has precedence.

That motion is that there be a roll call vote on whether to have a roll call vote or not. I would presume that all of those countries which have advocated a roll call vote on the main issue certainly would not object to having a roll call vote on whether or not to have a roll call vote.

The point that has been made here this morning is that somehow establishing this in a proper, orderly manner is time-consuming, and unnecessarily so. That is simply not true, Mr Chairman, because, if we are talking about dealing with an issue quickly, let us put it in proper perspective. This is an issue that we set out to resolve in June, through your leadership and all of us working together to try to come to a resolution through their Contact Group to try to emerge with a consensus or a compromise that we could as a Group propose. We were not able to do that, and we have come to the Council to report that we were not able to do that. To rush and say that what took a number of months of repeated meetings to try to resolve can now be dispensed with in a matter of moments, and that it is somehow inconvenient to us, is simply not true. This meeting was supposed to start at nine o'clock this morning. It did not get under way for an hour and a half. If there were things that were more pressing than this in those hours, I should like to know what they were, but there were not. To say that we must now rush is not a valid argument. We reject that totally. We have a motion that there be a roll call vote on how we are going to vote.

LE PRESIDENT: Sur le mode de scrutin, pour vider cette question, Monsieur le Secrétaire général, voulez-vous demander à chaque délégation quelle est sa position.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Je crois qu'il faut bien préciser à quoi correspond la réponse "oui", à quoi correspond la réponse "non". Si j'ai bien compris le sens du débat, il y a eu d'abord une motion demandant que le vote se fasse par appel nominal, qui était présentée par M. l'Ambassadeur du Mexique. Je pense donc que le Conseil devrait être invité à se prononcer de la manière suivante, par appel nominal, sur le mode de scrutin à employer pour la décision de fond: ceux qui sont en faveur du scrutin par appel nominal répondent "oui", ceux qui sont en faveur du vote à bulletins secrets disent "non", ceux qui n'ont pas d'instructions de leurs gouvernements ou qui ont pour instructions de leur gouvernement de s'abstenir répondent "abstention". Nous commençons par le Gabon.

LE PRESIDENT: "Oui" pour le vote nominal, "non" pour le vote secret.

Vote

Vote

Votación



RESULT SHEET / RESULTATS / RESULTADOS

ROLL CALL VOTING
APPEL NOMINAL
VOTACION NOMINAL

Vote on

Vote sur

.....Votación para ..WHETHER THE NOMINATION OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE
.....CONFERENCE SHOULD BE DECIDED BY ROLL CALL VOTE

Votes for Voix pour Votos favorables	18
Votes against Voix contre Votos en contra	26
Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	4
No reply Aucune réponse Ninguna respuesta	1

Number of votes cast Nombre de suffrages exprimés Número de votos emitidos	44
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Majority required Majorité requise Mayoría requerida	23
--	----

REJECTED
REPOUSSEE
RECHAZADA

Date ...3/11/87..... Elections Officer ..G.Tedesco.....
Fecha Fonctionnaire électoral.....
El oficial de elecciones

RULE XII - 13(a) GRO

If a vote is equally divided on a matter other than an election, a second vote shall be taken at a subsequent meeting to be held not less than one hour after the conclusion of the meeting at which the equally divided vote occurred. If the second vote is also equally divided the proposal shall be regarded as rejected.

En cas de partage égal des voix lors d'un vote ne portant pas sur une élection, on procède à un deuxième vote au cours d'une séance ultérieure, qui ne peut avoir lieu moins d'une heure après la fin de celle à laquelle s'est produit le partage égal des voix. Si les voix restent également partagées lors de ce second vote, la proposition est considérée comme repoussée.

Si hubiera empate en un asunto que no sea una elección, se repetirá la votación en una sesión subsiguiente la cual no deberá celebrarse hasta que haya transcurrido una hora, por lo menos, desde la conclusión de aquella en que se produjo el empate. Si en la segunda votación hubiera también empate se considerará rechazada la propuesta.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: En conséquence, les "non" l'emportent et le Conseil va être invité à se prononcer sur la désignation d'un candidat à la présidence de la Conférence par un vote au scrutin secret.

LE PRESIDENT: Je demande au Secrétaire général de bien vouloir nous indiquer la procédure du vote au bulletin secret.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Je voudrais rappeler aux membres du Conseil la manière dont se déroule le vote au scrutin secret et les règles qui le régissent. En vertu de l'alinéa 3 (a) de l'Article XII du Règlement général, la majorité requise est constituée par plus de la moitié des suffrages exprimés.

L'alinéa 4 (a) du même Article précise que l'expression "suffrages exprimés" s'entend à l'exclusion des abstentions ou des bulletins nuls. Autrement dit, seules entrent en ligne de compte les voix exprimées dans un sens ou dans l'autre.

Chaque électeur recevra un bulletin de vote où figurent les noms des deux candidats. Il se rendra dans l'isoloir, au fond de la salle, où il marquera d'une croix la case correspondant au candidat de son choix. Conformément à l'alinéa 4 (c) de l'Article XII du Règlement général, les électeurs qui désirent s'abstenir déposent dans l'urne un bulletin blanc ou portant la mention "abstention". Sous peine de nullité, les bulletins de vote ne doivent porter, comme le précise l'alinéa 4 (d) du même article, aucune indication ni aucun signe autres que ceux par lesquels s'exprime le suffrage.

Les deux scrutateurs que le président va désigner en conformité de l'alinéa 9 (c) du même Article XII statueront sur la validité du bulletin de vote dans tous les cas douteux.

Tout délégué qui, dans un premier temps, aurait rempli son bulletin de vote de manière défectueuse peut demander un autre bulletin vierge qui lui sera délivré par le fonctionnaire électoral en échange, bien entendu, du bulletin défectueux.

Voilà la manière dont s'effectue un vote au scrutin secret.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie le Secrétaire général de sa précision. Avant de désigner deux scrutateurs qui vont suivre le vote, je me propose de lire le paragraphe 2 de l'Article XII du Règlement général, qui stipule que le quorum est constitué par la majorité des Etats Membres du Conseil et qu'avant de procéder à un vote, le Président annonce le nombre des délégués présents.

Le quorum est de vingt-cinq membres. Il y a dans la salle quarante-huit membres. Il y a donc quorum et nous pouvons donc procéder au vote.

Je vous rappelle que, lorsqu'un scrutin est ouvert, aucun délégué ou représentant ne peut l'interrompre, sauf pour présenter une motion d'ordre touchant le vote. C'est ce que stipule le paragraphe 14 de l'Article XII.

Au paragraphe 9 (c) de l'Article XII, il est stipulé que le Président nomme deux scrutateurs, choisis parmi les délégués ou les représentants qui ne sont pas directement intéressés à l'élection.

Je propose donc deux représentants qui ne sont pas de régions intéressées par le vote, les représentants du Brésil et de la République fédérale d'Allemagne, comme scrutateurs. Si le Conseil n'y voit pas d'objection, je voudrais les inviter à se rendre au bureau de vote.

Fred J. ECKERT (United States of America): I am trying to get your attention, Mr Chairman, to

make a proposal. When you mention tellers, we would propose that in the interests of fairness to the regions the two regions involved should be the tellers. That is the delegate from Libya should be a teller and the delegate from Australia should be a teller. I can think of no two persons with keener interests.

Le PRESIDENT: Je regrette, les scrutateurs doivent être choisis parmi les régions qui ne sont pas directement intéressées. Le Règlement est clair. Il dit: "Des délégués ... qui ne sont pas directement intéressés à l'élection."

Je maintiens ma proposition des délégués du Brésil et de la République fédérale d'Allemagne.

Si vous permettez, je vais demander aux deux scrutateurs de se rendre au bureau de vote et au Secrétariat de bien vouloir procéder à l'appel.

Le SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Les scrutateurs et le fonctionnaire électoral sont en train de prendre position au bureau de vote. Le Secrétaire général adjoint va procéder à l'appel des électeurs suivant l'ordre alphabétique anglais des noms des Etats Membres. A l'appel du nom de son pays, chaque délégué est prié de se diriger vers le bureau de vote pour y procéder au vote, selon les modalités que nous avons indiquées tout à l'heure.

Vote

Vote

Votación

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No. 1	NOMINATION OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CONFERENCE DESIGNATION DU PRESIDENT DE LA CONFERENCE DESIGNACION DEL PRESIDENTE DE LA CONFERENCIA
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1. Ballot papers issued Bulletin distribues Papeletas distribuidas	48
2. Defective ballots Bulletin nuls Papeletas defectuosas	0
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	1

4. Valid ballots Bulletin valables Papeletas validas	47
5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	1
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	47

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	24
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Elected - élus - Elegidos		Not Elected - Pas élus - No Elegidos			
KUWAIT (Faisal Abdul Razik Al-Khalid)	27	NEW ZEALAND (C.J. Moyle)	20		

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Scrutadores

Signature
Firma

LONGAN B. (BRAZIL)

3.11.87

Date
Fecha

Signature
Firma

BAIER A. (GERMANY Fed. Rep. of)

B/ Linloy

Elections Officer
Fonctionnaire électoral
El oficial de elecciones

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Le Conseil a donc décidé de désigner comme candidat à la présidence de la vingt-quatrième session de la Conférence Son Excellence Faisal Abdel Razik Al-Khalid du Koweït.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

LE PRESIDENT: Je voudrais intervenir à mon tour pour dire encore une fois que nous considérons que par le vote que nous avons émis le président que nous proposons à la Conférence est le président de tous. Le Conseil est unanime pour prêter main forte, assistance et soutien au président recommandé à la Conférence et pour, comme je l'ai dit lors de mon intervention, éviter toute espèce de diatribe ou d'acrimonie post-élection. Le fait qu'on ait procédé à un vote à bulletin secret est de nature à éviter ces sortes de retombées négatives.

Ceci étant, deux délégués ont demandé la parole, je pense que c'est relatif à ces élections.

Temei ISKIT (Turkey): I have asked for the floor on behalf of my country and on behalf of Belgium, China, France, Hungary, Italy and Spain to express our views concerning the procedure for the election of the Chairman of our Conference.

We strongly believe that, given the responsibility attached to this high post, the nomination of the Chairman requires a full consensus, not to say unanimity of all member countries. In our opinion today's election by vote, which has no precedent in FAO's history, is regrettable in that it shows some lack of common understanding of certain principles governing our work. My country and the six other countries which I have mentioned believe that this issue could only be settled between the two interested regions and, convinced that all efforts should be made to arrive at a solution satisfactory to all parties in order to avoid a vote, took the initiative during the past weeks to mediate between the concerned regions in a search for a compromise. As our efforts were not successful - however, we can at least say that we have tried. Now that the issue is settled in the way which we wanted to avert, we would like to put on record our appeal to all members to agree among ourselves on the fixed principles, as little open to interpretation as possible, in order to avoid a recurrence of such a situation.

I would like to conclude by congratulating the Honourable Minister of Kuwait, His Excellency Faisal Abdel Razik Al-Khalid, on his election, and by expressing a further hope that his nomination as the chairman of all countries will be a guarantee of the good conduct of business during our Conference.

John GLISTRUP (Denmark): I have been requested on behalf of the Nordic countries to state that we have now conducted an election in the FAO Council, with the result that, in our opinion, the traditional principle of rotation has been violated. The Nordic countries are strong supporters of the United Nations system, and believe firmly in international cooperation. During recent years the multilateral cooperation has come under heavy pressures and a number of countries have attached less importance to this form of cooperation with developing countries. The Nordic countries, individually and collectively, have spared no efforts in promoting multilateral cooperation.

The situation in which we find ourselves since the last meeting of the FAO Council, particularly in connection with nominating a Chairman of the Conference, together with the outcome of today's election, amount to a situation which is, in our opinion, to a great extent damaging to the basic principle and atmosphere of international cooperation, thereby making it more difficult to promote the idea in which we so strongly believe - namely, an increasingly orderly way of multilateral cooperation.

I am sorry to inform you that the decision which has now been taken by the Council may perhaps be challenged by the Nordic delegation at the beginning of the Conference.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie l'honorable délégué du Danemark pour son intervention. Pour ma part, je souhaite vivement que nous essayions tous ensemble de gommer les aspérités, de créer un climat d'harmonie, de faire en sorte que nous puissions continuer la mission de l'Organisation dans les conditions les moins dommageables. J'espère que nous pourrions tous ensemble trouver l'atmosphère nécessaire pour la poursuite dans des conditions sérieuses de notre mission.

Maintenant, nous devons procéder à d'autres élections, pour les présidents des commissions. Comme vous le savez, il y a trois commissions, la Commission I, la Commission II, la Commission III. D'après le Secrétariat nous n'avons pas reçu de proposition. Peut-être pourrions-nous laisser cette question pour la séance de l'après-midi, je vous suggère de lever la séance et de la reprendre à 14 h 30 avec des propositions d'élection pour les commissions.

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 92/PV/2

Ninety-second Session

Quatre-vingt-douzième session

92º período de sesiones

SECOND PLENARY MEETING DEUXIEME SEANCE PLENIERE SEGUNDA SESIO PLENARIA

(3 November 1987)

The Second Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours

Lassaad Ben Osman, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La deuxième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 45, sous la présidence
de Lassaad Ben Osman, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la segunda sesión plenaria a las 14.45 horas bajo la presidencia
de Lassaad Ben Osman, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

LE PRESIDENT: Nous allons reprendre la Suite de nos travaux. Je voudrais souligner qu'il y a en suspens de nombreuses questions relatives à l'élection de membres du Conseil. Il reste une candidature à la troisième vice-présidence, une candidature aux fonctions de Président du Comité de rédaction et des candidatures de membres du Comité de rédaction.

Il restera ensuite, pour la Conférence elle-même, des propositions de candidatures à la présidence de la Commission I, à la présidence de la Commission II et à la présidence de la Commission III. Je vous signale qu'il s'agit là de nominations.

Enfin, il reste l'élection des membres de la Commission des candidatures, commission constituée de onze membres. A ma connaissance, le Secrétariat n'a pas encore de proposition. Je ne sais pas si les délégués ont des Candidatures pour la présidence du Comité de rédaction et le troisième poste de vice-président. En l'absence de candidatures, je propose d'avancer dans notre ordre du jour et, en fin d'après-midi, de passer aux nominations et aux élections.

Nous passons donc au point 4 de l'ordre du jour intitulé comme suit: "Rapport de la cinquante-sixième session du Comité des produits". Il s'agit du document 92/6. Je demande au Président du Comité des produits de bien vouloir présenter le rapport.

II. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP (continued)

II. ACTIVITES DE LA FAO Et DU PAM (suite)

II. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y EL PMA (continuación)

4. Report of the Fifty-sixth Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems (Rome, 7-13 October 1987)

4. Rapport de la cinquante-sixième session du Comité des produits (Rome, 7-13 octobre 1987)

4. Informe del 56° periodo de sesiones del Comité de Problemas de Productos Básicos (Roma, 7-13 de octubre de 1987)

A. Daniel WEYGANDT (Chairman, Committee on Commodity Problems): I see that you are trying to make up some of the time we lost this morning, so I shall try to be brief myself in introducing document CL 92/6. I have the honour to present to the members of the Council the Report of the Fifty-sixth Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems which was held from 7 to 13 October of this year. The meeting was attended by representatives of 65 governments. In addition the Holy See and 11 international organizations participated as observers. The Committee elected myself as chairman and Mr. Mazlan bin Jusoh of Malaysia and Mr. Humberto Carrion of Nicaragua as Vice-Chairmen. The Committee also elected the Drafting Committee which met under the chairmanship of Mr. Paul Baigent of New Zealand. The excellent work performed by the Drafting Committee helped immensely in the final adoption of the report by the Committee. I would be remiss if I were not also to note the extremely effective work of the Secretariat itself. Mr. Dutia and his staff were most helpful to me and to the CCP itself. Their excellent documents and preparations enabled the Committee to reach its conclusions in a serious, business-like way. In fact, I believe that a number of delegates who attended the meeting said that the meeting perhaps in some ways should serve as a model for our business here. The discussions of the session were cordial and remarkably free of polemics and procedural disputes, particularly bearing in mind some of the very delicate policy matters under discussion. It was a very constructive session and it transacted its business in a smooth and positive manner.

The Committee showed awareness and realization that the agricultural commodity trade situation was in a profound state of crisis affecting all countries, both developed and developing. There was also a broad measure of consensus on the need for action, particularly for agricultural and trade reforms. I might add that, even in those areas where there was no consensus, differing viewpoints were clearly stated in an atmosphere of mutual cooperation and understanding. I dwell on this at some length, Mr. Chairman, because in fact there are few issues of greater importance to us than international agricultural trade, and there are probably few areas where the differences of opinion are any more sharply pronounced, but it was encouraging to me that the cooperative spirit evidenced at the meeting showed that we can in fact work together towards mutually agreed solutions.

The main substantive agenda items included the review of the world commodity situation and outlook, the activities of the intergovernmental commodity groups, follow-up action to Conference Resolution 2/79 on protectionism in agriculture, economic cooperation among developing countries in trade, international action relating to agricultural commodities and FAO's commodity programme of work for the 1988/89 biennium.

The Committee expressed serious concern as regards the commodity trade situation and outlook and stressed the need for lasting solutions to the crisis facing world agricultural trade. It expressed particular concern that the terms of trade of most agricultural exports had continued to deteriorate sharply in 1986 and 1987 and there appeared to be little prospect for improvement.

In the review of developments in agricultural protectionism by the Committee there was a high degree of consensus. The Committee strongly deplored protectionism in agriculture and regretted that agricultural protectionism and the problems resulting from it had seriously increased in recent years. It agreed upon six recommendations for action. These urged that the goals set out in the ministerial declaration on the Uruguay Round be achieved as soon as possible, particularly in relation to agricultural trade and called on countries, particularly those pursuing protectionist agricultural policies, to comply closely with the standstill commitments in the Punta del Este Declaration and to proceed with agricultural policy reforms as soon as possible. The recommendations also urge the achievement of the fullest liberalization of trade in tropical products, including their processed and semi-processed forms. They also urge that in the Uruguay Round the needs of developing countries are fully taken into account and that the principle of differential and more favourable treatment be applied to negotiations on agriculture.

The Committee was also of the view that certain domestic agricultural policies which had clear developmental, social and environmental aims but which did not distort trade should not be called into question. It has also set out the programme of work for the Committee and its subsidiary inter-governmental groups in the area of trade policy analysis.

On ECDC in agricultural trade, the Committee agreed that FAO should continue to support the efforts of developing countries, particularly in the area of providing information on market opportunities and through further analysis of the scope for this trade in the inter-governmental groups. It also expressed satisfaction with the outcome of the regional workshops on ECDC in trade which were held in this biennium and support for those which are planned for the next biennium.

As regards international action relating to commodities and trade, the Committee commented favourably upon the recent improvement in the general state of international relations, but at the same time expressed concern that the situation facing developing countries remained critical. In particular, the Committee expressed its concern about the severe constraints on developing countries' development efforts which are caused by the heavy burden of external debt, deficient inflows of capital, widespread protectionism and depressed terms of trade.

The Committee fully supported the broad lines of the proposed programme of work in the field of commodities and trade for the 1988-89 biennium. It gave strong support to commodity intelligence activities and placed high priority on analytical reports prepared by the Organization in this area. It also considered that the FAO Inter-governmental Commodity Groups provided valuable fora for producing and consuming countries to exchange information, to identify problems facing the commodities and to consider remedial measures.

The Committee also commended the FAO Secretariat's collaboration with other international organizations concerned, such as UNCTAD, GATT, ITC, OECD and IFAP, and the International Commodity Councils. It supported the priority given to the furtherance of ECDC in the work programme for 1988-89 as well as the provision made to continue technical assistance to interested countries in strengthening and implementing national commodity policies.

Before concluding, I should like to express my appreciation to all the delegates who participated in the deliberations of the Committee. Their constructive approach to the agenda items made my task lighter and even, at times, enjoyable. I should also like to thank in particular my two vice-chairmen for their support and assistance. I trust that the Council will endorse the report of the Fifty-Sixth Session and provide guidance on the future work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie le Président du Comité des produits de son exposé clair et précis. Je voudrais maintenant donner la parole aux délégués qui voudraient contribuer à enrichir ce débat.

Y a-t-il des délégués qui souhaitent prendre la parole?

Paul R. BRYDEN (Australia): We endorse the report and the discussion which is reflected in it, in particular those sections on the need to maintain the momentum of reform in the Uruguay Round and to attack the underlying causes, protection export subsidies and domestic support programmes, of the present malaise in agricultural markets.

Australia considers that in respect of agricultural trade, reform is vital to the well-being of our agriculture. While the meeting was useful in highlighting the problems brought about by European policies, it was less forthcoming in its criticism of the others, notably the United States. US agricultural policies, particularly in respect of sugar and grains, have been a major sector contributing to distortions in world trade and production.

For grains, the current situation is that world prices are determined more as a result of competition between subsidies than as a result of supply and demand forces. Subsidized production of grains has led to the situation whereby stocks remain at around twice annual world trade and so there can be little optimism that the market will recover substantially in the short term, regardless of the fact that consumption is expected to be ahead of production in 1987-88. In Australia, wheat growers, for example, have responded to the reduction in world prices by reducing acreage by 36 per cent from 12.1 million hectares in 1984-85 to an estimated 8.9 million hectares in 1987-88.

In the major subsidizing countries, producers are sheltered from the marketplace and so have continued to produce large quantities of grain in excess of reasonable market requirements. Particularly in the FAO context it is important to consider the effect that subsidized exports have had on developing countries. Increases in production and exports in the major agricultural producing countries with agricultural commodities. Ironically, this has reduced the ability of these developing countries to repay the overseas debts which they have incurred with the major agricultural subsidizers. These questions are highlighted in the report.

In the face of low world export prices and the availability of cheap food for imports, the incentive to increase production in developing countries is diminished. In the case of food-deficit countries, the reduced incentive to produce locally has been a contributing factor in the continued reliance on overseas food supplies and little, if any, relief in recent years from the threat of crop failure and famine in these countries.

It is too early to predict what effect the recent fall in world stock markets will have on commodity trade. There is a danger, however, that governments could react to the crisis by the introduction of more inward-looking and protectionist policies. Such a response could exacerbate any slow-down in world trade and increase the severity of the problems already facing the developing countries' exporters.

Finally, we would endorse the Committee's comments on the Committee on Surplus Disposals and its importance as a forum for third countries to comment on food aid transactions. In this regard, we would urge the FAO Secretariat to accept the Committee's recommendation that the Secretariat continue to provide statistics on trade in rice.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Nuestro colega y amigo Daniel Weygandt, de los Estados Unidos, hizo una excelente presentación de este tema 4, presentación que corresponde a la forma eficaz como el Sr. Weygandt presidió el Comité de Problemas de Productos Básicos.

Tal como lo dijo el Presidente del Comité, fue una reunión tranquila, agradable, pero al mismo tiempo productiva y la delegación de Colombia piensa que posiblemente todos esos buenos resultados se deben en forma sustancial a que el Comité trabaja en el marco de la División de Productos Básicos y Comercio dirigida por el Sr. Dutia, división que es una de las mejores y que más activamente trabaja en esta Organización.

Queremos hacer unos comentarios sobre algunos aspectos concretos de este informe en el orden en que aparecen en el documento.

En primer lugar queremos apoyar lo que acaba de decir nuestro colega de Australia y que aparece en el párrafo 37 sobre la conveniencia de que el Consejo insista en que más Estados Miembros deban vincularse al Subcomité Consultivo de Colocación de Excedentes, y particularmente más Estados Miembros de países en desarrollo.

Apoyaríamos así el esfuerzo que viene haciendo el nuevo Presidente del CSD, que es un distinguido funcionario del fraterno país de Egipto.

Sobre el proteccionismo ya lo dijo usted, Sr. Presidente. El Comité deploró fuertemente el proteccionismo, esto consta en el párrafo 39; pensamos que el Consejo debe de apoyar esta opinión del Comité. Y para justificar esa actitud la delegación de Colombia propone que en nuestro informe se incluyan algunas de las referencias que se hacen en el párrafo 40 sobre las consecuencias y los efectos del proteccionismo, sobre los males generales que el proteccionismo causa a todos.

En el párrafo 45 hay una situación paradójica; se dice que "aunque en la práctica habían aumentado las presiones proteccionistas, al mismo tiempo han proliferado las declaraciones de buenas intenciones, inclusive a muy alto nivel". Creo que convendría que hiciéramos aquí, en el informe del Consejo sobre este tema, referencia a esas importantes declaraciones, como el comunicado de la reunión ministerial de la OCDE en París en mayo pasado, las opiniones del Grupo de los 77 en la reunión que tuvo en La Habana, Cuba, y también el nuevo reglamento de la Comunidad Económica Europea, al igual que las conclusiones a que llegó el Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación en la reunión que tuvo en Pekín, China.

También quisiéramos que constara allí la labor que en favor de la liberalización del comercio viene haciendo el Grupo Cairns, al cual pertenece Colombia, entre estos países en desarrollo y desarrollados.

Para ser consecuentes con lo anterior proponemos igualmente que el Consejo comparta la esperanza que se expresa al final del párrafo 45, esperanza que consiste en que ojalá todas estas declaraciones de buena fe puedan convertirse en hechos mediante la adopción de medidas concretas.

Nos complace mucho apoyar el párrafo 46 en cuanto la participación adecuada, conveniente y eficaz de la FAO en las actividades del GATT. Creemos que, como lo dice este párrafo 46, lo hemos repetido, nuestra Organización tiene experiencia y conocimientos que deben representar valiosos aportes al mejor resultado de esas negociaciones.

Quisiéramos que en el informe del Consejo conste especialmente el deseo de que la FAO asista a los países en desarrollo y desarrollados para que se preparen más conveniente y adecuadamente a participar en las negociaciones de la Ronda Uruguay. Esto se dice al final del párrafo 46 y correspondería a la primera frase del párrafo 75 que dice: "El Comité destacó la función de la FAO en la prestación de asistencia técnica para las consultas y las reuniones sobre productos básicos agrícolas".

Finalmente, creemos que este informe condensa muy bien una serie de conclusiones que aparecen en el párrafo 53, en los romanos (i) a (vi) del párrafo 53 y que apoyamos plenamente esas conclusiones, particularmente en cuanto a la mejor utilización de la Ronda Uruguay, la necesidad de que vayan desapareciendo las políticas agrícolas proteccionistas, la atención preferencial que se deben dar a las necesidades de los países en desarrollo y, en general, a la mayor liberalización posible del comercio de productos tropicales.

Dató Ahmad Badri M. BASIR (Malaysia): My delegation is very pleased to see you, Mr Chairman, again chairing this very important session of the Council. We should also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the two Vice-Chairmen elected this morning.

The Malaysian delegation fully endorses the report of this Committee, and would like to congratulate the Chairman on the excellent work that he and his Committee have produced.

The report fully reflects the state of agricultural trade and gives a comprehensive overall view of the problems faced in commodity trade and the state of agriculture. Judging from the report, it is clear that the state of agricultural trade has been stagnant for nearly half a decade, and export prices have fallen much below the level reached at the beginning of the decade. We have also seen that agriculture terms of trade have also fallen against manufactured goods by nearly 30% below the level of 1980. This has led to the voice of dismay expressed by many developing as well as developed countries.

The crisis pointed out by member countries is due to the protectionist policies adopted by many powerful and rich countries, which have distorted trade through the use of huge government expenditures on support subsidies, consequently generating enormous surpluses which are dumped into the international market.

It has also been pointed out that these policies, though consuming such a huge expenditure, have failed to tackle the income problems of small farmers. They have also failed to deal with the root causes of their agriculture problems.

The indignation expressed by member countries against the propagation of these protectionist policies has been very wide and clear, and should be heeded by countries whose policies are mainly responsible for the world's disorderly state of commodity trade.

Most countries have also placed strong hopes on the ongoing negotiations of the Uruguay Round. We hope that the declarations made by the developed countries, such as the OECD Ministerial Communique in 1987 and the Venice Summit will be translated into concrete policy adjustments, which will eventually result in a more disciplined and orderly state in the agricultural market.

We are also sanguine about the possibility of a common fund under UNCTAD's integrated programme for the commodities coming into operation. The agreement reached in UNCTAD-VII to renew dialogue on the programme for commodities and the ongoing multilateral negotiations of the Uruguay Round are the best prospects for bringing order to the agricultural trade. We hope all parties concerned will negotiate sincerely in bringing these negotiations to fruitful conclusions.

The report has also touched on the importance of agricultural trade among developing countries. We feel that the potential for this trade is vast and could be expanded. Developing countries themselves have to make conscious efforts in promoting this kind of trade by dismantling their own trade barriers between developing countries and addressing other problems, such as inadequate infrastructure, to expand such trade.

In conclusion, again we reiterate our endorsement of this report and would respectfully call for policy adjustments among the developed countries to correct the disorder prevailing in the commodity trade.

Raúl LOPEZ LIRA (Mexico): Mi delegación desea reiterar su posición expresada durante la reunión del 56° período de sesiones del Comité de Productos Básicos, cuyas decisiones se encuentran contempladas en los informes respectivos y reflejan el preocupante entorno del comercio de productos básicos que se caracteriza por una simultánea cadena de aplicación de medidas proteccionistas, entre países industrializados entre éstos y los países en desarrollo y aunque en menor grado aun entre éstos últimos y dentro de los países industrializados y en vías de desarrollo.

Como se indicó, lamentamos y nos preocupa la crisis por la que se atraviesa y el hecho de que los ingresos de los países en desarrollo se han visto mermados, principalmente por la baja de los precios

de la gran mayoría de los productos básicos en el mercado internacional, dado que las repercusiones, como lo expresa el informe del Comité, la balanza comercial global de los países de bajos ingresos y con déficit de alimentos a pesar de parecer haber aumentado ligeramente dichos aumentos debían examinarse en el contexto de los flujos totales ya que si estos permanecen a esos bajos niveles se perjudicarán aun más las balanzas comerciales y el crecimiento económico de esos países.

Esto es particularmente grave en virtud de los problemas que confrontamos los países en desarrollo debido al peso del servicio de la deuda y las barreras y precios bajos impuestos a la exportación de nuestros productos básicos.

Insistimos en nuestra preocupación por el hecho de que mientras los precios de exportación de los productos agropecuarios se encuentran cada día más bajos, los de los productos manufacturados siguen aumentando, por lo que, la relación de intercambio sigue deteriorándose.

Las perspectivas a corto plazo del comercio de productos básicos prevén una expansión sólo limitada de la economía y el comercio mundiales, no observándose previsiones optimistas para el futuro próximo del crecimiento del comercio agropecuario, porque seguramente persistirán los factores fundamentales como, por ejemplo, una oferta abundante de la mayor parte de los productos básicos y un crecimiento lento de la demanda de importación.

Esto nos lleva a recalcar la necesidad de tomar medidas urgentes para modificar la situación negativa que obstaculiza el comercio internacional a fin de que se mejore, ya que los ingresos de este comercio representan para muchos de nuestros países la provisión de divisas que determinan la capacidad de servicio de la deuda y para resolver los problemas de la estructura social y económica de los mismos.

Por tal motivo, insistimos en encontrar soluciones duraderas a la crisis que enfrenta el comercio agropecuario mundial, incluida la necesidad de introducir reformas fundamentales en las políticas que afectan al comercio.

Con relación a las actividades de los grupos intergubernamentales sobre productos, coincidimos con los resultados indicados en los informes de cada uno de ellos.

Sin embargo, en lo que respecta al tema h) relativo a semillas oleaginosas, aceites y grasas, reiteramos nuestra posición contra la política proteccionista de la CEE.

Como ya dijimos, es lamentable observar que los países con economías fuertes y una situación estable insistan en poner barreras proteccionistas a los países con economías deficitarias.

Mantenemos la esperanza de que la postura de la Reunión Ministerial de la OCDE del grupo de Cairns y la Ronda Uruguay sirvan de base para la búsqueda de fórmulas tendientes a mejorar la situación comercial actual.

Por último, acogemos con beneplácito los resultados obtenidos durante la VII UNCTAD, particularmente por la constitución del Fondo Común de Productos Básicos y la posibilidad de su próxima utilización.

Asimismo, exhortamos a la FAO para que mantenga su activa participación tanto en este foro como en el del GATT, compartiendo y complementando con su amplia experiencia y banco de datos a estos dos foros de la familia de las Naciones Unidas.

Joachim WINKEL (Germany, Federal Republic of): Mr Chairman, to see you in the chair fills us with confidence for the future good work we shall do here in the Council. I should also like to congratulate Mr Pascarelli and Mr Ansaldo on being nominated as your Vice-Chairmen.

Let me first thank the Committee on Commodity Problems for the work done at its 56th Session. Unfortunately, the document was available to us only here in Rome, so we can only make a few comments following a first perusal. So let me comment on some details on the 56th session of the Committee.

We largely agree with the analysis of the Secretariat. On the whole, the short-term outlook for possible chances of growth of world agricultural trade leaves little cause for optimism. In the field of trade my country will therefore continue our open door policy which we have pursued for a long time. A greater liberalization of trade is in the interests of all concerned. We therefore actively participate in the work of the Uruguay Round of GATT with a view to achieving progress.

Secondly, we welcome the reports on the 17th sessions of the intergovernmental groups on rice, bananas, hard fibres, citrus fruit, jute, kenaf and allied fibres; meat, including hides and skins as well as oilseeds, oils and fats.

Thirdly, we fully endorse the idea of strengthening cooperation between developing countries in the field of commodities (ECDC). This issue has also gained greater attention in other organizations over the last few years and has been gaining momentum.

We welcome the positive attitude adopted by the Committee towards the activities and proposals of the Secretariat as a contribution towards expanding world agricultural trade and increasing the share of developing countries in that trade. We see additional opportunities for developing countries in that field in adopting a greater flexibility in that sector.

Ghulam Mohammed BAHRAM (Afghanistan): In fully supporting the report presented by the Chairman of the Committee on Commodity Problems, the Afghan delegation believes that the food and agriculture situation differs from country to country. On one hand, there is surplus of food in some countries while on the other hand there is shortage of food in the other countries. This gap creates problems and has great impact on food production, import of food, and on agricultural inputs in the developing countries. In order to bridge this gap and achieve self-sufficiency, the Afghan delegate suggests that within the framework of international economic order, a more equitable access to productive resources for sound agricultural development in the developing countries should be provided. Encouraging commodity prices, decreasing foreign debts, and providing international marketing facilities in the underdeveloped and developing countries could be possible elements in achieving economic order.

Roberto ANSALDO (Philippines): Before I proceed to comment on the Committee on Commodity Problems, I should like to thank Bangladesh for their kind nomination of the Philippine delegate as Vice-Chairman of the Council, as well as Pakistan for seconding the nomination.

In view of the difficulties this Council had to pass through in terms of the earlier two agenda items, referring specifically to the Chairmanship of the Conference as well as the voting procedures, I think we should definitely thank this body for its smooth approval of the nomination, as well as the honour that this brings to the Philippine delegation and to our country.

Concerning our comments on the Committee on Commodity Problems, the Philippine delegation wishes to endorse the report of the CCP and to call particular attention to the views expressed by the Committee with the exception of the EEC member countries concerning the so-called stabilization measures in the oilseeds, oils and fats sector. We believe the message of the CCP regarding this matter has to be recorded as part of the report of this Council.

In addition, from the Philippines we should like to add our voice to the general clamour for more rational terms of trade, less subsidies and protectionism.

In the final analysis, we, as a body, are here to be able to bring development to the world and to our countries - development in terms of people, their standards of living, their poverty levels, and their incomes. Unless our work here can translate into that protection of the income of our farmers in general, making farming more profitable, we cannot be said to be contributing to that goal.

João Augusto de MEDICIS (Brazil): The Brazilian delegation wishes to reiterate its support for the conclusions of the recently held 56th Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems. Our Government attaches great importance to the work of the CCP and of the intergovernmental groups and deeply regrets that the present financial difficulties of FAO have already led to the cancellation of some of their scheduled sessions.

The slow growth in international trade and the ever growing difficulties of the commodities sector reflect the fundamental economic world malaise resulting from an 'unjust and inadequate economic order. The external debt continues to be the major obstacle to development in most regions. Agricultural protectionism, in spite of recommendations in practically all international and regional fora, continues to strengthen in the industrialized world, depressing international prices, increasing the already high stocks of food, hindering developing countries' access to international trade and dislocating them from traditional markets. We appreciate that these concerns are basically incorporated in the report of the CCP.

We also wish to reiterate our support for the recommendations approved by the CCP. The Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations offer an opportunity for improvement in the present international trade disarray. In this respect may we express our support of the effort being made by the Cairns Group, comprised of both developed and developing countries, that aim at a better trade environment for both the developed and developing world.

We deeply believe that: (a) domestic policy measures which distort trade should be the subject of reform; (b) domestic agricultural policies with clear development and social aims should not be questioned; (c) the elimination of support must be gradual and in accordance with the degree of subsidization given by each country to its agriculture; (d) the principle of differential and more favourable treatment for developing countries must be always applied in the Uruguay Round of Negotiations.

Finally, we confirm our support to the chapter dedicated in the report to ECDC: an issue of great importance as a means of improving international cooperation and of helping the establishment of a new and fairer economic order.

Sra. Mónica DEREGIBUS (Argentina): Habiendo participado mi delegación del 56° período de sesiones del Comité de Problemas de Productos Básicos, se complace en este foro en hacer constar su apoyo general al documento y a sus conclusiones y recomendaciones. Asimismo, quisiéramos hacer nuestras las reflexiones que han sido formuladas por las distinguidas delegaciones de Australia y de Brasil. Con relación al documento CL 92/6 específicamente, no podemos hacer comentarios acerca de sus párrafos específicos como hubiéramos querido debido a que fue recién entregado a mi delegación esta mañana pese a que fue solicitado ya con anterioridad. De manera que no podemos hacer comentarios más específicos que éstos. Pero queremos dejar constancia de nuestro apoyo en términos generales a lo contenido en el documento.

LE PRESIDENT: Je voudrais maintenant faire un peu la synthèse. Je crois pouvoir être votre interprète auprès du Comité des Produits pour dire que le Conseil formule son appui au rapport présenté par le Comité des Produits et félicite ce Comité et tous ses organes pour les efforts louables qu'ils ont déployés.

Je crois qu'il y a un consensus sur l'importance vitale attachée à l'organisation du commerce international des produits agricoles qui donne lieu à de sérieuses préoccupations et nécessite une régulation et des réformes du commerce international, puisque le Comité des Produits a constaté que les termes d'échange ont continué à se détériorer en 1986 et 1987 et que les mesures protectionnistes ont eu des effets pervers sur le développement des économies agricoles, surtout dans les pays en voie de développement, puisque ceci a conduit à diminuer en fin de compte leur capacité de remboursement de la dette et à freiner le développement de leurs propres productions. Nous pouvons dire que notre Conseil émet l'espoir que des mesures concrètes seront prises pour assurer une réforme concertée des politiques agricoles, tel que l'a recommandé, le rapport du Comité des produits.

Je pense également que les intervenants et le Conseil soulignent l'intérêt qu'il y aurait à maintenir l'élan donné par l'Uruguay Round en laissant, autant que faire se peut, la place privilégiée aux pays en développement pour leur permettre d'accroître leur part dans le commerce international. Aussi bien les pays en voie de développement pourraient bénéficier des informations très utiles disponibles à la FAO qui, comme nous l'avons dit au dernier Conseil, pourraient donner une masse de renseignements facilitant les travaux de l'Uruguay Round.

Enfin, comme l'ont souligné quelques délégués, les pays en voie de développement sont invités à adhérer et à participer activement aux travaux du Comité d'écoulement des excédents pour leur permettre d'intervenir efficacement dans le commerce des produits agricoles.

Je crois que nous pouvons donc féliciter le Comité des produits et souligner encore une fois l'importance attachée à ce problème, qui est au noeud de tous les développements agricoles de nombreux pays du tiers monde.

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 désignation du Président et des membres du Comité de rédaction (suite)

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

Ceci étant, je voudrais, avec votre permission, passer au problème des élections et je vous proposerais de commencer par la liste des candidatures pour le poste encore vacant du Vice-Président de votre Conseil. Je voudrais passer la parole à l'honorable déléguée de l'Algérie qui a une communication à nous faire à cet égard.

Faouzia BOUMAIZA (Algérie): Notre délégation est heureuse de proposer la candidature du Cameroun pour la troisième vice-présidence.

LE PRESIDENT: Est-ce que d'autres délégations voudraient prendre la parole?

V.K. SIBAL (India): We consider it a privilege and a pleasure to second this nomination. We think that the Ambassador Felix Sabal Lecco of Cameroon is the right man for this assignment.

Apolinaire ANDRIATSIATAJATO (Madagascar): Il est particulièrement agréable à la délégation de Madagascar d'exprimer ses sentiments à l'endroit de la proposition qui a été faite pour l'élection du Cameroun au poste de troisième vice-président. Je n'exagérerai rien de dire que le Cameroun et Madagascar entretiennent de très bonnes relations et ont toujours eu une identité de vues lorsqu'il s'agissait de défendre les intérêts du tiers monde en général et ceux de l'Afrique en particulier.

En tout cas, Monsieur le Président, le représentant du Cameroun serait une aide très précieuse pour vous dans la conduite de ces débats et également pour le bureau du Conseil. En tout cas, Madagascar appuie chaleureusement cette proposition.

João Augusto de MEDICIS (Brésil): J'interviens brièvement pour dire que le Brésil approuve avec enthousiasme la candidature du Cameroun à la troisième vice-présidence. Le Brésil et le Cameroun entretiennent des relations d'amitié depuis des siècles avant leurs indépendances et continuent à entretenir des liens d'amitié et de coopération. C'est pourquoi j'ai le grand plaisir et grand honneur de soutenir cette candidature.

Ian BUIST (United Kingdom): I think I can echo the words of the distinguished delegate from Brazil, since our country too has a very long association with Cameroun, and we are delighted to support the nomination.

LE PRESIDENT: Avec votre appui, je voudrais féliciter chaleureusement l'élection de Monsieur Felix Sabal Lecco, Ambassadeur du Cameroun, au poste de Vice-Président de votre Conseil. Il sera d'un appui très précieux,

(Applause)

(Applaudissements)

(Aplausos)

Je crois qu'à présent le Secrétariat a une communication à nous faire sur le chapitre des lections.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Pour le Comité de rédaction, nous avons reçu les candidatures suivantes: Danemark, Egypte, Etats-Unis d'Amérique, Inde, Liban, Nicaragua, Niger, Suisse, Thaïlande, Turquie, Zambie.

Nous avons été également informés qu'il a été décidé que le Comité élirait son président à sa première séance.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): El gobierno de Colombia se siente siempre muy bien representado por cualquier latinoamericano en cualquier posición; pero la lista de Miembros del Comité de Redacción que se nos acaba de leer nos sorprende, Sr. Presidente. Esta mañana hubo una reunión de los países miembros del Consejo de América Latina y el Caribe, reunión en la cual estuvieron presentes siete de los miembros del Consejo. Se habían acordado otros dos países, otros dos países que no digo sus nombres, para el Comité de Redacción; y ahora, aparece un país completamente distinto. Es una constancia por principio y quisiéramos preguntarle a la Secretaría, quién le informó sobre el candidato o los candidatos de América Latina, al Comité de Redacción, Es solamente un episodio, uno más, entre todos, pero que hace parte de una estrategia más amplia.

Elio Pascarelli (Italie): Je voudrais encore une fois remercier le délégué d'Allemagne et le délégué de Cuba qui ont eu l'amabilité de présenter mon nom comme candidat à la vice-présidence et remercier tout le Conseil de l'élection. Je suis très honoré d'accomplir cette tâche avec toutes mes forces. Lorsque l'occasion vous indiquera la nécessité de mon aide je suis à votre entière disposition.

Je pose maintenant la même question que le délégué de la Colombie concernant le représentant de l'Europe: de quelle source provient-il?

LE PRESIDENT: J'aimerais que le Secrétariat nous dise si cette liste n'est pas mûre et nous donne l'explication.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Les quatre noms: Allemagne, Etats-Unis, Suisse et Turquie nous ont été communiqués par le groupe de l'OCDE, et les autres par le Président du groupe des Soixante-dix-sept.

LE PRESIDENT: Y-a-t-il des noms que messieurs les délégués voudraient ajouter à cette liste? Monsieur le délégué de la Colombie avez-vous des noms que vous vouliez ajouter?

Humberto CARRION M.(Nicaragua): Yo propongo que si hay alguna confusion en la mente de algún delegado, tal vez, en relación a esa Región, valdría la pena no tomar una decisión inmediata, de no ampliar la lista de propuestas para formar parte del Comité de Redacción, sino simplemente nos pongamos de acuerdo dentro de nuestro Grupo porque aparentemente han surgido algunas contradicciones.

LE PRESIDENT: Je propose donc que nous remettions à plus tard la liste des différentes candidatures, il semble qu'elle ne soit pas définitive, et il serait souhaitable que des contacts puissent être pris comme à l'accoutumée par MM. les délégués pour donner au Secrétariat la liste qui aura obtenu un consensus. Je souhaite que nous puissions avoir aussi rapidement que possible, en tout cas au plus tard demain matin, la liste définitive, parce que nous n'avons que trois jours, il faudra que nous ayons un Comité de rédaction. Donc nous allons laisser les délégués se contacter et nous verrons plus tard.

Je crois que nous pouvons passer à une autre question puisque celle-ci n'est pas mûre, Nous préférons laisser les délégués discuter entre eux avant d'avoir une liste définitive.

António RODRIGUES PIRES (Observateur du Cap-Vert): En tant qu'observateur et Président du groupe africain, je tiens à dire que, pour l'Afrique, il n'y a pas de doute, c'est clair: le Nigéria et la Zambie.

LE PRESIDENT: En tout cas, nous laissons les délégués se réunir et nous apporter une liste qui aura obtenu le consensus de tout le monde; c'est la règle.

II. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP (continued)

II. ACTIVITES DE LA FAO ET DU PAM (suite)

II. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y EL PMA (continuación)

5. Progress Report on the Implementation of the Code of Conduct on Distribution and Use of Pesticides

5. Rapport de situation sur l'application du Code international de conduite pour la distribution et l'utilisation des pesticides

5. Informe sobre la aplicación del Código Internacional de Conducta para la Distribución y Utilización de plaguicidas

Nous fermons la parenthèse et passons à la suite de nos travaux qui comprennent:

Point 5 Rapport de situation sur l'application du Code international de conduite pour la distribution et l'utilisation des pesticides.

C.H. BONTE-FRIEDHEIM, (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): It is my pleasure to introduce and to update Council document CL 92/2, entitled "Progress Report on the Implementation of the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides".

In paragraph I of the Council document you find repeated the operative part of the Conference Resolution which formally adopted the International Code.

It is now two years since the Conference adopted the International Code. In the meantime about 30, 000 copies of the Code have been widely distributed in five languages to member countries. In addition, copies of the Guidelines referred to in the Code have also been distributed. The importance of FAO being able to monitor the implementation of the Code in cooperation with member countries was recognized by the 1985 Conference. For this purpose a questionnaire was distributed by FAO to all member nations in October 1986. The questionnaire was intended to collect baseline data on how member nations control and regulate pesticides. It was designed to be a mirror image of the Code with many searching questions to be answered. Eighty-seven countries out of 158 to which the Code was sent have responded to the questionnaire as of 15 October 1987, a response of 55 percent. Replies are still being received, and follow-up efforts are being made by FAO to receive the remaining questionnaires.

Responses are being entered into a computer program in order that such baseline data may be used to measure progress on the part of member governments in implementing the various articles of the Code, whilst at the same time identifying areas where technical assistance may be required. An evaluation has been made of the 77 replies received up to 30 September. Of these 77 replies, nine came from developed countries. The analysis which follows is based only on developing countries' replies.

It is pleasing to note that 50 responding countries stated that they were following the Code, whilst 62 are saying that they found it extremely useful. Sixteen countries stated that so far they did not have legislative power to regulate the distribution and use of pesticides.

Integrated pest management programmes are promoted in only 28 of the countries. Pesticides are still the main means of pest control throughout the world. Generally, countries felt that the pesticides industry did adequate pre-market questioning, although there was considerable room for improvement in the amount done. Most countries, both developing and developed, felt that there was a clear need to strengthen their ability to deal adequately with cases of pesticide poisoning.

Disposal of pesticides and pesticide containers was listed as being a major problem in 49 countries. As a response to this, FAO plans to establish a data and information bank to give advice on the disposal of pesticides and containers. Most countries responded that highly hazardous pesticides were available, the 62 developing countries saying that these were available through food stores generally, with inadequate segregation between foodstuffs and pesticides. Thirty-six responded that misleading advertising was sometimes a problem in their countries.

The FAO questionnaire, produced as an appendix to the Council document, contained 117 questions and the above are a few answers which have been highlighted. These set the scene against which FAO has a task of encouraging member nations to implement the Code. The Government of Japan has agreed to fund a cooperative project for five years to assist in the implementation of the Code in the Asia and Pacific Region. This project will consist of an initial evaluation phase, preparation of detailed work plans and national training courses or workshops on the implementation of the Code. In-service and job-specific training courses will be held for dealers and distributors of pesticides. Training courses will also be held for plant protection and extension staff in safe and efficient use of pesticides. With the help of WHO, medical and/or hospital staff will also be trained in the diagnosis and treatment of poisoning. All these courses will also be designed for the prevention of pesticide poisoning. Sub-regional workshops on harmonisation of pesticide registration requirements will be held and national pesticide registration and control schemes promoted. Assistance will furthermore be directed towards establishing laboratory facilities, particularly for analysis and quality control of pesticides formulations.

A similar project is being developed for the Africa region. The objectives of this project are to establish effective pesticide legislation and to harmonise pesticide registration and control schemes, train personnel to reduce costs of pesticide application and misuse. Priority will be given to those countries which at present have insufficient or no registration and control schemes. It is expected that the project will be financed by UNDP and that implementation might start in early 1988.

Measuring the success of these two projects and related activities will be undertaken through follow-up questionnaires to the Code of Conduct. These replies will then be computerized to enable comparisons to be made on general progress and to identify requirements for further assistance and support. Industrial companies, members of the International Group of National Associations of Manufacturers of Agrochemical Products, better known as GIFAP have committed themselves to adherence to the Code. GIFAP is concentrating on those sections of the Code which refer to the industry's responsibilities and has issued a number of guidelines, the latest of which is a guideline to implementation of the Code for the agrochemicals industry. The guidelines set out those articles in which industry has a responsibility, and includes checklists of responsibilities for various levels of management. Subsidiary companies are being encouraged to follow the lead of the parent company.

FAO very much appreciates the work of non-governmental organizations such as the Environmental Liaison Centre, ELC, and the International Organization of Consumer Unions, IOCU, notably in monitoring the implementation of the Code, and collecting and publishing data from a number of developing countries. Much of the information reported highlights cases of non-observance of the Code, particularly in advertising, packaging, labelling and storage, and often records the inadequacy of national legislative controls.

FAO is preparing for a meeting with interested and involved NGOs to identify how they can cooperate with the organization in the effective monitoring of the Code. While mechanisms will be established for reporting serious breaches of the Code, it is not clear how such breaches can be dealt with. The Organization plans to inform the governments concerned, but it is of the opinion that in addition to government control measures, responsible attitudes are the best first-step approach.

FAO is already taking into account the recommendations of the Code with respect to the purchasing of pesticides for field activity. In the near future we shall formally introduce the relevant element of the Code into our tendering procedures, in particular the provision of information on banned and severely restricted products.

The Conference of 1985 recognized that the Code is a dynamic document. More experience of member countries in its adoption and wide use is required before revisions can be contemplated. FAO will continue to inform member countries of the information collected and of the experience gained. In future FAO will continue to depend on the cooperation of the pesticide industry, international environmental organizations and other parties, but above all on the cooperation of the member countries themselves.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie M. Bonte-Friedheim de sa communication et j'ouvre le débat. Le délégué des Philippines a demandé la parole.

Horacio CARANDANG (Philippines): First of all, I should like to thank the Secretariat for the report that has been given us regarding the implementation of the Code on pesticides.

Similarly we should like to congratulate the Secretariat for the awareness which it has been able to create among the governments, among the public and among the industries about the correct use and distribution of pesticides. I should also like to congratulate the work of the NGOs which have been particularly active in the dissemination of information regarding the Code of pesticides that was passed in FAO two years ago.

In this connection, I should like to refer to the decision taken two years ago when the Code on pesticides was approved. I should like to refer in particular to paragraphs 301 and 302 of the Report of the Conference of FAO of the past biennium. I quote: "While recognizing the significant improvements introduced in the text, the majority expressed deep concern that the principle of 'Prior Informed Consent' no longer appeared in the present version of the Code. They feared that this could lead to an increased flow of highly toxic compounds, banned or severely restricted in the countries of manufacture, to developing countries which were not equipped to handle safely their supply and use. These members, however, recognized the need not to delay the adoption of the Code and accordingly, urged that the principle of 'Prior Informed Consent' be considered for inclusion in any future first revision of the Code.

"The Conference, in noting the additional proposals for amendments, recognized the dynamic nature of the Code, the need for monitoring its observance and for periodical revisions to effectively meet changed conditions. It therefore recommended that such revisions be made after some experience had been gained in the implementation of the Code. Most members suggested there be a first revision within the next biennium."

These two paragraphs that have been read clearly indicate that the majority support the inclusion of the "prior informed consent" principle in the Code, but, as a matter of compromise, it consented that it not be included at the time on the condition that within the next biennium - which is this biennium - such revision should be made after some experience had been gained and that the first revision should be within the next biennium. Mr. Chairman, we are now in the next biennium. I am therefore surprised that the report we have before us is merely for information. I cannot accept this kind of arbitrary decision that it should just be for information. If the Council could arrive at a decision, then it will make a decision. That note in the agenda item is, for me, immaterial.

The reasons for the inclusion of prior informed consent that were raised by the various delegations two years ago remain valid today. Pesticides that are banned and restricted in the countries of origin constitute a danger to human beings and to the ecology, and for this reason they have been banned and restricted in the countries of origin. If that is so, they will also be dangerous to human beings and to the ecology in the importing countries, and much more so, because the level of training of the farmers who will be using them in the developing countries is less than that of the training of the farmers in the exporting countries. For example, in the country that hosts this Organization farmers who purchase and use pesticides have to have a licence that allows them to buy and use pesticides. In other words, they are trained to use and handle pesticides. Nevertheless, we still read about ecological disasters happening in this country, about the poisoning of rivers, the poisoning of waters that are used for drinking and supply for human beings. If these kinds of disasters happen in countries where people who use pesticides are trained, what kind of disasters might happen in countries which do not have this kind of training? This reason for inclusion of "prior informed consent" is as valid as it was two years ago.

I should like to refer to a decision that has been taken by the European Parliament with regard to the use of pesticides that are banned or restricted in the countries of origin. In a resolution by the European Parliament it called for the stipulation that the "prior informed consent" procedures should be applied by December 1988 or earlier. The European Parliament consists of people who represent, I would say, the civic consciousness of the European people. They are aware of the dangers of pesticides. They are aware of what damage these banned and restricted pesticides can cause in the beautiful continent that is Europe. In the developing countries where there are higher concentrations of population in the rural areas, I think the danger is much greater because of the higher concentration of population and also because of lack of trained personnel to handle the use of pesticides. I think the least that we could do is: (1) that the matter should be allowed to be discussed in the Conference; (2) that the next sessions of the Council should continue to monitor the implementation of the Code on Pesticides and that when the member countries of the Governing Bodies of FAO decide that the time is indeed ripe for inclusion of the "prior informed consent" principle it should be done at its appropriate time.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie le délégué des Philippines et je donne la parole à la déléguée de Madagascar.

Mme Jacqueline RAKOTOARISOA (Madagascar): M. le Président, la délégation malgache se félicite, elle aussi, de vous voir présider cette quatre-vingt-douzième session du Conseil. Nous félicitons, par la même occasion, les trois vice-présidents.

Convaincu de l'importance de plus en plus grande que devra prendre l'utilisation des pesticides dans la lutte contre les ravageurs afin de préserver les cultures et de réduire sensiblement les pertes avant, pendant et après les récoltes, Madagascar a toujours soutenu avec vigueur l'idée de l'élaboration d'un code international sur les pesticides. Il se félicite que la Conférence ait adopté le document ayant recueilli le consensus à sa vingt-troisième session. Dans toutes ses interventions lors de l'examen du texte par les organes directeurs de l'Organisation, la délégation malgache,

comme d'ailleurs la plupart des autres délégations, a relevé la relative faiblesse des dispositions de certains articles, leur inadéquation avec les besoins de nombreux des utilisateurs, mais il a été fort heureusement admis que le code avait un caractère dynamique. Des amendements appropriés peuvent et doivent être opérés à mesure que l'on décèlera les principales imperfections.

Le rapport intérimaire qui fait l'objet du document CL 92/2 nous donne raison dans la mesure où l'on commence à relever les points faibles et à dégager les solutions idoines.

Notre délégation félicite le Secrétariat pour la qualité du document et le pragmatisme avec lequel la question a été appréhendée. Mais eu égard aux résultats obtenus - 70 réponses au 15 juillet 1987 - on pourrait améliorer la méthodologie en aidant notamment les Etats à remplir le questionnaire.

L'exploitation des informations et données recueillies nous permet cependant de relever d'ores et déjà qu'une assistance immédiate et substantielle est requise pour renforcer les structures, les techniques, les moyens matériels et les ressources humaines dans les pays en voie de développement. Il faudra aussi, sans perdre de temps, évaluer les aides nécessaires pour assister les pays en voie de développement dans la mise en place des dispositifs nationaux de contrôle et d'homologation des pesticides, et intensifier l'envoi de missions d'enquête en vue de recenser les laboratoires disponibles et déterminer les besoins nationaux et/ou régionaux dans ce domaine.

En cette période de difficultés financières de l'Organisation, les possibilités d'action pourraient se révéler assez limitées. Aussi, apprécions-nous vivement l'initiative prise par le Japon de financer un projet régional. Nous lançons un appel aux autres donateurs, aux ONG et aux institutions internationales sensibles à ces questions pour qu'ils suivent ce bon exemple.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): La delegación de Colombia piensa que &\ amigo Bonte-Friedheim trabaja muy bien en esta materia. Las declaraciones que acabamos de oír del colega y amigo Carandang, de Filipinas, y la distinguida representante de Madagascar por sí solas confirman la preocupación de esta mañana en el sentido de que este tema fuera solamente para información.

Queremos agradecer a la Secretaría la presentación de este documento 92/2 porque nos permite cumplir la recomendación de la Resolución 10/85 de la Conferencia mediante la cual se adoptó el Código Internacional y se pidió a los gobiernos que siguieran de cerca su cumplimiento.

Reconocemos la adecuada acción de la Secretaría en favor de la promoción de la aplicación del Código.

Pero lamentamos que los resultados sean concretamente insatisfactorios. Esta primera conclusión impone la necesidad de que se redoblen los esfuerzos en ese sentido, sobre todo en cuanto a la asistencia a los países de menores recursos o con escasas posibilidades que les permita comprender y digerir las disposiciones contenidas en el Código a fin de facilitarles su aplicación, y también es necesario que a esos países se les ofrezcan medios adecuados para que puedan responder a la información solicitada.

Naturalmente, será necesario que los países interesados hagan solicitudes de asistencia.

En el párrafo 47 se dice que la FAO ha adoptado un enfoque global con respecto a las necesidades de dar asistencia. Ojalá se nos dijera qué quiere decir un enfoque global y en qué consiste, pues nos preocupa que fuera de esa globalidad puedan quedar sin asistencia países de algunas regiones.

En efecto, originalmente en el párrafo 3 se destacó, con razón, la iniciativa de Japón para contribuir a un fondo fiduciario destinado a ayudar a los Estados Miembros a aplicar el Código; esa era una expresión global. Ahora, en el párrafo 47 se dice que la FAO ha obtenido en principio el apoyo de Japón para un proyecto regional de asistencia a los países de Asia y el Pacífico. La delegación de Colombia desearía que el Japón confirmara esa posibilidad, por la generosidad y el altruismo que distinguen al Gobierno japonés, y, naturalmente, está muy bien que ese primer esfuerzo del Japón se concentre en la región de Asia y el Pacífico a la cual pertenece ese gran país, pero esperamos igualmente que esa asistencia pueda extenderse a países de otras regiones. Decimos esto porque en el mismo párrafo 47 se afirma que se están proponiendo proyectos análogos para otras regiones, especialmente África donde el PNUD ha manifestado interés. ¿Y América Latina y el Caribe? ¿Está haciendo algo la FAO en nuestra región? ¿Se nos podría informar al respecto? Sabemos que en Quito,

la capital de Ecuador, fraterno país latinoamericano, una importante organización no gubernamental la Fundación Natura está coordinando una de esas actividades en el área latinoamericana y del Caribe y entendemos que la Oficina Regional hace algo al respecto. Ojalá se nos confirmara. De todos modos no todo es negativo en este informe, la gestión de la FAO ha comenzado a mejorar los resultados. En el COAG se informó que eran menos de 40 países los que habían contestado al cuestionario, ya actualizado en julio de este año eran 70, ahora, el amigo Bonte-Friedheim ha dicho que ese número ha aumentado en un 10 por ciento estando ahora en 77. Ese incremento sin duda corresponde a las iniciativas importantes adoptadas por la FAO, algunas de las cuales se describen en la sección de este documento pero creemos en la aplicación del documento a partir del párrafo 5. En el 8 se afirma que el cuestionario no es excesivamente complicado, sin embargo algunos países tienen dificultades para suministrar la información solicitada. Somos humildes políticos y carecemos de conocimiento técnico, pero aun así una ojeada del cuestionario que se ha dirigido a los gobiernos y que aparece en el Apéndice A del documento nos ha hecho pensar que tal vez si el cuestionario no es complicado, si es demasiado extenso, preguntamos muy humildemente ¿podrá simplificarse el cuestionario? ¿reducirlo un poco, limitarlo, posiblemente a ciertas etapas y luego ir profundizando, pues, los datos básicos en relación con los diversos aspectos de que trata el Código? Esta sugerencia podría coincidir con lo que se dice en el párrafo 9, al final del primer período de observación se enviará un segundo cuestionario, es decir ¿podría acaso considerarse etapas sucesivas que faciliten a los gobiernos, sobre todo a aquellos menos capacitados, para responder ese cuestionario?

La controversia en medio de la cual se adoptó el Código parece haberse calmado un poco según el párrafo 11 que dice "todos los países, tanto en desarrollo como desarrollados, han comprobado que el Código es útil". Esa afirmación debe ser muy satisfactoria para los gobiernos y para la FAO.

Llegamos al convencimiento de que hemos construido un marco satisfactorio para todos.

El párrafo 12 dice que "casi todos los países en desarrollo necesitan mejorar sus servicios técnicos y materiales para poder supervisar y hacer cumplir eficazmente el Código".

Este es un dato que nos preocupa y por ello la delegación de Colombia pide a la Secretaría la más amplia y precisa información posible acerca de qué se está haciendo en ese campo ¿hay ya proyectos, iniciativas, etc.?

Los párrafos 15, 16 y 21 se refieren a la manera como actúan las industrias de plaguicidas, la reacción del gobierno al comportamiento de esas industrias y las dificultades para controlar la calidad de los plaguicidas puestos en venta a los países. Los datos de esos párrafos podrían indicar un balance ligeramente preocupante cuyas consecuencias podrían atenuarse un poco en la medida en que los países en desarrollo tengan mayor conciencia de las deficiencias actuales y las industrias tendrán que respetar cada vez más la actitud vigilante de los gobiernos.

Los párrafos 32 y 44 hablan de la participación de organizaciones no gubernamentales; pensamos que las ONG tienen un papel importante sobre todo en cuanto a la preservación de la salud y el medio ambiente; con ello nos complació oír al Sr. Bonte-Friedheim cuando habló de la intensificación de la cooperación de la FAO con las ONG, al igual que el párrafo 44 que apoyamos sobre los propósitos de la FAO de colaborar en los proyectos que tienen algunas ONG.

Los párrafos 34 y 37 se refieren a la capacitación que apoya no sólo al nivel del campesino sino a la preparación de expertos y dotación de laboratorios, párrafo 47. A ese respecto la delegación de Colombia pregunta en qué consiste el Programa a que se hace referencia en el párrafo 33, a qué países se ha prestado asistencia según el párrafo 34 para establecer planes nacionales de registro y control de plaguicidas; dónde se han celebrado los cursos de capacitación de que habla el párrafo 35; qué países y qué regiones han abarcado la misión a que se refiere el párrafo 36; ¿se han celebrado ya y dónde los seminarios regionales a que se hace referencia en el párrafo 37?

En fin, Sr. Presidente, la delegación de Colombia desea reconocer a la Secretaría de la FAO y en particular al colega y amigo Bonte-Friedheim y al Dr. Brader el interés que han demostrado en difundir los objetivos del Código y obtener la más amplia aplicación. Los comentarios de esta delegación están dirigidos a hacer ese reconocimiento, pero no en forma pasiva, sino estimulando a la FAO para que prosiga por esta buena dirección e intensifique sus actividades ya que el Gobierno colombiano piensa que la adecuada aplicación de los principios del Código representará notables beneficios para los países en desarrollo.

Dato'Ahmad BADRI M. BASIR (Malaysia): My delegation appreciates the presentation by Mr Bonte-Friedheim of the report given to us in document CL 92/2. It has been two years since the FAO Conference unanimously endorsed the Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides. Although this period is very short, the report has given us some very positive indications that the Code has made an impact on improving safety and efficiency in the use of pesticides. It has definitely, through the various initiatives, succeeded in increasing awareness among industries, governments and users of the need to pay particular attention to the proper use of this useful but sometimes hazardous substance.

The report has also underlined the inadequacies of the technical and laboratory facilities in developing countries effectively to monitor and enforce the provisions of the Code. Definitely one of the main focuses of this Organization should be on providing the necessary training to strengthen the infrastructures, including expert services and laboratory facilities in developing countries.

Our country very often is faced with problems of the improper use of pesticides which sometimes has resulted in problems due to pesticide residues in our food production. Definitely, the Code, which is complementary to international legislation, would be useful in increasing public awareness of this problem and in pressuring users to conform to the proper usage of these chemicals.

While on this subject, we wish to state that we still strongly believe that the concept of "prior informed consent" should be introduced into the Code. This "prior informed consent" clause would require exporters to obtain, via their own government, the explicit consent of the governments of the importing countries before the export of banned chemicals could take place. We feel that what is banned and considered hazardous in developed countries is equally, if not more hazardous in developing countries where the level of training and expertise is much lower.

There should not be any double standard in the consideration of safety and health of the poor farmers. One may argue that the "prior informed consent" would give rise to unnecessary delays in that governments of importing countries would take time to consider the import of the banned product. We think that such a delay is fully justifiable, considering the adverse effects that such products may have on the illiterate farmers in developing countries. It should also be noted that there is quite a large number of chemicals available on the market where it has been reported that up to 1 000 new chemicals are being introduced annually with about 60 000 chemicals marketed in the United States alone.

With the severe constraints in expertise in the developing countries it is all the more necessary that governments of importing countries should be informed and made aware of any of the hazardous products intended for import by them.

Finally, we would just like to reiterate our strong support for this Code and congratulate the FAO for actively pursuing this matter. We hope that further reports on it will be much more positive than the one which has just been presented today.

Raúl LOPEZ LIRA (México): Mi delegación desea por su conducto, Sr. Presidente, felicitar a la Secretaría por el informe contenido en el documento CL 90/2 sobre la aplicación del Código internacional de conducta para la distribución y utilización de plaguicidas. Ha contado con sólo escasos tres meses para su elaboración, ha hecho gran esfuerzo para lograr la respuesta de 70 países y la realización del examen de la situación actual, lo cual nos permite una primera evaluación de dicha aplicación.

Asimismo mi delegación desearía exhortar a aquellos países que aún no han contestado el cuestionario elaborado por la Secretaría a que procedan a contestarlo ya que ese entorno dará una visión más objetiva de la utilización, responsabilidad o no de estos agentes químicos.

Nos complace saber que existe un consenso generalizado tanto en países en desarrollo como en los desarrollados de que el Código de Conducta es útil.

Felicitamos a la FAO por los esfuerzos que está desplegando para apoyar a aquellos países que no están todavía en condiciones de aplicar dicho Código por la asistencia que sea necesaria conforme se consigna en los párrafos 33 a 38.

Es imperioso que los gobiernos cuenten con controles sobre productos como estos que pueden ser nocivos para la salud, medio ambiente, tierras y demás seres vivos del planeta.

Cabe hacer un llamado a toda la industria de plaguicidas para que actúen en forma responsable mejorando sus sistemas de información sobre la toxicidad de estos productos y su acumulación. En ese sentido nos complace saber que se ha establecido una colaboración con una entidad para elaborar fitogramas y saber que la propia industria de plaguicidas, a través de esta entidad, se encuentra en proceso de llevar a cabo una evaluación y les exhortamos a que continúen en el camino para una aplicación integral de este instrumento importante que es el Código de Conducta.

Consideramos asimismo que la labor de las ONG puede ser importante en coadyugar a los esfuerzos de la FAO y las otras organizaciones del sistema de las Naciones Unidas, y la propia FIDA ya que sólo el esfuerzo común puede garantizar el uso correcto de estos elementos que pueden contribuir al desarrollo agrícola, pero dando garantías para la salud de los pueblos y la conservación del medio ambiente.

Namukolo MUKUTU (Zambia): At this point in time, as this is my first opportunity to address the Council, permit my delegation to say how happy we are to see you, Mr Chairman, in the Chair. We would also take this opportunity to congratulate the the Vice-Chairmen and all the delegations appointed on the assumption of their responsibilities. I wish to commend the Secretariat for producing this very brilliant paper. We have read it with interest and agree with a number of the comments made with regard to the training of extension officers and also the training of farmers. But we feel that there are two areas which are extremely important. One of them is the need for "prior informed consent" by the recipient countries and the other is the need to develop a clear policy on the disposal of large quantities of pesticides.

The issue of pesticides is extremely important for the developing countries. It is most important because our farmers are basically illiterate and also the extension officers are basically illiterate, so that there is more need to develop proper systems for monitoring the effects of pesticides.

My delegation is very concerned that there is a development in the world for those who produce pesticides to dump them on the receiving countries. Zambia is one such country. We deem it necessary that this Council should recommend to the Conference that this matter should be discussed seriously and some solutions developed.

Referring to environmental issues, there is what is called the Brandtland Commission Report which stresses very much the need to conserve the environment. The report is entitled "Our Common Future". The manner in which we tend to operate these days, encouraging the disposal of large amounts of pesticides in the developing countries is not conducive to the creation of an environment which is sound, to provide sustained agricultural production. In this spirit my delegation feels strongly that we must find solutions which will deal adequately with the issues of the disposal of pesticides, and particularly with the issues of ensuring that the developed countries do not distribute or do not dump commodities onto the developing world. The Third World has little capacity to monitor the effects on the environment. It must be incumbent upon those countries which supply the pesticides to play their role in monitoring the environment.

What is not good in a developed country cannot be good in the Third World. With this in mind, we ask all concerned to ensure that they encourage the companies which produce pesticides to develop

ethics, to develop morals, not so much based on business approaches but based on the need for human health, the need for plant health and the need for the conservation of our own environment.

With these few remarks, my delegation is convinced that this issue should not die here. It should not be an information paper. It must be a paper which must go to Conference for proper instructions to be given by Conference.

Almir F.de SÁ BARBUDA (Brazil): On behalf of my delegation I wish to thank Mr Bonte-Friedheim for the comprehensive presentation of this item, and also the Secretariat for the progress report presented to us. We also wish to reiterate our support to the FAO's initiatives regarding the implementation of the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides. The replies to the questionnaire sent to member countries confirm the importance of the adoption of the Code and the need to increase FAO's assistance in establishing registration and control schemes and strengthening technical and physical national facilities to monitor the provisions of the Code.

In spite of the short time since the adoption of the Code, we appreciate that this preliminary assessment already lists a number of encouraging steps on the part of international organizations, national governments and the industry.

We believe that such revisions are extremely important for member nations to follow national and international action in the implementation of the Code, and it should be periodically put forward by FAO.

My Delegation disagrees, however, that this review is presented for information only. We believe that the principle of "prior informed consent" should be included in the Code. We defended this position on the occasion of the adoption of the Code, as we believe that it will contribute to safer use of pesticides. Taking into due consideration the involved hazards to human health and the environment, we cannot accept that reasons of excessive bureaucracy or of commercial interests be invoked to further prevent the approval of this principle.

Ghulam Mohammed BAHRAM (Afghanistan): Effective and efficient use of pesticides is needed in all countries. However, due to the shortage of modern facilities and qualified personnel, appropriate measures of pesticide use are a problem in most developing countries. Therefore, the Afghan delegation suggests that further technical and financial support be given to developing countries for the safe and appropriate use of pesticides. Attempts should be made in each developing country in terms of pesticide legislation, the import of and appropriate use of pesticides. Also, if the use of pesticides is banned in the producing country, further attempts are needed to ensure the appropriate and safe use of such pesticides in developing countries in order that they become more aware of the safety of such pesticides.

Therefore, the Afghan delegation suggests that this item be included in the Agenda of the Conference for appropriate decision.

Sra. Mónica DEREGIBUS (Argentina): La delegación argentina quiere señalar su aprecio por la presentación del documento 92/2 que estamos considerando, y por la presentación que del mismo hiciera el Sr. Bonte-Friedheim. Quisiéramos también unirnos a lo expresado por las delegaciones de Filipinas, Madagascar y Brasil, en el sentido de que consideramos que esta cuestión merece un debate de los Estados Miembros, y que lamentamos, por ello, que el documento haya sido presentado solamente para información.

Quisiéramos señalar asimismo que en nuestro país, las directivas del Código se están aplicando y se cuenta ya desde hace algunos años con un Servicio especializado que atiende el control de los plaguicidas ofreciéndose repetidamente información a los productores sobre el empleo de éstos en los distintos cultivos, así como los problemas de residuos que derivan de una utilización incorrecta o exagerada.

Con relación al documento 92/2 quisiéramos efectuar muy brevemente algunas observaciones. Tomando como base las indicaciones de las respuestas recibidas en la Encuesta efectuada por el respectivo Servicio de la FAO es que se ha podido presentar este documento 92/2, y quisiéramos señalar que, a nuestro juicio, hay algunas de estas indicaciones que constituyen motivo de preocupación.

Existe una importante proporción de países que no se encontrarían satisfechos con los procedimientos empleados por las empresas productoras y distribuidoras. Hay escasa información disponible, y se utiliza mal y en muchos casos, los países de menor desarrollo relativo no disponen de una legislación ni de un servicio especializado que pueda aplicarla y hacerla cumplir, y carecen también de personal capacitado para atender estos problemas. Se hace necesaria, en consecuencia, más información y mayor capacitación de personal técnico. También es imprescindible mayor responsabilidad y ayuda de las compañías exportadoras así como una permanente cooperación de los organismos internacionales y la asistencia bilateral.

En ese sentido, creemos que mucho puede hacerse utilizando mecanismos del CTPD. Se considera necesaria una mayor responsabilidad de algunas compañías, especialmente en sus prácticas comerciales y en algunos casos en el almacenamiento y eliminación de plaguicidas. Deseamos señalar también que los problemas de información, el uso responsable y el control efectivo de pesticidas, no sólo existe en los países en desarrollo, por cuanto estos inconvenientes se observan también en otros que disponen de la capacidad técnica, organización y recursos para aplicar correctamente las directivas de un Código como el que nos ocupa.

Existen múltiples ejemplos que se conocen a diario, algunos difundidos también por los medios de difusión. Todo esto nos sugiere que aún falta mucho por hacer en favor de un empleo nacional y atento de los pesticidas, y que los problemas que tienen los países en desarrollo, en cierta medida, derivan en buena parte de procedimientos comerciales ajenos a ellos mismos.

Estimamos, en consecuencia, que es pertinente que este Consejo efectúe el monitoreo permanente de esta cuestión y esperamos que en el futuro eso pueda ser posible.

Joachim WINKEL (Germany, Federal Republic of): With your permission, Mr Chairman, I should like first to add to the congratulations I have already delivered to the two Vice-Chairmen my congratulations to the third one just nominated, Ambassador Felix Sabal Lecco of the Cameroon.

Allow me to thank the Secretariat for the preparation of document CL 92/2 and especially Dr Bonte-Friedheim for presenting it to us so clearly.

My country took part actively and constructively in the elaboration of the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides. We, too, adopted the Code at the 23rd Conference in 1985. In 1986, we submitted the Code for parliamentary deliberations on an amended version of the Plant Protection Act for the Federal Republic of Germany. The legislator accepted our proposal and incorporated the Code into the Plant Protection Act of the Federal Republic of Germany.

We welcome the fact that a worldwide enquiry was undertaken designed to provide information about the experience gained so far in the implementation of the Code. However, we received the questionnaire as late as August, so that we could not meet the deadline of 15 July 1987 for a reply. We have meanwhile sent our reply to the Secretariat.

We consider the result of the worldwide enquiry to be positive. In our view, the statements in paragraph 11 are of particular importance so that all countries, both developing and developed, find the Code useful. We particularly welcome the statement in paragraph 15 that only 3% felt that industry acts irresponsibly. Nevertheless, the causes for this negative assessment should be thoroughly examined.

A great majority sees the implementation much more positively, as reflected in paragraph 15. We also consider the statements in paragraph 28 encouraging, concerning the notification of statutory provisions on the use of pesticides. The information provided in this respect by the Federal Republic of Germany was clear and straightforward. We notified the national provisions on bans and restrictions on the use of pesticides of our new Plant Protection Act on a worldwide basis, and also to FAO, the world organization sponsored by all of us, which is responsible in that field. Moreover, we offer additional information on these provisions.

My Delegation also welcomes the statements in paragraph 43 dealing with the strengthening of international cooperation in that field. In this respect, we recommend the Secretariat to give its attention to the fact that the work results of other important UN Agencies will be incorporated into the work of our Organization in order to achieve as economical as possible use of the scarce funds available, and to avoid duplication.

The document also refers to some weak points which require improvement. In this respect mention should be made in particular of the use of pesticides. The directions for use do not seem precise enough in some cases. The labelling of packages also requires improvement. The strengthening of training in the uses of pesticides is of particular importance, as we have already heard. This training must be orientated towards the practical use of pesticides.

On the whole, we are of the opinion that FAO has taken the right and promising way by adopting the International Code of Conduct. We feel the results are better than might be expected after such a short implementing period of two years. What matters now is to apply the recommendations in force in a competent way and, where this has not yet been the case, to establish the necessary administrative structures allowing the monitoring of the implementation of the Code.

We consider further inquiries at regular intervals useful to enlarge the available data bases. We recommend that the Committee on Agriculture of our Organization should regularly examine the questions in connection with the implementation of the Code.

It has been proposed that "prior informed consent" should be included in the Code, the so-called PIC principle. In my delegation's view this is no adequate measure, at least for the time being. The International Code of Conduct was adopted only two years ago. The experience gained so far has been good, as shown by the results of the enquiry among member states. For that reason, we should not amend the provisions of the Code now, but urge that the Code should be implemented consequently everywhere in order to gain more and broader experience on the whole matter, especially in the field of authorization, registration and control of pesticides under the provisions of the Code of Conduct.

Mrs Joan WALLACE DAWKINS (United States of America): The United States thanks Chairman Bonte-Friedheim for the report, and is pleased that such progress has been made in such a short period. The use of pesticides around the world may pose significant health and safety environmental threats if they are not properly managed, and global food production is dependent upon effective pest and pesticide management. If pesticides are misused, not only will users suffer health risks, but their economies are threatened by crop failures.

The FAO recognized that there was a need for pesticide regulation on a national level, and that the developing countries needed assistance in developing such capabilities. It was also recognized that it is imperative to avoid any disruption of international trade in pesticides, and the proliferation of varying national regulations could result in technical barriers to trade. Therefore a harmonized approach to national regulation was needed. The Code of Conduct adopted by the FAO Conference in November 1985 was a holistic approach to solving the problems of pesticide use worldwide. One of the chief elements of the Codex's framework provided that when a pesticide which is banned or severely restricted in the originating country is exported, the country of import should be notified in a timely manner.

We certainly applaud the efforts which FAO has made towards implementing this Code of Conduct, and we are pleased that 87 countries have responded. We deplore the problem of safety hazards in the use of pesticides but we do believe that this Code of Conduct is the approach that can help solve the problem. We noted that some countries have felt that the "prior informed consent" is a solution to the problem. We in the United States feel that some countries did not receive the Code until June of 1986, so there has not been sufficient time to see if we can solve the problem with the Code. Rather, we feel that we should strengthen the Code in the direction that FAO has taken, through training and technical assistance of the developing countries.

PIC will not effectively resolve the real difficulties associated with the export of banned or severely restricted chemicals - namely, the lack of a capability to evaluate the notices, or to make and carry out technical and policy determinations about pesticide use in general. Countries need their own legislation and regulatory mechanisms for decision-making, and the United States strongly feels that we should help the countries do this, rather than try to solve the problem another way.

PIC creates a false sense of security for the importing countries, because it provides no protection against products re-exported by third parties, or against exports from the country which has no regulations in place; thus a country which does ban a pesticide would not be able to export, or would at least have to wait for a judgement from the country. The same pesticide can be exported freely by another country which does not have a ban in place.

The United States understands that this report is only for discussion and information, not for decision, but it feels strongly that PIC would violate GATT and might constitute arbitrary unjustifiable discrimination between countries, based on the example which I gave a moment ago. We feel strongly that we should seek another way of solving the problem, thus giving the power to the country which is receiving the export.

Paul R. BRYDEN (Australia): Australia has supported the development of the Code and is encouraged by the results of the preliminary survey and its implementation. For our part, Australia has developed a regulatory scheme and believes that this provides adequate protection for our - importing purposes at the present time. We support the intent of "prior informed consent", to ensure that developing countries are not subjected to malpractice in the distribution and use of pesticides. However, we do wonder whether this objective can best be achieved by using the PIC system

As a general comment, we consider that governments and industry have a shared responsibility for their practices in relation to developing countries. Adherence to other international codes of practice - for example, the World Health Organization's International Code of Marketing of Breast Milk Substitutes provides evidence that such codes are an effective way of managing malpractice and protecting possibly vulnerable markets. Experience suggests to us that the key to the effective implementation of the Code lies in its simplicity. In this regard Article 6 of the Code of Conduct anticipates that governments will introduce national registration schemes. Such schemes provide the ability to determine and act upon information on pesticides and safety decisions taken by other countries. Article 9 makes provision for information exchange on the part of both the exporting and the importing countries, and through the international register of potentially toxic chemicals. In our view, introducing PIC to the Code could result in unnecessary encumbrances to those countries where there are regulatory schemes in practice, and could be counterproductive in countries where regulatory systems have not yet been developed.

In essence, this issue is much more complicated in practice than it may appear on the surface, and in our view much more thought must be given to it, particularly in terms of practical application and consequences to both industry and agriculture in the importing country. On balance we would suggest that the best and most practical way to handle this issue would be to refer it to an expert technical committee, to examine the issue in detail, for subsequent consideration by the wider membership.

V.K. SIBAL (India): I trust Mr. Chairman that you will allow us to add our congratulations to those expressed by our colleagues to your three Vice-Chairmen who will assist you in your task of steering this Council. We would like to express our appreciation for the quality of the document under discussion, and in the very clear presentation by Dr. Bonte-Friedheim.

The Code is barely two years old and has only been in operation for about a year and a half. We agree that this period is perhaps not long enough to assist, with any degree of accuracy or certainty, the impact which the implementation of this Code could have on improving safety and efficiency of pesticides. One of the features which stands out on perusal of this document is that even though the number of countries which have started to respond to the questionnaire has increased from initial levels, the number is perhaps still inadequate to make us feel satisfied that the monitoring mechanisms have reached a state of efficiency or a state which would satisfy us.

In this context therefore the first priority must be attached to strengthening those monitoring mechanisms so that results are available on a scale on the basis of which certain conclusions can be drawn for further action.

We are pleased to note the initiative taken in training and technical assistance by the FAO, as brought out in this document; and particularly the conclusions in paragraph 47 which point to the kind of technical assistance which is required by the developing countries still in the area of training or the strengthening of national infrastructures, including expert services and laboratory facilities. In this context, we would also like to express appreciation for the support offered by the Government of Japan for the Trust Fund and the regional project to assist countries on this issue specifically in this area, and we hope that similar projects will be available for dealing with other geographical areas.

It is accepted that the Code is a dynamic one: it has to be a dynamic code. It has perhaps three, one might say, parties: the governments, the industry, and the environmentalists, who are also interested; and on the basis of experience, amendments have to be considered - must be considered. But these we feel must be made after sufficient study and adequate indepth analysis.

We think that the points being made in respect of PIC are very valuable, as the PIC is meant to supply the deficiencies which exist in the importing countries of pesticides where the mechanisms available are not sufficient to prevent them from becoming victims of malpractice.

So we feel that this is a very important issue to the priority of which attention needs to be given; and at the first opportunity a full study, amendments in respect of this, and other amendments if they are warranted by our experience in the implementation of this Code which should also receive attention.

With these words I would again like to thank you Mr. Chairman for the opportunity you have given us.

Mourad BENCHEIKH (Algérie): La délégation algérienne prend la parole pour constater que, depuis que, ce point est à l'ordre du jour, la majorité des intervenants ont été ceux des pays du tiers monde. Cela prouve simplement la préoccupation de ces pays face à une situation qui, loin de s'améliorer, est en train de s'aggraver; et cette seule constatation devrait nous convier à puiser dans l'arsenal juridique à notre disposition pour faire de ce point à l'ordre du jour non pas simplement un point d'information mais un point de réflexion pouvant amener des décisions.

Certains des pays du tiers monde ont connu de très graves catastrophes écologiques et je pense - les faits sont là pour le démontrer - que des tonnes de pesticides sont actuellement déversées sur le tiers monde sans aucun contrôle alors que ces mêmes pesticides font l'objet de législations très sévères dans les pays qui les produisent. C'est là le problème politique qui se pose.

Me référant au document CL 92/2, je voudrais simplement relever certaines contradictions. Au paragraphe 16, on nous dit que 66 pour cent des pays qui ont été consultés se sont déclarés peu ou pas du tout satisfaits des pratiques commerciales suivies dans l'exportation des pesticides qui leur sont destinés. Nous lisons plus loin une conclusion très optimiste, au paragraphe 45, à savoir que l'on a constaté des preuves très encourageantes qui permettent de conclure que l'industrie et le commerce des pesticides veulent jouer le jeu. Cette contradiction ne pourrait être éclaircie que si les rédacteurs ou le rapporteur du projet nous disaient de façon très claire quelles sont ces preuves.

D'autre part, au paragraphe 38, on nous dit de façon très lapidaire que des mécanismes ont été mis sur pied pour signaler les infractions graves au code. Je crois que tous les délégués ici présents seraient tout à fait heureux de savoir quels sont ces mécanismes et de savoir également si ces mécanismes ont pu dégager des infractions graves.

L'intervention que je viens de faire tend simplement à insister sur le fait que, s'agissant d'un problème qui est très grave, comme encore une fois l'a démontré la série d'interventions de la part des pays du tiers monde, nous ne pouvons pas accepter que ce problème soit traité de façon aussi légère, même en admettant qu'il n'y a que deux ans que le code de conduite a été mis en pratique.

La délégation algérienne souhaiterait avoir des réponses très claires aux questions qu'elle a posées et, en tous les cas, elle souhaiterait que nous puissions puiser dans l'arsenal juridique - et nous savons qu'il est important et très diversifié - de façon à ce que cette question ne fasse pas simplement l'objet d'un examen d'information.

Srta. Marina BRICEÑO ZEHL (Venezuela): Me gustaría, Señor Presidente, comenzar la intervención leyendo muy rápidamente tres párrafos del Documento que creo que son muy interesantes. Uno lo acaba de mencionar el Delegado de Argel y es el párrafo 16:

"El 30 por ciento de los países ¿en desarrollo se muestran satisfechos con las prácticas comerciales seguidas en la exportación de plaguicidas a sus países y, resumiendo, el 66 por ciento no lo están."

El párrafo 19: con respecto a la cuestión de la asignación de recursos, por parte de los gobiernos, a la tarea de regular eficazmente la disponibilidad, distribución y utilización de plaguicidas en sus países, el 15 por ciento considera que tales recursos son suficientes, el 38 por ciento que son moderados, el 41 por ciento que son escasos y el 7 por ciento que no los hay. El párrafo 21: "el 36 por ciento no posee medios, ni tienen acceso a ellos, para verificar y controlar la calidad de los plaguicidas puestos a la venta en sus países. Creo que son tres párrafos muy indicativos, si además los ponemos en relación con el artículo 12.3 del Código que en la segunda frase dice la industria de los plaguicidas debería cooperar plenamente en la observancia del Código y promover los principios y pautas éticas expresados por el mismo, independientemente de si el Gobierno es capaz o no de observarlo o hacerlo observar por la industria.

Los tres párrafos que acabo de leer del Documento CL 92/2 indican claramente que los países en desarrollo receptores de plaguicidas que han sido prohibidos o severamente limitados en los países productores y que son altamente tóxicos, no tienen la capacidad ni recursos suficientes para implementar este Código, o por lo menos no para que los años que han transcurrido hayan sido suficientes. Son procesos que necesitan tiempo, y tiempo bastante largo.

Sin embargo, para la industria volver a reetiquetar sus productos, a formular mejor sus canales de distribución, no es algo excesivamente difícil, es algo que en dos años se ha podido hacer y para lo que no se necesita acumular demasiada experiencia. Cambiar una etiqueta no creo que presente muchas dificultades.

Hemos dicho que los países en desarrollo no están capacitados todavía. Están haciendo esfuerzos, pero no están capacitados para poner en pie rápidamente el sistema de registro y control de plaguicidas. Se necesita, sobre todo, adquirir conciencia de las reales implicaciones que tiene el uso de estos insumos altamente tóxicos y con numerosos efectos secundarios en la salud humana y en el medio ambiente.

La industria no ha respondido de la manera que era factible esperarse. Reitero que la publicidad es insuficiente, y publicidad y etiquetado distribuido después de la aprobación del Código han contravenido las disposiciones del Código en numerosísimos casos. Quede claro en principio que un producto prohibido en un país, en teoría, no se debería producir, tanto menos para exportarlo a otros. El problema es grave, sobre todo en nuestros países; por eso consideramos necesario en este punto volver a introducir en el Código el principio PIC, que estaba incluido en algunas de sus versiones preliminares y fue sacrificado en la búsqueda de la aprobación del Código por consenso en la Conferencia pasada, como muy bien lo evidenció el Delegado de Filipinas al hacer referencia al Informe de la Conferencia misma.

El Código es dinámico, y así lo son también las disposiciones incluidas en él. Consideramos necesario incluir el principio PIC en este momento; no es la solución para todos los problemas, pero es muy útil.

Un punto que dijo la Delegación de Estados Unidos, y que me llamó la atención, creo que dijo que el principio PIC no tiene ninguna utilidad y podría hasta tener repercusiones negativas, ya que tomando en consideración pesticidas reexportados por terceros o exportados en países donde no han sido registrados, bloquearían, digámoslo así, las exportaciones, llamémoslas regulares, que se refieran a los pesticidas prohibidos o severamente limitados registrados, y expondrían a estos productores "regulares" a una competencia desleal.

Es admirable que se pueda ignorar totalmente al país receptor y pagante de estos insumos en virtud de consideraciones puramente comerciales por parte de quienes los que buscan es mantener y amparar sus mercados.

Un segundo punto que queremos destacar es que en una visión a largo plazo el Código se debe considerar

una medida ad interim pedagógica, por así decirlo, que ayude a racionalizar el uso de los plaguicidas en la agricultura, en el entendido de que el objetivo hacia el cual debemos tender es el de un uso mínimo y solo en casos muy excepcionales de estos insumos.

Consideramos, por tanto, que se debe enfatizar en el Código y en nuestros debates la necesidad de fomentar y dar mayor prioridad a todos los sistemas integrados de control de plagas que salvaguarden el medio ambiente, aun permitiendo elevados rendimientos en la producción de alimentos.

A este efecto apoyamos lo dicho por la Delegación de Zambia cuando se refirió al Informe de la Comisión para el Medio Ambiente, en el cual se indica la necesidad de ver el futuro desde un punto de vista de un desarrollo sostenible y compatible con la conservación del medio ambiente y de la calidad de la vida.

Apoyamos de igual manera a la Delegación de Filipinas de que este tema se discuta en la Conferencia, y de que el Consejo monitoree sucesivas evaluaciones del Código en sus próximas reuniones.

Carmelo RAGUSA (Italy): I hope that Italy will answer the final questionnaire before the end of this year or at the very beginning of next year. We will answer because it is very good work. In the meantime, I am going to give some information about the national sanitary legislation on the correct use of pesticides. I hope this information will be useful to someone. The control of use of pesticides in Italy is delegated to the regions, leaving to the Ministry of Health the authorization of the commerce, of formulations, and of their uses in agriculture and the coordination of regions. Many of the regions have over the last years adopted services having local importance for the prevention of hazards. As for information I will tell you something about what the Ministry of Health has done before officially answering the document CL 92/2 of September 1987.

Any physician in Italy is obliged to communicate to his region and to the Ministry of Health any case of intoxication caused by the use of pesticides. This is a law of 1975.

General and particular ideas about operative control of the use of pesticides were published in 1984 and many regions have adopted them or are doing so.

A complete index of authorized pesticides with the involved cultures was published in 1985 for common agricultural and sanitary use in the countryside, and it is brought up to date when a new substance is authorized.

The use of helicopters is limited to only a few active substances and to a few cultures, and every treatment must be authorized by the local agricultural and sanitary authority.

Recently the Italian Ministry of Health has adopted the following: Whoever sells herbicides must communicate to the Region and to the Ministry of Health how much he has sold -- this was adopted last year -- and the first resumé will be published as soon as possible.

Secondly, residues found in food by the local sanitary control in Italy were published in 1980 and 1982 and the next one is in the course of being published.

Finally, the farmers will be obliged to have a farmer pesticide book and to note in it every treatment, with the date, the active ingredients, the dose, the culture and so on, to enable the local agricultural and sanitary authority to do its routine control or inspection.

Sumiji NAKAZAWA (Japan): To begin with I should like to associate myself with many of the previous speakers in congratulating the three Vice-Chairman on their unanimous election.

I listened with special interest to the excellent presentation made by Dr. Bonte-Friedheim. My Government appreciates and welcomes the progress report on the implementation of the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides for the promotion of this Code in all FAO member countries.

We also recognize that the questionnaire sent to all member countries is very useful, not only in enabling us to understand the present situation of the distribution and use of pesticides in each Country, but in also giving us the basic and necessary data for further activities in the countries and organizations concerned.

From this point of view, we hope that FAO will periodically carry out such research using questionnaires and submit progress report on the Code on a regular basis.

I should like briefly to touch upon the words "prior informed consent". Although we are not sure of their exact meaning, we presume that the object is basically the same as that of article 9 of the Code and could therefore be covered by the flexible application of the 9th article.

Furthermore, in recognizing that the Code is a general guideline and not legally binding for member countries, it does not seem necessary to add any words such as the above-mentioned to article 9.

Should an importing country wish to know information in advance on pesticides to be imported, it is sufficient, we think, for the importing country to request such information from exporting countries in writing.

In conclusion, we have difficulty in supporting the idea that the words "prior informed consent" should be incorporated in the 9th article.

We also believe that, as not much time has passed since the Code was put into effect, we ought first to observe the progress of its implementation, so as then to enter into more effective discussion on each article.

Finally, Mr Chairman, I would now like to draw your attention to paragraphs 3 and 47 of this document.

As introduced in paragraph 47, the Japanese Government already made the exchange of notes with FAO concerning its contribution to a Trust Fund to provide member governments with support in implementing the Code, last September.

We intend to contribute the amount of 547 000 US dollars for the 1987 fiscal year for a regional project to assist countries in Asia and the Pacific and furthermore we are considering support for another area in the second phase.

In this connection, we welcome the fact that UNDP has expressed an interest in supporting similar projects and expect the international community to show increased interest in such activities in this field from now on.

James D. AITKEN (United Kingdom): At the Conference in 1985 the United Kingdom welcomed the adoption of this Code. The United Kingdom played a significant and positive role, I think we all agree, in the preparation of the Code. We have wide experience in pesticides, working with pesticides in our countries and in other, developing countries. In fact, we have a special unit that deals with this, which I will refer to later. We have played a very positive role, we believe, in the preparation of the Code, and we will continue to do so in any future discussions of the Code.

I should like to thank the Secretariat for the very clear presentation they have given us in document CL 92/2 and also express our thanks for the very informative and clear introduction given by Mr Bonte-Friedheim.

In our view, the most significant information to emerge from CL 92/2 is the absence of adequate technical capacity in the government of many developing countries. If I may quote paragraph 13, "Twenty-five percent of developing countries responding to the questionnaire...do not have approved legislative authority to regulate the distribution and use of pesticides. Most of them are aware of this...and are trying to correct the problem...". Paragraph 14: "Twenty-six percent of developing countries... have no registration and control scheme in operation...". Paragraph 19: On the availability of government resources, 15 percent felt that such resources were adequate, 38 percent that they were modest, 41 percent little and 7 percent none. Again, similar points about guidance on

treatment for poisoning and health problems: the absence of this is made in paragraph 22. In paragraph 26 we see that 52 percent indicated that governments were not yet in a position to strictly enforce parts of the Code. These points were made much more effectively and eloquently by our distinguished colleague from Venezuela.

There is a conclusion from this, Mr Chairman, that there is a clear need for the provision of technical cooperation to help developing countries gain expertise in safe pesticides' use and management. It is against this background that we must consider the operation of the Code to date.

Several delegations already have pointed to the need for technical cooperation to help developing countries. We have heard statements from Colombia, Madagascar and a number of other countries on this. We have also just had a very welcome statement from our distinguished colleagues from Japan drawing attention to the very generous, helpful offer they have made.

In the debate in 1985 when the Code was adopted we referred to the organization we have in Britain which is funded from the Aid Programme which has special responsibility for helping developing countries in the safe use and management of pesticides. This is a unit of the Overseas Development Natural Resources Institute, and for a number of years it has been working with governments, developing countries and industry to make pesticide use safer and more effective. The services of this unit are available to countries on the United Kingdom Bilateral Aid Programme and they are also available on a commercial consultancy basis to other countries and commercial concerns.

Paragraph 35 of CL 92/2 refers to training courses, and I am pleased to say that the United Kingdom has been involved and offered bilaterally training of the type referred to in paragraph 35. As also mentioned in paragraph 39 on the development of pictogram labels to make pesticides safer, again I am very pleased to say that our unit in the UK has been responsible for work on this and has been working with GIFAP to produce the pictograms along with industry.

Similarly, there is reference to types of training in paragraph 43. We have been involved with these other agencies and with FAO.

I am also very pleased to be able to announce at this Council that the United Kingdom Aid Programme is funding a special training course in Britain next July to train officials from developing countries in implementing the Code of Conduct. This course is of a global nature and any country that is in receipt of United Kingdom technical cooperation can apply to us, though I would say that we expect there will be a very large demand and it may be that we shall have to form a queue for places on this. Certainly we see this very much as not simply a regional problem but something that has to be tackled globally. It is against this background of recognition, both by the delegations which have spoken and certainly by the paper CL 92/2, that we have to consider any changes to the Code. In this respect, I think we would stress that the need to provide adequate safeguards to man and the environment from pesticides' misuse is very important. We believe that this can best be achieved by training regulators and operators on the appropriate choice and safe use of pesticides. I stress very much that, whatever is the message that comes from this Council, one of the strong elements in this should be the need for adequate training and resources. We think this is extremely important, and certainly we feel that the international community should concentrate on this aspect rather than at the moment try to introduce "prior informed consent" schemes. We could prefer to gain experience with other schemes, - export notification schemes and the UNEP/London Guidelines - to understand how these can be approved before we take a particular view on the evolution of the Code.

The message that we get from CL 92/2 is that it is right that this discussion that we are having now should be a discussion, because essentially what comes forward - and this has been referred to by the distinguished delegate for India - is that obviously there are very large gaps in our information about the monitoring of the Code and the results of the first period of operation.

The second point we would make is the difficulty of handling a highly technical discussion in plenary sessions of the governing bodies. This is a point that was alluded to by my colleague, Mr Bula Hoyos, the delegate from Colombia, when he made the point that he was not a technical expert. Neither are we. We would point out here that the Code took a great deal of careful preparation, and it is not practical to think that it can be simply amended as one would amend, perhaps, a procedural resolution. We certainly feel that, if there is to be an evolution of the Code, it should take place in the same

manner in which the Code was prepared, i.e. through consultation with member states, through discussions in working parties - and here I note the Australian comment - and it should then go to relevant technical committees in FAO before there are any positive proposals that come before Council and Conference.

I would conclude, Mr Chairman, by referring to my opening statement in which I mentioned the very positive role that the UK has played in the preparation of the Code and also in the provision of technical cooperation. I should like to take this opportunity to confirm our very positive attitude towards the Code and again our very positive attitude towards providing assistance for developing countries to enable them to use pesticides safely and effectively.

John K. KYAMBWA (Tanzania): I am pleased to note that this agenda item has now been opened for discussion rather than for information only. My delegation is again adding its voice to the many voices already requesting that this agenda item be fully discussed at the Conference. The Tanzanian delegation endorses the Progress Report on the Implementation of the International Code of Conduct on Distribution and Use of Pesticides prepared by the Secretariat. My country has almost adopted the Code by virtue of the fact that an institute that tests, approves and registers all the pesticides to be utilized in the country prior to importation has long ago been established. My country is fully aware, therefore, of the danger to mankind from the misuse of pesticides if not fully controlled. It is because of this background that we fully support the Code and urge that it should be sent to the Conference to be fully discussed.

Vanyob ISARANKURA (Thailand): My delegation would like to inform this Council that Thailand has a simplified pesticide registration scheme under the Poisonous Articles Act, 1967. The legislation covers all toxic substances, with pesticides as one of these substances. The law extends only to those pesticides classified in the Official Gazette as toxic substances. The registration authority is the Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives.

We are fully aware of the shortcomings of its pesticide registration and control scheme, which is already in process of being revised. Thailand considers strengthening, implementation and enforcement of its national pesticide registration and control scheme as a substantial part of the country's commitment towards the provisions of the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides and its full implementation.

Implementation and enforcement become meaningful only if, at the same time, the laboratory is strengthened so that it becomes fully operational for all necessary control analysis.

Secondly, although we have had this Code only for two years, we accept the fact that there has been much evidence which proves that there is a need to add the principle of "prior informed consent" to the Code.

However, we accept that due to time constraints we fully agree that this should not be done at the Twenty-fourth Conference next week, we think we should at least agree to have the principle at this time and then we can consider the matter at the Twenty-fifth Conference in 1989, otherwise we will have to wait too long.

Gian Paolo PAPA (CEE): A ce point de l'ordre du jour, je souhaiterais porter à la connaissance du Conseil de la FAO trois informations concernant la mise en oeuvre du "Code international de conduite pour la distribution et l'utilisation des pesticides" par la Communauté Européenne.

1. Conformément à l'article 12.6 de ce Code et en liaison avec son article 1.2, la Commission prépare actuellement un rapport au Directeur général de la FAO pour l'informer des actions prises au niveau de la Communauté au cours de ces derniers mois pour assurer la mise en application du code.
2. Conformément à l'article 9.5 du code, la Commission a informé le Directeur du Régistre international des produits chimiques potentiellement toxiques (IRPTC) de la liste des pesticides dont l'utilisation et la commercialisation est interdite en vertu de la réglementation communautaire.

3. Le Conseil de la Communauté Economique Européenne examine en ce moment une proposition de la Commission concernant les exportations et importations communautaires de certains produits chimiques dangereux, proposition qui répond pleinement à la problématique de l'échange d'informations telle qu'elle est formulée à l'article 9 du Code de conduite.

M.le Président, je tenais à faire cette brève déclaration pour confirmer devant le Conseil de la FAO tout l'intérêt que continue à susciter dans la Communauté le Code international de conduite sur les pesticides adopté par la Conférence de la FAO en novembre 1985, et témoigner des efforts accomplis par la Communauté pour assurer, dans les meilleures conditions, sa mise en oeuvre.

António RODRIGUES PIRES (Observateur du Cap-Vert): Je serai très bref car les délégations qui m'ont précédé, Madagascar, Zambie, Philippines, Inde, Tanzanie, ont déjà dit ce que j'avais à dire. Je tiens à associer ma voix à la leur. Toutefois, la délégation cap-verdienne tient à dire qu'en 1985 nous avons discuté de ces questions de code, nous ne voulons pas y revenir. Nous pensons que la bonne volonté de la FAO et des Etats Membres, parmi lesquels les pays en voie de développement, ne suffit pas. Il faut que nous soyons très clairs.

Les besoins financiers pour aider les pays à se doter des structures qui conviennent pour le contrôle et l'homologation des pesticides et particulièrement l'utilisation des pesticides au niveau des produits alimentaires - je ne veux pas mettre de côté la question des produits industriels - et l'utilisation des pesticides par les petits paysans constituent pour les pays en développement, en tout cas pour mon pays, la grande priorité.

Le délégué des Etats-Unis a souligné la question de formation des cadres. Il va de soi que sans la formation des cadres à tous les niveaux il n'est pas possible d'appliquer ces propositions et d'observer ce code, ce que nous souhaitons avec beaucoup de force.

Au paragraphe 42 il est dit que nous appuyons également la coopération entre les agences. Effectivement nous pensons que le rôle de l'OMS de s'associer à la FAO peut être beaucoup plus utile pour nos pays. Pour terminer, la délégation du Cap-Vert tient à soutenir ce qu'ont dit les délégations qui nous ont précédés, que j'ai citées auparavant, concernant la question fondamentale des structures nationales et permettant également une coopération régionale et sous-régionale.

LE PRESIDENT: Avant de passer la parole aux délégations qui l'ont demandée nous sommes saisis d'une proposition précise de Monsieur le Directeur adjoint de la FAO concernant la suite réservée à ce document. Si quelques délégués veulent prendre la parole je la leur passerai, mais après avoir recueilli l'avis du Conseil sur cette question précise de Monsieur Walton sur la procédure à suivre.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: May I first go back to the question with which the Director-General dealt this morning, that this document, and indeed the agenda item are presented for information. I would like to re-emphasize forcibly that this is by no means binding on the Council, it was simply, if you like, a bureaucratic notation that was entered in the documentation. But it is not only entirely free for the Council to take any decision it wishes, I should like, after a few disconnected remarks, to propose that the Council take a decision.

Now I should like to make my disconnected remarks. First of all, I would like to re-emphasize the fact mentioned many times in the debate and quoted in the document, which was originally in the FAO Conference Resolution, that this is a voluntary Code of Conduct. "Voluntary" means, of course, that it cannot be imposed. The adoption of the Code of Conduct implied a very extensive process of consultation and consensus; negotiations leading up to the adoption of the Code of Conduct went on for several years, up to its final acceptance by the FAO Conference two years ago.

My next disconnected remark is that I should like to state, again very forcibly, in case there is any doubt about it - and I hope there is not - that the Secretariat is fully sensitive to all the points which have been raised, particularly by developing countries, in the course of this debate,

and especially on the need for improvements in the Code of Conduct. Repeated references have been made to the issues summed up under the famous "PIC" phrase, "prior informed consent". But there are other areas in which the Code of Conduct is open for improvement.

Next, I would like to go back to the actual text of the Conference decision which was quoted originally by the Representative of the Philippines.

The Conference recommended that revisions in the Code of Conduct "be made after some experience had been gained in the implementation of the Code". I would respectfully suggest that what we have acquired so far is little experience. We may think of this as a train which is accelerating, getting under way. The train has been slower getting under way than I believe was envisaged by the delegations who adopted the Code of Conduct and this paragraph in the report just two years ago. Let us not forget that this is an enormous affair which involves governmental interests and commercial interests, inter-governmental organizations and non-governmental organizations; it involves interests throughout the world.

The train may have been slow getting going, but it is accelerating and I am confident - and I think that the progress report which we have submitted to the Council suggests this - that progress is gathering speed. Although it is not yet satisfactory, there are no reasons for thinking that it will not soon be satisfactory.

The next remark I would like to make is that surely changes in the Code of Conduct should be made with something resembling the process of consultation and consensus that went into the elaboration of the underlying text itself. It would be easy for the FAO Conference simply to change the text, but that would not necessarily lead to changes in the practice adopted by governments and commercial interests throughout the world. This surely is what we are striving for.

I should like to suggest a possible decision by the Council. The Council could request that in the light of the additional experience which will have been accumulated by then, the Committee on Agriculture, which will hold its next meeting in just under two year's time in 1989, should carry out a more detailed assessment of progress and problems in the implementation of the Code of Conduct. At that stage specific consideration could be given to the question of revisions in the Code of Conduct and even to precise textual formulation. The report of COAG in 1989 would come to the FAO Council and would then proceed, if the Council so decides, to the FAO Conference in two years' time. The Council could take a decision to launch this process today and I believe that this would permit an orderly and careful consideration of all aspects and all practical and desirable possibilities for improvement.

This decision which I am suggesting would not preclude the Council also referring the matter to the FAO Conference, but with the Conference just a few days away and with no item dealing specifically with this matter on the agenda, I would frankly express a fear of considerable procedural difficulties in handling this in the Conference. That includes questions relating to the briefing of delegations, particularly those which are not also members of the Council, and even, in some extreme cases, perhaps the composition of delegations to the Conference, since it is not known that this item is to be under discussion.

That is all I wanted to say. Mr Bonte-Friedheim will answer a number of other questions which emerged in the course of the extremely stimulating and useful debate which in my view has given a tremendous impetus not only to the implementation of the Code but also to the work on it by all concerned and to this possible process of review and reassessment.

James D. AITKEN (United Kingdom): We were very interested to hear Mr Walton's suggestions and proposal. Through you, Mr Chairman, if I may, I think we would like to ask for some clarification and explanation of the procedures he envisages. We heard Mr Walton mention the method by which the text we have before us was reached and we took part in the process. It was through a series of technical working parties followed by a series of drafts which were circulated to member states. Then, after the text had been dealt with in the technical working parties it was presented to COAG. It would be very helpful if Mr Walton could confirm that this is a process which he envisages happening again or whether he envisages the text going straight to COAG.

I make this point because, certainly on the last COAG, we had a situation in which many of the delegations, for quite understandable reasons, had not been able to include technical experts from the delegations, and they have often been represented by Rome-based people, who have the same problems as we have of not being experts. We therefore hope that the procedure that Mr Walton is proposing will include the possibility of proposals being worked through by technical experts in expert working parties, and the circulation of texts to capitals so they can be considered by the professional experts, because I think we all here have a difficulty, as general administrators, in dealing with such technical matters.

Srta. Marina BRICEÑO ZEHL (Venezuela): Oímos con mucha atención la proposición formulada por el Sr. WALTON, y sin embargo creemos que debates muy extensos, consultas muy extensas se han venido llevando a cabo en todos estos últimos años que han incluido el problema del principio PIC, y no vemos la necesidad para remandar todo a dos años para que el COAG lo discuta y después de consultas técnicas sobre todo.

No podemos aceptar esta proposición formulada y apoyada ahora directamente por el Consejo. Preferiríamos que la decisión que el Consejo tome sea la de pasar el tema para la Conferencia y que la Conferencia, si lo considera, decida cual ulterior decisión tomar al respecto.

Sra. Margarita LIZARRAGA SAUCEDO (Mexico): Mi delegación será muy breve en honor al tiempo que ya es muy tardío. Nosotros apoyamos la posición que acaba de expresar la delegada de Venezuela.

Mourad BENCHÉIKH (Algérie): Constant avec ma proposition d'il y a quelques instants, j'ai sous les yeux ici l'Article II du Règlement général (page 22 de la version française).

"Au cours de l'une quelconque de ses sessions, la Conférence peut, à la majorité des deux tiers des suffrages exprimés, ajouter à l'ordre du jour toute question proposée par un Etat Membre ou par un membre associé agissant dans les limites de son statut. Toutefois, l'examen de cette question est subordonnée à la présentation d'un rapport établi par le Directeur général sur les incidences éventuelles d'ordre technique, administratif et financier de cette proposition, à moins que, pour des raisons d'urgence, la Conférence n'en décide autrement."

Je crois que nous tenons là le moyen juridique d'inscrire cette question très importante à l'ordre du jour de la Conférence. J'ai écouté très attentivement un certain nombre de délégués des pays occidentaux - et notamment le délégué du Royaume-Uni - qui réduisent ce problème à une simple question de formation professionnelle et d'aide aux pays du tiers monde. Et le délégué du Royaume-Uni escamote tout à fait le problème, qui est le problème politique: est-ce que les gouvernements qui produisent, par le biais d'un certain nombre de sociétés privées, les pesticides sont en mesure de faire pression auprès de ces sociétés par tout un arsenal juridique pour éviter que les pesticides ne soient déversés de façon illégale en direction des pays du tiers monde?

Voilà le problème et il me semble que le renvoyer à deux ans, c'est quand même ne pas tenir compte des préoccupations du tiers monde.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie le délégué de l'Algérie. Effectivement, le paragraphe 6 de l'Article II prévoit que la Conférence peut, à la majorité des deux tiers, ajouter à l'ordre du jour toute question proposée par un Etat Membre ou par un membre associé.

J'aimerais demander au Directeur général adjoint si nous pouvons user de cette faculté qui nous est donnée par les Textes Fondamentaux pour aborder une question que tout le monde a évoquée au cours de la Conférence.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I hesitate to give an answer, but I would have thought if the Council recommended that the Conference include an item on its Agenda this would go to the General Committee at its first session and a decision would be taken. I do not think you need to fall back on the two-thirds majority, which applies to the proposal of an individual member nation. It is really up to the Council, I think, to reach a recommendation on this matter.

LE PRESIDENT: La décision appartient maintenant au Conseil. Pouvons-nous considérer que le Conseil proposera, dans son rapport à la Conférence générale, d'analyser cette question, comme l'ont demandé de nombreux délégués? S'il n'y a pas d'opposition, nous allons suivre cette formule pour répondre aux vœux d'un grand nombre de délégués.

Maintenant, je souhaiterais que M. Bonte-Friedheim réponde aux questions posées par nombre de délégués et en particulier celui de l'Algérie.

C.H. BONTE-FRIEDHEIM (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): From a technical side, I should like to thank the many delegations for their interest in the work FAO has done, for the many useful comments, and also for the interesting questions which have been posed. We in the Secretariat will certainly take the comments into account in our future work.

I should also like to state at the beginning that FAO is as concerned as most speakers have been with regard to the situation in many developing countries. The lack of laboratories, the lack of legislation, the lack of trained personnel to implement the Code, are serious in many cases.

We should also like to state here - which we believe is closely linked to the use of pesticides - that our programme called "Integrated Pest Management" must go hand in hand with the reduction of the use of pesticides.

I can also state that FAO would have liked to do much more in 1987 in assisting member countries, but unfortunately the 1987 liquidity situation in FAO did not allow us to do as much as we had been asked and as much as we wanted to do.

There were some specific questions which I should like to try and answer.

The first one deals with the questionnaire. FAO has tried to develop a rather full questionnaire in order to get the base line data, as we said in our report. We offered, and we still offer, countries assistance in completing the questionnaire because we will need base line data if we are going to see any changes thereafter. We hope that in successive questionnaires we might be able to change some of the questions asked, and maybe ease the problem of answering, but we still consider the questionnaire as a basis for future work.

Questions were raised with regard to the number of countries which have received assistance in establishing national pesticide legislation. Let me give a few examples. That is in paragraph 34 of the text of the document. Suriname, Ethiopia, Morocco, Sri Lanka, Papua New Guinea and Afghanistan are some of them.

A question was asked on where the training courses were held on the safe and efficient use of pesticides. Again, a few examples are: Tanzania, Paraguay, Ghana, Sri Lanka, Jordan, Republic of Yemen, and Viet Nam.

On paragraph 36, the question was: where have the national and regional survey missions of laboratory infrastructures for pesticide analysis been held? Examples are: Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Thailand, Pakistan, Cyprus and Gambia.

Finally, how about regional workshops to harmonize pesticide legislation requirements? Two have been held, one in the Asian and Pacific Region covering India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Philippines, Republic of Korea and Indonesia, and another one for the Sub-region of Central America.

There was a question as to whether we can say on one hand that many countries were not satisfied with the trading practices in export, and on the other hand state in paragraph 45 that GIFAB is helpful in the implementation of the Code, and how does this fit? I believe there is a time difference. I do not think that what GIFAB has done and is doing has gone all the way to the developing countries themselves, so we hope that in these ones there will be a better response, meaning a response more in line with the Code when we do the next questionnaire.

Let me indicate a few things which GIFAB has done. Let me start with what I consider to be the most important. GIFAB has accepted the principle that national associations which do not adopt the Code cannot be members of GIFAB. For us, that is the most important thing that GIFAB has done. In addition, not only has GIFAB promoted the Code, but it has assisted FAO in training courses, and published guidelines for its members, but whenever there is an opportunity for some meetings which GIFAB is attending - for example, next week in Africa for the creation of an Africa Branch of GIFAB - they always talk about the Code. So thus far the evidence that GIFAB as an association is fully behind the implementation of the Code is very strong.

Questions have been asked with regard to technical assistance to member countries. First of all, I should like to repeat our thanks to Japan, not only because they have agreed to finance a trust fund project for Asia and the Pacific, but much more for the side remark made by the delegate of Japan that they are willing to consider a second region.

Secondly, I should like to state that with regard to Africa last week consultations were held in Washington with the World Bank for a joint implementation of a UNDP financed project for the region of Africa - "joint" meaning the involvement of UNDP on the one hand, UNIDO on the other hand, the World Bank on the third and FAO on the fourth. We believe that some of the follow-up activities necessarily require an early involvement of the World Bank as well.

With regard to Latin America, from the FAO side we have questioned UNDP whether there are funds available for regional projects to cover Latin America as well. Unfortunately, the regional programme for Latin America is full. So far, we have been unable to identify any other donor who would be willing to provide the necessary funds for the project in Latin America, but we are certainly continuing to look for such a donor.

I also feel that we in FAO are a little bit disappointed that more countries have not used the UNDP IPF to ask for national projects to establish laboratories and legislation in this important field.

Finally, I come to what is for me the most difficult question, that is, how do we deal with the problems of breaches in the Code?

I would like to repeat my statement during the opening stages of this agenda item, where I said and I quote - "While mechanisms will be established for reporting serious breaches of the Code, it is not clear how such breaches can be dealt with." FAO has problems with the question of how to deal with it: we plan, and we inform governments concerned - but that is, at the moment, the only way in which we know how to deal with it.

The mechanisms which we have established, or are establishing, are basically two. One is that in the Resolution itself, it recommends and requests governments to monitor observance of the Code, and to inform FAO. Secondly, as I have stated, FAO is preparing for a meeting with interested and involved NGOs to identify how they can cooperate with the Organization for the effective monitoring of the Code. So we want to do it in two ways: One is directly with governments, and one is involving those NGOs who are involved in this kind of work.

But I repeat: the question of how breaches can be dealt with is a question which is most likely to be outside FAO's role in this particular field.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie infiniment M. Bonte-Friedheim de ses précisions. Pour que les choses soient bien claires, je voudrais redonner la parole à M. Walton afin qu'il nous explique le circuit légal par lequel nous allons passer pour faire discuter cette question à la Conférence générale en 1987.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Assuming that the Council puts forward the recommendation that this item be taken up by the Conference, this would go to the General Committee of the Conference at its First Session. The General Committee handles not only the management of the agenda of the Conference as such, but also the allocation of individual items to the different Commissions of the Conference. There will of course be three Commissions, and I assume - I am not attempting to prejudge the decisions of the General Committee, but I would think that the General Committee would assign it to Commission I, which deals with major trends and policies in food and agriculture. I may recall that Commission II deals with the activities of FAO itself, and Commission III deals with constitutional and administrative matters. Therefore, I think that the natural home for this item would be in Commission I.

There would have to be some shuffling of the timetable in order to ensure that this item would be discussed within the time available. It would not be possible - well it would be possible, but I do not think it would be very useful - to produce a new document in the time available, so I assume that the document before the Conference would be the document prepared for the Council, with perhaps a cover sheet summarizing the debates in the Council and the decision taken by the Council on this matter.

Ismael DIAZ TUBERO (España): Tengo, Señor Presidente, una duda después de la última intervención que he oído. Es si realmente lleva este tema a la Conferencia nos va a conducir a algo, ya que, realmente, vamos a discutir otra vez el mismo documento y vamos a hacer otros comentarios que, posiblemente, van a ser parecidos e incluso idénticos, por lo menos en cuanto al contenido. No sé si cabe la posibilidad en la Conferencia de tomar alguna decisión o si ni siquiera cabe esa posibilidad, en cuyo caso yo pediría que aclarásemos un poco este tema. No me opongo en absoluto a que pase a la Conferencia si esto sirve para algo; si no, dejémoslo como está y vayamos por los pasos que se nos han marcado previamente.

LE PRESIDENT: J e crois que la question est posée. La tendance générale, c'est qu'il s'agit d'une question tellement importante que l'on souhaiterait qu'elle soit examinée à la prochaine Conférence et qu'il appartiendra à la Conférence de tirer les conséquences qu'elle estimera utiles. Nous ne pouvons pas en préjuger et nous n'avons pas le droit de porter jugement sur l'efficacité du travail de la Conférence.

Je pense que, moyennant les précisions que vient de donner le Directeur général adjoint, nous répondons aux vœux du Conseil en suivant les directives indiquées par le Directeur général adjoint. Cela étant, il me reste à remercier l'Organisation pour son effort d'analyse en ce qui concerne le questionnaire relatif aux conditions de mise en oeuvre de ce code international de conduite pour la distribution et l'utilisation des pesticides. Je crois que nous avons la confirmation que les pays considèrent que ce code est adéquat, mais ce qui est clair, c'est que les pays en voie de développement, en règle générale, ne semblent pas suffisamment outillés pour utiliser d'une façon rationnelle ces pesticides, de sorte que plusieurs suggestions ont été faites au sujet soit de la formation technique dans les pays en développement, soit de l'examen de principes du consentement préalable, soit de procédures d'homologation des pesticides, soit du renforcement de la coopération internationale dans ce domaine, notamment par un programme international de contrôle des pesticides.

En tout état de cause, je pense que le fait d'examiner cette question à la Conférence nous permettra de lui accorder l'importance qui lui revient et qui a été confirmée par le nombre d'interventions sur ce point, qui semble l'un des points majeurs de l'action de la FAO, ces dernières années.

Il reste deux questions à notre ordre du jour. Je propose, si vous en convenez, que nous nous limitons au point 6, ce qui nous permettra de ne pas perdre de temps, et de renvoyer le point 7 à la séance de demain.

Nous allons passer à l'examen du point 6 de l'ordre du jour. M, Reignier, Directeur du Bureau des Affaires interinstitutions, est prié de nous faire une communication préliminaire.

6. Inter-Agency Relations and Consultations on Questions of Common Interest, including:

6. Relations et consultations interinstitutions sur les questions d'intérêt commun, notamment:

6. Relaciones y consultas con otros organismos sobre asuntos de interés común, en particular:

6.1 Recent Developments in the UN System of Interest to FAO

6.1 Faits nouveaux survenus dans le système des Nations Unies qui intéressent la FAO

6.1 Novedades de interés para la FAO registradas en el sistema de las Naciones Unidas

A. REGNIER (Directeur, Bureau des Affaires interinstitutions): C'est pour moi un plaisir d'introduire devant ce Conseil l'ordre du jour intitulé "Faits nouveaux survenus dans le système des Nations Unies et intéressant la FAO". Le document C 87/9 Sup. 1, qui vous est soumis, porte déjà, ainsi que vous pouvez le constater, la cote de la Conférence puisqu'il sera également discuté durant cette dernière conjointement avec le document C 87/9 dont vous avez délibéré au mois de juin dernier.

Ce document a été préparé récemment et est à jour jusqu'à fin septembre de sorte qu'il y a vraiment peu d'événements nouveaux dont je doive vous parler. Je pourrai, dès lors, être très bref dans la présentation.

Ce document passe en revue les principaux développements au sein du système des Nations Unies ayant un intérêt direct pour la FAO, mais ne couvre pas, bien entendu, les sujets qui seront abordés à l'occasion d'autres points de l'ordre du jour comme, par exemple, les questions financières et de personnel.

Permettez-moi, maintenant, de souligner brièvement quelques points essentiels des derniers événements internationaux dans le système des Nations Unies.

Tout d'abord, le document fait référence à la septième session de la Conférence des Nations Unies sur le commerce et le développement, tenue à Genève en juillet dernier. Parmi les nombreux points de son Acte Final, permettez-moi de rappeler que la CNUCED a, en particulier, réaffirmé la validité du Programme intégré pour les produits de base. Il est, par ailleurs, réconfortant de noter que les perspectives d'entrée en vigueur du Fonds commun des produits de base se sont nettement améliorées à la suite de nouvelles signatures et ratifications. Comme vous le savez, le Directeur général de la FAO a participé à cette Conférence, et y a souligné que la FAO était prête à coopérer pleinement aux efforts de la CNUCED dans le domaine des produits de base et, notamment, pour la mise en oeuvre éventuelle de projets et de programmes de développement au titre du 2ème Guichet du Fonds Commun.

En ce qui concerne les négociations commerciales multilatérales, dites "Uruguay Round", je souhaite souligner la satisfaction de la FAO à la décision du GATT de l'inviter, à titre d'observateur, aux travaux du Groupe de négociations sur l'agriculture et celui sur les produits tropicaux.

Le Conseil mondial de l'alimentation a tenu sa treizième session ministérielle à Beijing en mai 1987 et adopté une déclaration qui souligne que la pauvreté est la cause fondamentale de la faim, dont l'éradication exigera non seulement des mesures économiques et sociales d'ensemble, mais aussi et surtout des décisions politiques courageuses.

Le Conseil mondial de l'alimentation a passé en revue divers exemples d'activités menées par les organismes d'aide multilatérale en faveur de l'agriculture, en particulier, la FAO, le FIDA, le PAM et le PNUD; il a, entre autres, apprécié les activités du système mondial DAO d'information et d'alerte rapide pour ce qui est de la FAO.

En ce qui concerne le Conseil d'administration du PNUD, dont la trente-quatrième session s'est tenue à New York en mai dernier, je souhaite simplement rappeler le contenu du paragraphe 33 du document, à savoir que plus de 1 milliard de dollars seront disponibles pour les activités du PNUD en 1987. Les promesses de contributions des donateurs ont atteint cette année près de 800 millions de dollars et on peut raisonnablement espérer que l'objectif des ressources pour le 4ème cycle de programmation (1987-91) sera pleinement atteint.

On peut discerner également une priorité légèrement plus élevée en faveur du secteur agricole et du développement rural. Dans ces conditions, on peut espérer que la proportion des ressources du Programme qui transiteront à travers la FAO sera plus élevée à l'avenir, ainsi que les indications très provisoires le laissent augurer.

Le document C 87/9 Sup. I donne également une brève description des résultats de la Conférence internationale sur l'abus et le trafic des drogues, tenue à Vienne en juin 1987, ainsi que du Conseil d'administration des Nations Unies pour l'environnement.

Une section du document est également consacrée au problème des femmes dans le développement, sujet qui fera l'objet de discussions plus approfondies à la Conférence, en particulier sur la base du document requis par le Conseil et intitulé: "Les femmes dans le développement agricole et rural: orientation des programmes de la FAO: document C 87/LIM 16".

J'attire également votre attention sur la section relative aux relations avec les institutions financières internationales, paragraphes 89 à 105 du document. Vous pourrez y lire un bref aperçu des activités récentes de la Banque mondiale, y compris sa récente restructuration interne, des banques régionales, du FIDA et de la coopération menée entre ces organismes et la FAO, en particulier à l'intermédiaire de notre Centre d'investissement.

Finalement, la dernière partie du document se réfère à un sujet nouveau mais de pointe, la biotechnologie, traité pour la première fois dans ce genre de rapport. Nous y retraçons les travaux en cours dans les organisations du système des Nations Unies, avec cependant des références directes aux programmes de la FAO dans la mesure où cela est nécessaire à la compréhension du sujet. Nous serions heureux de vos commentaires sur cette importante question.

Monsieur le Président, étant donné l'heure tardive et le peu de temps disponible et le fait que la Conférence aura également à connaître de ces sujets, permettez-moi de m'arrêter ici. Je reste, bien entendu, à votre disposition pour tout complément d'information que le Conseil désirerait recevoir.

LE PRÉSIDENT: Je vous remercie de votre exposé clair et précis et le débat est ouvert si les délégués veulent enrichir les débats.

Ian BUIST (United Kingdom): In spite of the hour, the United Kingdom would like to make a few observations on these documents and they will be very few. I shall concentrate on paragraphs 4-37 of the first paper and make one point briefly on paragraph 89 of the same paper.

Firstly, we are very pleased with the content and the tone of paragraphs 4-27 which represent the Council's own contribution in response to ECOSOC's resolution 1986/74. Of course, these paragraphs cannot be strictly separated from paragraphs 28-37, because these later paragraphs deal with the proposals raised in the United Nations by the Group of 18. We note particularly that Recommendation 12 of the Group of 18 deals with the field representation of the specialized agencies and the UNDP. Some aspects of this are touched upon, of course, in the first paragraphs, 4-27, but certainly not all. Field representation issues should also be examined in the light of the proposals made by the Joint Inspection Unit last year on the subject. They were circulated to the General Assembly under paper A/41/424. The JIU proposals include two recommendations which are important here. The first is that the governing bodies of each agency should "put a stay on arrangements for the establishment of field representation" until the relevant criteria are met.

Secondly, each governing body should test the cost effectiveness and efficiency of its field representation by six separate and detailed criteria. We believe FAO should accept those recommendations. I suppose there will be an opportunity to discuss that in more detail later on.

Secondly, the wider implications of the Group of 18 recommendations for the United Nations system endorsed by ECOSOC clearly have implications for changes and improvements which we believe ought also to be made by FAO. My Government, and many others, have circulated proposals for reforms of this kind which will, of course, again be considered by the Conference.

Thirdly, we notice the difficulties which seem at present to arise in using the UNDP country programmes as an operational framework. These are mentioned in paragraph 15 of the first document, C87/9. But these difficulties should not be seen as an excuse for abandoning the common effort to overcome them. We believe that FAO, along with the other specialized agencies, should be doing its utmost to ensure that all the United Nations systems field activities more actively support the very difficult steps for economic and social adjustment and reform which so many developing countries are now taking.

Finally - and on a separate point - we are pleased to note the action taken by FAO to help deal with locust and grasshopper plagues, but we think much more attention should be given to the strategy for prevention rather than to the tactics for cure. Again, we shall come back to this under other agenda items.

Rainer PRESTIEN (Germany, Federal Republic of): My delegation would like to thank the Secretariat for the presentation of document C 87/9 before us. We can largely agree with what is stated in the document. We particularly welcome the fact that the document has dealt with items which have not yet been dealt with before. We consider the appeal important for improved coordination, in particular at a time of financial stringencies (para. 5). Moreover, we appreciate it that FAO fully supports the role of the Resident Coordinators as laid down in Resolutions 32/197 and 34/213 of the General Assembly (para. 8). We welcome the fact that the cooperation for coordination between the Resident Coordinators on the one hand and the FAO Representatives on the other hand proved to be satisfactory. This fact results from an evaluation of reports of 65 FAO Representatives and the annual reports of Resident Coordinators. Contacts between UNDP and FAO representatives have shown that the cooperation relations between Resident Coordinators and FAO representatives are satisfactory.

We believe that this cooperation will be further strengthened until UNDP and FAO representatives will be able to state jointly that the relations are not only satisfactory, but "good". We noted with satisfaction that FAO seeks to locate its country representatives within existing offices of the Resident Coordinators, wherever feasible (para. 20). The attempt to reach a further harmonization is in our opinion a natural and continuous process which must be promoted to the best of our ability (para. 25).

We should not come to the conclusion that the FAO Secretariat finds almost nothing left to do by way of institutional improvement in the coordination of operational activities, in cooperation with UNDP or in an intensified participation in the Country-Programming Process. We would be grateful to the FAO-Secretariat if it could constructively propose areas and means of improvement.

We would as well appreciate constructive proposals as asked for in operational paragraphs 26, 27 and 29 of ECOSOC resolution 1986/74 and relating to participation in coordinated programming of special organizations, enhanced involvement of NGOs and the integration of TCDC into operational activities.

We consider the statements in paras. 28 and following positive. In our opinion it is important that the whole UN system be made more efficient in order to release at a time of financial stringencies additional funds for operational programmes. We therefore welcome the recommendations of the Group of Experts which were considered by the UN General Assembly at its forty-first session (document A/41/49). An annual one-week session of the Directors-General of the major specialized agencies under the chairmanship of the Secretary-General with the commitment to report to their respective governing bodies on a biennial basis is in our view a proposal worth considering. We had suggested something comparable 13 years ago at the World Food Conference in 1974.

We welcome the statements as contained in paras. 31 - 41 on the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on the critical economic situation in Africa. In his government policy statement at the beginning of the 11th legislative period Federal Chancellor Kohl stated on 18 March 1987 the following in this respect: "Africa continues to be an important field of our foreign and development policies. The African states need peace; they need our support to solve their political and economic tasks on their own responsibility. The Federal Government will continue this policy".

As explained in paras. 38 to 41 of document C 87/9 the UN Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990 finds FAO's particular interest since agriculture lies at its very core. We would, however, like to hear what FAO does, beyond its participation in various coordination and information groups of the system relating to the programme, materially and additionally to comply with the UN Africa Programme.

The activities of the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (ICDAIT) find our full support. Unfortunately, the announced supplementary document on this issue was not available to us for the preparation of this Council session.

We also consider the activities in the UN system of special importance in the field of trade and development (UNCTAD VII) (paras. 66-71), in the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations (paras. 72 - 79) and in the field of early notification of a nuclear accident or a convention on assistance in the case of a nuclear accident or radiological emergency (paras. 80 - 83).

The system-wide medium-term plan for women and development (para. 94) has not been endorsed by the ECOSOC and there are doubts whether endorsement can be achieved through the General Assembly. Given the central role of women, especially in subsistence agriculture, we would be interested to hear what treatment the FAO Secretariat considers to give to the plan under the status it has at present.

We also consider the activities particularly meritorious undertaken by the United Nations in the field of environmental protection (paras. 99 - 105). From our point of view the United Nations is an indispensable international policy forum which we will continue to support.

Ronald MACINTOSH (Canada): Our authorities were reasonably pleased with this document and I wish to commend the Secretariat for what we think is an effort, hopefully an honest effort, apparently an honest effort, to respond to Canada's oft-expressed concern for greater accountability on the performance FAO has made on meeting its obligations in respect of coordination in the UN system. We feel that the discussion was considerably more thorough than many recent documents. We felt that the tone was getting close to being analytical. We were particularly pleased with the report on the resident coordinators. Their work is of particular importance to us as a major contributor to voluntary funds within the UN system. We felt that perhaps the discussion of the tensions or lack of tensions between FAO and UNDP could bear some further elaboration, perhaps in future meetings. Perhaps the description of any problems resulting from personal factors rather than institutional factors was a little optimistic, as we believe there are some institutional issues that bear constant monitoring and constant attention.

Finally, we should like to endorse the comments made by the delegation of the United Kingdom on the discussion held on reform of the UN system in New York. I am afraid we found that discussion, while useful, adopted a rather distant spectator's perspective on those important discussions. We shall be discussing this more thoroughly of course in the Conference and I will not belabour the point now, but we believe that what is happening there is very, very relevant to our work here and to the directions that we must take.

A, REGNIER (Directeur, Bureau des Affaires interinstitutions): Je remercie les distingués délégués qui ont pris la parole sur ce point de l'ordre du jour. En premier lieu, leurs commentaires me semblent avoir surtout été centrés sur le document C 87/9 qui avait déjà été soumis au Conseil du mois de juin dernier et j'ai entendu peu de commentaires sur le document Sup.I qui est la partie nouvelle que le Conseil jusqu'à présent n'avait pas encore vue.

Venant aux commentaires sur la partie qui avait déjà été examinée par le Conseil au mois de juin, je voudrais, pour l'information du distingué représentant du Royaume-Uni concernant les questions opérationnelles, dire qu'effectivement les commentaires et points de vue du Conseil de la FAO en juin dernier sur les questions opérationnelles ont été soumis à l'ECOSOC fin juin début juillet de cette année. Ces commentaires malheureusement, étant donné les débats de l'ECOSOC proprement dit, ont peu été pris en considération mais l'Assemblée générale à sa présente session, par les travaux de la seconde commission, est en train de délibérer des questions opérationnelles et les commentaires du Conseil de la FAO sur ce sujet, tels qu'ils sont contenus aux paragraphes 169 à 182 de son rapport, sont supposés être maintenant devant la seconde commission de l'Assemblée générale.

Par conséquent, les questions concernant d'une part le rôle du représentant coordonnateur, l'utilisation de la programmation par pays du PNUD comme cadre pour les opérations et les questions de bureaux de terrain seront également discutées à travers ces rapports à l'Assemblée générale, y compris d'ailleurs le document du Corps commun d'inspection sur la représentation dans les pays.

J'ajouterai également que l'ECOSOC a reçu un rapport de la FAO concernant les campagnes anti-acridiennes menées par la FAO en 1986 et les perspectives pour 1987. Ce rapport a été fort bien reçu par l'ECOSOC et d'ailleurs le rôle de coordination de la FAO dans ce secteur a été souligné à nouveau par l'ECOSOC et l'avait été par l'Assemblée générale préalable. Bien entendu nous continuons à informer les différentes agences autant que les Etats Membres des activités que nous menons dans le secteur de la lutte anti-acridienne.

En ce qui concerne la session spéciale de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies sur la situation économique critique en Afrique et le rôle de la FAO dans la mise en oeuvre de ce programme, le représentant de l'Allemagne a posé la question de savoir ce que faisait la FAO, mais étant donné l'heure tardive, peut-être souhaitez-vous que je n'aie pas dans le détail, puisque aussi bien au cours de la Conférence, la semaine prochaine, un document spécifique, le document C 87/6, traitera ce point de l'ordre du jour. Le programme des Nations Unies est évidemment un très vaste programme; la FAO a concouru à la préparation de l'Assemblée générale spéciale en y consacrant énormément d'efforts avec le système des Nations Unies et nous pouvons dire, avec satisfaction d'ailleurs, que l'aspect agricole et développement rural a été reconnu comme la plus grande priorité de ce programme d'assistance des Nations Unies à l'Afrique. Les Nations Unies ont mis en place un Comité directeur sous la présidence du Directeur général à la coopération économique internationale et nous participons à ce Comité et à ses différentes réunions. Nous participons également au niveau régional avec la Commission économique pour l'Afrique et l'OUA à la définition des actions que ce Programme doit entreprendre. Par ailleurs, je pense que nous avons soumis notre propre programme de travail à un examen critique, à la lueur des priorités telles qu'elles avaient été définies par l'Assemblée générale spéciale, et nous cherchons à orienter toujours davantage notre programme pour qu'il réponde à ces priorités telles qu'elles ont été définies par l'Assemblée générale. A l'intérieur de la maison, un groupe spécial, présidé par le Directeur général adjoint, est d'ailleurs chargé d'assurer la coordination interne de cet effort, dont le but est d'appuyer ce que l'ensemble du système des Nations Unies a décidé de mettre en oeuvre durant cette Assemblée générale spéciale. Il y aura des commentaires beaucoup plus détaillés bien entendu, pour la Conférence, puisqu'un document est en place, et j'avais moi-même l'intention de présenter ce document beaucoup plus en détail à la Conférence directement.

Paul R. BRYDEN (Australia): I intervene very briefly simply to note, in response to Mr. Regnier's comments that the discussion seemed to be about the document submitted to the General Council, that in my case we only received the document last week, which was insufficient time to receive the briefing from the half-a-dozen government ministries and authorities interested in the issue. Accordingly, I did not intervene on the substance of the matter, but will do so at the Conference.

LE PRESIDENT: Effectivement, il y a eu quelques remarques sur les délais trop courts de remise de documents, c'est, je pense, dû à la surcharge de travail. Le secrétariat fera en sorte que les délégués puissent avoir les documents un peu plus tôt. Je voudrais remercier l'Organisation pour l'effort qu'elle fait pour améliorer les relations sur le terrain entre les différentes réalisations. Je me réjouis de voir que de nombreux délégués ont souligné qu'il y a une amélioration sérieuse et très importante de ces relations qui font que l'efficacité du travail du système des Nations Unies sur le terrain est de plus en plus grande. Nous ne pouvons qu'encourager une telle tendance et noter avec beaucoup d'intérêt cette orientation très positive.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I shall add a few words, and I promise they will be very few. On the question of what FAO is doing on the Programme of the General Assembly for Africa, an information document was circulated to the Council and is being re-issued for the Conference as a background document. This shows our actual activities, which cover a great variety of sectors. It is impossible just to summarize them in a brief reply from the podium. That information will be fully available.

On "locusts and grasshoppers - prevention or cure", this will come up in the Conference itself which has an item on the agenda. Here again I would say that the situation differs radically between locusts and grasshoppers, but the Conference will have a possibility of going deeply into that.

There is an additional report before the General Assembly prepared under the aegis of the Director-General for International Economic Cooperation based on actual missions to study the practical problems of coordination at country level. This report tends to bear out many of the remarks made in the FAO document which is before the Council. However, it is too early to report on the reaction of the General Assembly to that report.

LE PRESIDENT: Je crois, Messieurs les délégués, que nous pouvons lever la séance, puisque demain nous aurons encore une journée chargée. Nous aurons en particulier l'examen du Programme de travail et budget qui est un point important. J'espère que demain matin nous pourrions avoir des propositions concrètes pour des candidatures pour les présidents des Commissions I, II, III de la Conférence.

The meeting rose at 18.30 hours

La séance est levée à 18 h 30

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.30 horas

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FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

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

consejo

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 92/PV/3

Ninety-second Session

Quatre-vingt-douzième session

92º período de sesiones

THIRD PLENARY MEETING TROISIEME SEANCE PLENIERE TERCERA SESION PLENARIA

(4 November 1987)

The Third Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.50 hours,
Lassaad Ben Osman, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La troisième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 50 sous la présidence
de Lassaad Ben Osman, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la tercera sesión plenaria a las 9.50 horas bajo la presidencia
de Lassaad Ben Osman, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

III. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

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

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

7. Programme of Work and Budget 1988-89 and Medium-Term Objectives; for discussion
7. Programme de travail et budget 1988-89 et objectifs à moyen terme: pour examen
7. Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1988-89 y objetivos a plazo medio: para debate

LE PRESIDENT: Honorables délégués, nous reprenons le cours de nos travaux.

Vous avez devant vous le Programme de la séance d'aujourd'hui qui commencera par le point n 7: Programme de travail et budget 1988-89. Mais je voudrais au préalable rappeler qu'il nous reste un effort à fournir d'une part pour le choix des membres du Comité de rédaction et leur président, ensuite pour l'élection de la commission des candidatures composée de 11 membres, enfin pour la désignation des présidents des commissions I, II et III pour la prochaine Conférence. Je souhaite vivement que les contacts entre délégations puissent se poursuivre de manière intensive afin que nous puissions préparer par nos travaux d'abord la commission de coordination qui est très urgente et que nous puissions préparer le travail de la Conférence pour la commission des candidatures et les présidences des commissions.

Messieurs les délégués sont instamment priés de multiplier leurs contacts pour nous donner leurs propositions le plus tôt possible.

Nous allons commencer par le Programme de travail et budget mais je souhaiterais que parallèlement Messieurs les délégués puissent continuer leurs consultations pour nous permettre d'avoir, en fin de matinée si possible, la constitution du Comité de rédaction. Je proposerais que nous ayons, si possible à la fin de la séance, des propositions concrètes pour les membres du Comité de rédaction, c'est une urgence évidente pour la suite de nos travaux.

Ceci étant, le premier point à l'ordre du jour est le point n 7: Programme de travail et budget 1988-89 et objectifs à moyen terme. Ce sont les documents: C 87/3; C 87/3-Corr.1; C 87/3-Corr.2 (anglais seulement); C 87/3-Sup.1; C 87/3-Sup.2; C 87/3-Sup.3; CL 92/4, par. 1.1-1.7, 2.59-2.121 et 3.4-3.17).

Je voudrais, avec votre permission, passer la parole au Docteur Shah, Sous-Directeur général du Programme, budget et relations pour qu'il nous présente la question.

V.J. SHAH (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): Mr. Chairman, you have yourself referred to the documents which are before the Council for the consideration of this item.

The Director-General has sought to respond to the Council's debate at its last Session in June and introduced some significant changes in his proposals in the full Programme of Work and Budget now before you.

My first task is, therefore, to draw attention to the changes between the Summary and the full Programme of Work and Budget.

The net programme increase which had been proposed in the Summary amounted to US\$ 2.2 million, that is, in percentage terms, 0.48 percent over the re-costed base of this biennium. This increase is now reduced by half and amounts to only US\$ 1.1 million, or 0.25 percent of the re-costed base. This constitutes perhaps the lowest net increase ever requested in the history of FAO. It is lower

than the net increase of 0.5 percent which was requested for 1984/85 and which was unanimously supported by the FAO Conference in 1983.

In order to achieve this, the Director-General has made two specific changes to his proposals in the Summary. Firstly, there is a further reduction in the provision for the Liaison Office in Washington, the Liaison Office for North America, but with careful attention to maintain the substantive activities hitherto carried out by that office. Secondly, the increase originally proposed for the Major Programme 3.4 - that is, for the FAO representatives - is reduced from US\$ 950, 000, which was the proposal in the Summary to US\$ 550, 000 in the full Programme of Work and Budget.

Despite this very tight approach to budgetary increases, FAO's technical and economic programmes under Chapter 2 would still receive a net programme increase of US\$ 4.7 million, that is 2.3 percent over the present base.

The Director-General also maintained the present level, in real terms, of the Technical Co-operation Programme appropriation, despite the chorus of support for this programme in the Council and Conference and the overwhelming wish of those member countries which are the direct beneficiaries of TCP assistance, to see it receive a net programme increase in resources.

I turn now to the second and perhaps most important area of change in the full Programme of Work and Budget. In the summary, the provision to cover cost increases anticipated for the next biennium 1988-89 had amounted to US\$ 18 million. This estimate was based on the most conservative prediction of all factors involved, including the expected rate of inflation not only in the host country but in all areas where the Organization carries out activities, the decisions regarding staff emoluments and conditions of service, etc. Since then, we have had firm indication that even this limited amount would not be sufficient, for instance in the light of the recent decisions of the International Civil Service Commission and the Staff Pension Board which could become effective in early 1988, if endorsed by the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Nevertheless, as a deliberate measure to lower the overall level of resources to be requested as assessments on Member Nations, the Director-General decided to reduce the provision to cover cost increases in 1988-89, by US\$ 5 million, that is, he has brought it down to US\$ 13 million. I should be very clear here. When cost increases beyond the level of US\$ 13 million materialize, when they occur during the next biennium, they will have to be covered from the available budgetary resources. I should also flag here the net reduction of eight professional and 17 general service posts for a total of 25. In the summary the figure was 23.

My second task is to give some explanations on the changes introduced over the previous versions of the document which are aimed at facilitating your consideration of the proposals. After the substance, I am now dealing with the presentation and the format of the document. There is no change in the basic structure of the document.

The section on the programme framework gives an analysis of the programme budget proposals. It discusses the selection of strategies and priorities, the proportion of expenditure on posts as a part of the total budget, changes in established posts, details of cost increases and other financial aspects of the proposals. It brings us to a part of the document which amounts to no more than two pages but which is rather crucial to the discussion. I refer in the English text of the document to page 29 where there is a section dealing with the currency factor, to indicate what the budget level would be at different rates of exchange. On page 30 there is a table showing a comparison of the present budget with the proposed budget and on page 31 an explanation showing what would be the effect of the various budget levels on contributions of Member Nations. I will need to return to this aspect at the conclusion of my intervention.

The document also contains a draft resolution in the form of the text that will be considered by the Conference when it adopts the Programme of Work and Budget in Plenary. But let me be quite clear that the figures given in this draft resolution are given at the rate of Lire 1760 to the dollar, the present rate for the present biennium, as adopted by the last Conference. The text of this draft resolution will of course be updated, as we always do, to permit the Conference to decide on the rate of exchange which it will adopt, together with the Programme of Work and Budget.

It is in the Programme Budget itself, the major substantive part of the document, that a very considerable expansion of detail has been provided on proposed activities. We are now providing an indication of the budgetary outlays and changes at the programme element level, as well as mention of activities and outputs under each element. We have tried to make the narratives more specific than ever before and this applies more particularly to Chapter 2 which deals with the Technical and Economic Programmes.

The three annexes which are also part of the main document are for information and yet they are an integral part of the document. Annex I presents the proposed programme in respective regional contexts. I should emphasize that this annex does not deal only with the activities of the regional offices, because the Technical and Economic Programmes of FAO are an integrated whole, whether the activities are carried out at headquarters or in regional offices or at country level. Annex II deals with the budget by organizational unit, giving information by objects of expenditure, both for the present biennium and for the next one, together with organizational charts. Annex III deals with salary schedules and staffing tables.

There is nothing new in Supplements 1 and 2 to which the Chairman has also made reference. They provide the customary lists of main publications and meetings which will form part of our programme of activity in the next biennium. This time there is also a brief Supplement 3, only two pages in fact, which mentions minor organizational changes affecting three Headquarters divisions, the Commodities and Trade Division, the Plant Production Division, and the Animal Production Division. In view of the detailed consideration by our Establishments Committee of the staffing implications regarding these changes which took place during the summer, it was not possible to include this information in the main document before it was sent for processing and it therefore appears as a supplement. There is also a corrigendum, Corrigendum 1, which gives the results of the upgradings proposed.

My third and concluding task is to set the Director-General's proposals in their overall financial perspective. The Programme of Work and Budget for 1986-87 amounts to US\$ 437 million at the budgetary exchange rate of lire 1760 to US\$ 1. The document gives figures for 1988-89 at the same rate of exchange, as we have always done. This is the established tradition in order to permit comparisons to be made between successive biennial periods.

Thus, if one includes the programme increase proposed and the provision for cost increases, the effective working budget proposed to the Conference becomes US\$ 451 million at lire 1760 to the US\$ 1, as shown on page 30 of the English text.

However, what Member Nations expect to see is the practical impact of these proposals at current exchange rates. This is why the document indicates on page 29 the likely level of the budget at current rates of exchange.

Thus at Lire 1350 to the US\$ 1, which was the current rate when we sent the document for processing, the tentative figure becomes US\$ 481.7 million. At lire 1300 it is US\$ 486 million; at Lire 1275 ... and so on, you have the figures before you. From this figure has to be deducted the estimated miscellaneous income in order to arrive at the part of the budget to be funded by Member Nations.

There is undeniably a substantial increase in contributions in dollar terms. This is factual and no one can attempt to hide it. But I would offer some comments. Firstly, although there is an increase in dollar terms, the impact on national currencies will depend on the relative evolution of these currencies against the US dollar in the last two years, and even now, as we are seeing. As the currencies of some of the major contributors have appreciated considerably since 1985, for them there will not be any noticeable difference in terms of their own currencies; for a significant number in terms of their national currencies, the contributions will even be less.

Secondly, the assessed contributions for 1986-87, for this biennium, had been deliberately lowered by a substantial amount, by an amount of US\$ 41 million, since this was the over-optimistic estimate of miscellaneous income which had been made in the summer of 1985. We are now all too painfully aware of the consequences of this fact and a more conservative estimate of miscellaneous income has therefore been made for 1988-89, as directed by the Finance Committee and the Council itself at its last session, so as to safeguard implementation of approved programmes.

Thirdly, we cannot dispute that developments in currency markets are external factors entirely outside the Organization's control. In earlier biennia, in 1982-83 for example, and in 1984-85, positive currency developments contributed to substantial cash surpluses which have been duly returned to Member Nations. The documents now before the Council were reviewed by the Programme and Finance Committees at their recent sessions in September.

The views and the recommendations of these two committees are in their reports which are also before you and we are very pleased that the Chairmen of the two Committees themselves are with us today and will present these views to you.

We look forward to the Council's reaction and hope that it will find its way to accepting the recommendations of the Programme and Finance Committees, that is to endorse the Director-General's proposed Programme of Work and Budget for 1988-89, with the hope for its approval, by consensus, at the Conference.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie M. Shah pour son exposé liminaire. Nous ouvrons le débat sur ce point très important et passons la parole aux délégués qui veulent bien intervenir dans ce débat. Peut-être Monsieur le Président du Comité du Programme a-t-il quelque chose à ajouter, puis ensuite le Comité financier.

M. J. MAZOYER (Président, Comité du Programme): Je suis à votre disposition pour présenter les rapports que nous avons établis à ce sujet. Monsieur le Président, Mesdames, Messieurs les Membres du Conseil, c'est en effet un honneur pour moi que de vous présenter deux rapports que j'avais préparés à votre intention, si vous en êtes d'accord. Ces deux rapports sont tout d'abord le rapport de la session conjointe du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier relatif au Programme de travail et budget pour 1988-89, et deuxièmement le rapport plus particulier du Comité du Programme. M. Bukhari, Président du Comité financier, présentera pour sa part le rapport du comité qu'il préside.

Tout d'abord le rapport commun des deux comités. Dans notre débat conjoint, nous avons estimé que les propositions du Directeur général reflètent fidèlement celles qui étaient présentées dans le Sommaire de Programme de travail et budget que nous avons examiné en mai.

Deuxièmement les modifications qui ont été introduites dans le document définitif tiennent compte dûment et clairement des vues exprimées par le Conseil et par les Comités eux-mêmes lors de la session en mai.

Ensuite nous avons apprécié les mesures prises par le Directeur général en vue de faciliter le consensus entre les Etats Membres, mesures qui visent à réduire l'augmentation nette de programmes qui de 0, 48% dans le Sommaire sont maintenant réduites à 0.25% comme vient de nous le détailler M. Sharh.

Par ailleurs, les crédits destinés à couvrir les augmentations de coût sont réduits également de 18 millions à 13 millions, ce qui signifie donc que 5 millions de dollars des Etats-Unis seront absorbés en cours d'exercice.

Enfin, je vous rappelle qu'avec les nouvelles suppressions de postes qui sont envisagées, il y aurait une réduction totale de 25 postes au tableau d'effectifs.

Au total les Comités estiment que la proposition de Programme de travail et budget répond de manière raisonnée et réaliste aux exigences, comme vous le savez parfois divergentes, des Etats Membres et qu'elle résulte, nous le savons aussi, d'une part des difficultés économiques que rencontre tel ou tel pays, et d'autre part de besoins d'assistance et de services demandés à la FAO, demandes d'assistance et de services qui ne vont pas en diminuant.

Donc, tout en reconnaissant ce qui précède, trois membres appartenant aux deux Comités conjoints ont cependant déclaré ne pouvoir approuver le niveau de budget proposé, et finalement, compte tenu de toutes les opinions exprimées en séance, les deux Comités ont recommandé au Conseil d'appuyer le Programme de travail et budget, en espérant que la Conférence puisse l'approuver par consensus lors de sa vingt-quatrième session.

Par ailleurs, nous avons eu, bien entendu, les deux comités ensemble et aussi séparément. Nous avons bien entendu longuement discuté des difficultés auxquelles l'Organisation a dû faire face pendant l'exercice en cours, difficultés de trésorerie. ces difficultés ont conduit, comme vous le savez, à procéder à des ajustements de programmes, c'est-à-dire à réduire très sérieusement les activités qui avaient pourtant été approuvées il y a deux ans, lors de l'adoption du Programme de travail et budget qui est en cours d'exécution dans le biennium 1986-87.

Cette question a été longuement débattue au Comité du Programme lui-même, et je vais vous rendre compte très rapidement de nos conclusions qui ne sont peut-être pas sans intérêt.

Déjà en mai, nous avons constaté que beaucoup de Programmes auxquels nous avons attribué une importance toute particulière dans nos sessions antérieures avaient été touchés par ces ajustements. Nous avons discuté à nouveau de cette question, en septembre, finalement nous sommes arrivés à la conclusion suivante: nous pensons très très sérieusement que la perpétuation de cet état de choses qui conduit à limiter les moyens de travail de l'Organisation, conduirait assez rapidement à un appauvrissement des capacités techniques du Secrétariat. Nous avons donc souligné qu'on ne peut pas continuer, à notre avis, à procéder par vagues successives d'ajustement de programmes pour faire face à ces difficultés de trésorerie. Nous pensons ceci en relation avec le travail que nous faisons au Comité du Programme. Nous pensons que cela rendrait pratiquement vains, c'est-à-dire illusoires et relativement inopérants, les exercices de sélection de priorité et les exercices de programmation des activités accomplies par le Secrétariat, par les comités et par les autres instances.

Or nous avons été informés qu'il est tout à fait possible, peut-être même probable, que des difficultés de trésorerie de même ordre continueront de se manifester dans le prochain exercice.

Alors nous avons émis là-dessus un avis très clair: nous ne pensons pas qu'il faut continuer par ajustements au coup par coup, nous pensons qu'aux problèmes de trésorerie qui se posent à l'Organisation, il faudrait trouver des solutions financières pour faire face à ces difficultés de trésorerie. Nous pensons vraiment que les ajustements sont un peu destructeurs, c'est un commentaire personnel qui a été tellement émis dans le Comité que je peux vous en faire part.

Maintenant je passe au Programme de travail et budget pour 1988-89 que le Comité du Programme a examiné de nouveau en regardant les stratégies et priorités d'ensemble et stratégies et priorités programmes par programmes, ainsi que toutes les informations supplémentaires qui sont contenues dans la version intégrale du Programme de travail et budget. Le Comité à ce sujet a noté l'effort qui a été fait pour améliorer la définition et la présentation des objectifs à long terme et à moyen terme, ainsi que le plan d'action de la FAO pour l'exercice à venir.

Le Comité du Programme a relevé que, dans l'ensemble, les stratégies et priorités sont évidemment conformes au sommaire, comme la session conjointe l'avait déjà noté, et on a cependant remarqué que, dans le document définitif, vous pourrez vous en rendre compte vous-mêmes, une attention accrue avait été portée au problème de l'environnement, de conservation des ressources naturelles, et également qu'un accent plus net, plus particulier, avait été mis sur l'assistance aux groupes de populations les plus démunis.

En ce qui concerne la définition des objectifs, il y a une amélioration dans ce document également. En effet, à ce sujet, nous pensons qu'il faut considérer que les objectifs à moyen terme sont en fait ceux des pays eux-mêmes, et que face à ces objectifs, la FAO apporte, en vue de les atteindre, une assistance, mais une assistance limitée dans la mesure de ses moyens. Et, par conséquent, l'activité de la FAO, les programmes de la FAO doivent être analysés dans cette perspective. L'activité de la FAO vient en appui des activités des pays eux-mêmes. Elle vient s'inscrire à côté de celle d'autres organismes, et il était important que les paragraphes du Programme par programmes qui sont consacrés à l'étude des grands axes de chacun de ces programmes apportent des informations qui permettent de mieux situer et de mieux évaluer l'action de la FAO. C'est une chose que nous avions demandée antérieurement, et nous sommes heureux que ceci se manifeste.

En ce qui concerne le Plan d'action de chaque programme, le PIB comporte, pour la première fois, vous l'avez noté, des tableaux par sous-programmes qui décomposent les ressources et les variations de ressources pour chacun des éléments de ces sous-programmes., ce qui permet de mieux comprendre le Programme proposé.

Je ne voudrais pas entrer dans le détail de nos débats sur le budget chapitre par chapitre, ceux-ci sont fidèlement reproduits dans notre rapport. Cependant, j' ai constaté que si l'on s'en tenait à ces considérations générales d'analyse du document et de présentation du document tel que je viens de le faire, on aboutissait souvent à l'impression que, dans le Comité du Programme, nous ne discutons pas de manière critique ou approfondie certains aspects de ce Programme. Je vous assure qu'il n'en est rien. Sur beaucoup de questions nous avons eu des discussions très fermes, très dures et très contradictoires avec le Secrétariat et entre nous, et ceci est reflété dans notre rapport et dans ce que je viens de vous dire d'une manière souvent très discrète, qui fait qu'on se demande si vraiment c'est toujours bien perçu. Alors je voudrais souligner quelques points, attirer votre attention sur quelques points qui me paraissent importants parce que la discussion a été très approfondie sur ces questions, elle a duré une heure, deux heures quelquefois. J'en ai relevé quelques-uns, ce n'est pas un choix tout à fait arbitraire, mes collègues du Comité du Programme pourront ajouter d'autres observations, mais c'est le choix que j'ai fait pour vous hier. Je ne prendrai pas trop de temps si vous me le permettez.

D'abord dans le grand Programme 2.1 Agriculture, paragraphe 2.72, nous disions par exemple "le Comité a recommandé que, en matière de sauvegarde de ressources naturelles, soit élaborée une stratégie de conservation de l'environnement basée sur la mobilisation des exploitants agricoles" c'est-à-dire pas basée uniquement sur des injections d'investissements lourds. Nous pensons que l'environnement ne peut pas être sauvé si la masse des paysans du monde n'y participe pas massivement .

Dans l'élaboration et l'exécution de stratégies, la nécessité d'aider les agriculteurs les plus démunis, c'est-à-dire ceux qui n'ont plus les moyens de participer à cette tâche de sauvegarde de l'environnement mondial, nous pensons donc que l'aide aux agriculteurs les plus démunis pour améliorer leurs moyens de production et d'entretien et conservation du milieu devra être largement prise en compte. Ce n'est pas une conclusion négligeable. Paragraphe 2.93, toujours grand Programme agriculture: le Comité - et là il y a eu une discussion très importante - a renouvelé son appui à l'inclusion, je dirai presque systématique, de considérations nutritionnelles dans la planification alimentaire et agricole au niveau national et international, et, dans les projets, a souligné l'importance des programmes éducatifs utilisant les médias et méthodes nouvelles et s'intéressant directement aux groupes cibles. Ce sont des choses qui sont dites avec discrétion et qui méritent d'être réfléchies.

Paragraphe 2.1.8 Politiques alimentaires et agricoles: le Comité a recommandé de concentrer les efforts dans ce domaine sur les pays à risque, c'est-à-dire sur les pays dans lesquels il y a des problèmes de ce genre, des difficultés particulières, et sur ceux de ces pays qui ne disposent pas de capacités techniques et institutionnelles suffisantes pour y faire face, et a exprimé l'espoir, ~~puisque~~ les ressources du Programme ordinaire sont insuffisantes, que des ressources extrabudgétaires soient mobilisées pour développer ces activités. Il faut souligner que ces activités permettent aux pays de mieux sélectionner et mieux coordonner l'assistance extérieure et les projets de développement.

Grand Programme 2.2 Pêches: Paragraphe 2.106: le Comité a souligné qu'il était essentiel que les activités de ce grand Programme soient consacrées en toute priorité à la préservation des ressources halieutiques des pays en développement et au renforcement de leur propre capacité en matière de pêche.

De plus, dans ces pays, comme il est vrai pour les autres grands programmes d'agriculture ou de forêts, il est nécessaire de concentrer les efforts sur les groupes de pêcheurs et d'aquaculteurs côtiers ou continentaux le plus démunis.

Grand Programme 2.3: Forêts, au paragraphe 2.107: nous rappelons que, comme je l'avais dit en mai - et je ne le répète pas - nous appuyons la restructuration et l'orientation de ce Grand Programme en faveur du développement rural.

Enfin, j'ajouterai que les débats du Comité du Programme se sont passés dans une atmosphère de grande tolérance et de grande compréhension. Tous les points de vue ont pu être exprimés et j'ai essayé ici de les refléter. C'est cela qui nous a permis d'aboutir, avec la collaboration du Secrétariat, aux conclusions que je vous soumetts.

Finalement, nous avons jugé que le Directeur Général, dans ses propositions de Programme de travail et budget, a tenté d'une manière aussi équilibrée que possible de rapprocher les différents points de vue. Un de nos membres a cependant déclaré qu'il n'était pas en mesure, à ce stade de nos discussions, d'indiquer la position de son gouvernement sur le niveau du budget. Mais, en conclusion, nous sommes convenus de recommander au Conseil de souscrire au Programme de travail et budget qui nous est proposé, en espérant qu'il sera approuvé par consensus par la Conférence.

LE PRÉSIDENT: Je remercie le Président du Comité du Programme de son exposé clair et complet. Je donne la parole au Président du Comité financier.

Atif Y. BUKHARI (Chairman, Finance Committee): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for giving me the honour of presenting our report, the report of the Finance Committee. Discussion of the Programme of Work and Budget during the Sixty-first Session of the Finance Committee was positive and constructive. Members expressed their positions frankly and convincingly but, I can assure you, without agreement. The conclusions of our discussions are to be found in the report Document CL 92/4, paragraph 3.4 to paragraph 3.17.

In this oral intervention, I shall not repeat these conclusions extensively, but rather describe the atmosphere in which the debates took place.

The Committee expressed its full appreciation for the new format in the body of the document, especially for the new tables at programme element level. The document in fact is thicker and richer than previous versions, and in our view has gained enormously in clarity of presentation and level of content. According to its terms of reference, our Committee focused on the financial context of the Director-General's proposal. There was unanimous recognition of the efforts made by the Director-General to lower the budget level to a strict minimum in order to achieve consensus, and the Committee spent quite some time on the question of how to define the net programme increase, which is now reduced from 0.5 to 0.25 percent of the 1986/1987 figure.

Our usual vocabulary could not assist us in the circumstances. Some felt that it was the closest equivalent to "zero growth", using the phrase which has often been mentioned in the recent past in relation to the Organization's Programme of Work and Budget. Some called "negligible growth", but when this negligible growth was seen against the deliberate reduction made by the Director-General in the provision for cost increases by US\$ 18 million to US\$ 13 million, it was clear to us that we might be dealing with neither real growth, nor zero growth, but negative growth. In connection with cost increases, we were informed that there had been no element or decision taken in the intervening period since our consideration of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget, which could have led them to lower the provision for cost increases. On the contrary, the Secretariat told us that cost increases were likely to be higher than the original estimate of US\$ 18 million made in the Summary, in view of the recommendations made by the International Civil Service Commission at its July meeting. Some of us expressed concern at this but, nevertheless, we accepted the spirit of this deliberate measure by the Director-General for the sake of consensus.

We noted that the estimate for Miscellaneous Income had been made on a conservative basis as we all had in mind the problems created by the high estimate made two years ago for 1986-87 Miscellaneous Income.

We discussed at length the impact of the US dollar/lira exchange rate on the eventual level of assessments. Naturally, each representative wanted to know how much his own country would have to pay, not only in US dollars, but in terms of its own national currency. We received extremely useful information on this computed by the Secretariat and we were able to realize that the impact of the increase of contributions would vary enormously in terms of national currencies. In any case, the currency factor is an unavoidable feature of FAO budgetary practice. When the dollar appreciates, this means good news in terms of necessary adjustment in the budget level, of course. On the contrary, when the dollar depreciates we have to accept that some compensation has to be made in order to protect the implementation of approved programmes.

A suggestion was made to review the current practice of the FAO Conference setting the budgetary rate for the following biennium which means taking the rate on the day it votes on the Programme of Work and Budget. We briefly explored alternative options. This is not a new subject and we concluded that the Committee could return to the question next year, bearing in mind related practices in the UN System.

We, of course, had to consider again the current financial difficulties as they could affect the implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium. Here I must report that the same division of opinion occurred as at our previous session. Two members reiterated their expectation that the proposals should take account of resources likely to be available and therefore be broken down in two parts. The other members strongly opposed these suggestions as they could not accept that speculation or gambling on future income could be accepted as a working hypothesis. They stated that in public administrations, or elsewhere, budgets were formulated according to established criteria as they represented both an authorization to spend and the legal basis for contributions from the shareholders. As a matter of course, when problems arise as they did in this biennium, it is the shareholders and the management who should take the necessary measures, but on the basis of actual facts as they materialize.

Finally, also on the budget level, a similar division of opinion occurred. Two members were not able to confirm their Government's endorsement of the proposed budget level. All other members stressed quite eloquently the inadequacy of the symbolic net programme increase proposed in relation to requirements for FAO's assistance, but expressed their unreserved support of the Director-General's proposals, with the hope that a consensus could be reached at the Conference.

This, in brief, was what happened in the Finance Committee; and I thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie M. Bukhari, Président du Comité financier, pour son exposé sur les travaux du Comité financier.

Nous ouvrons à présent la discussion. Le délégué de la Zambie a demandé la parole.

Namukoio MUKUTU (Zambia): My delegation wishes to commend FAO for the tremendous effort it has made to keep the budget as low as possible, in response to the wishes of many member countries. It is clear from the Programme of Work and Budget that the Director-General has done his best to meet the demands of the delegations which are demanding zero growth. The small increase of 0.25 percent is negligible, and my delegation in fact would have preferred a much higher increase. My delegation is satisfied with the programme of activities and strategies for the next biennium, and would like Council to approve both the Budget and the Programme activities, and recommend these favourably to the Conference.

My delegation wishes to conclude its remarks on this item by stating that we have found the TCP assistance to be very effective in enabling member states to fight emergencies in a timely manner. We therefore feel that TCP assistance should continue in the next biennium.

My delegation is in agreement with the supporting observations made by both the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee, especially with regard to their comments when commending the Budget for approval, as it would be difficult to reduce the Budget any further without debilitating the work of FAO.

Sumiji NAKAZAWA (Japan): My delegation welcomes the Director-General's effort to reduce the budget level of the Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium through cutting US\$ 1.1 million on the Programme increase, and also undertaking to absorb US\$ 5 million during the implementation of the work.

Also my delegation considers that it is a good decision by the Director-General to continue a deduction of Miscellaneous Income from their assessed budget.

My delegation thinks that the total amount of the members' contribution should be kept at such a level to avoid any possibility of causing an increase in arrears which might put the financial situation of the Organization in the next biennium in difficulty. On this point my delegation is concerned as to whether the budget level of the proposed Programme of Work and Budget is satisfactory to the other countries concerning the financial situation of member countries.

On page 31 of document C 87/3 it shows that the Member Nations' contribution will be US\$ 469 940 at the rate of 1350 Italian Lire to US\$ 1. This amount is 19% up from that of the current biennium. If we introduce the proposed financial measures on working capital fund and the Special Reserve Account the total Member Nations' obligation in 1988 would be 28% up from that of 1987. My delegation thinks that the increase of the total member nations' contribution should be as modest as possible.

As pointed out by the Japanese delegation at the 91st Session of the Council, my delegation considers that Chapter 4, namely TCP, is a possible area where there could be a reduction of resources. Japan recognizes the role of TCP in the field activities which is one of the important functions of the Organization. My delegation believes that a reduction on TCP would not hurt its role if coordination with the Trust Fund project and UNDP projects is kept up or improved.

Furthermore, my delegation would like to point out that the reduction on TCP in the proposed PWB does not mean a reduction in resources for implementing TCP in the next biennium, but means a reduction in the unobligated TCP to be carried over to the 1990/1991 biennium. For example, according to document C 92/4, paragraph 3.44, the unobligated TCP to be carried over to the next biennium will amount to \$31.2 million or 51% of the approved budget for TCP, which is equivalent to the Director-General's commitment on TCP for the following 12 months from the end of this biennium. In this way it is our understanding that, even if we cut 10% on TCP in the budget for the next biennium, the Director-General will still be able to have committed TCP projects to be implemented for the following 10 months from 31 December 1989.

Considering that the role of TCP is to respond speedily to requests for urgent or unexpected small-scale assistance, a 10% cut would be quite feasible and would not affect anything in TCP activities.

Again, my delegation considers that Chapter 4 is a possible area where there could be a reduction of resources.

Lastly, my delegation reserves its final position on the proposed Programme of Work and Budget until it has been discussed among all the member countries at the 24th Conference.

Ahmed S. HARIRI (Saudi Arabia Kingdom): (original language Arabic): We would like to thank Mr Shah for his excellent introduction, and we would also like to express our satisfaction with the statements made by the two Chairmen of the Committees of the Programme of Work and Budget. At the last session of the Council, and at the meeting of the Finance Committee, my delegation pointed out the low rate of growth which was only 0.25%. This is only a token and takes into account the aspiration of the growing number of member states. We hope that this will help the interests of the member states, in particular the developing countries.

In conclusion I should like to support all the programmes included within the Programme of Work and Budget for 1988/89.

Ian BUIST (United Kingdom): Consideration of the Programme of Work and Budget is clearly the major business of this Council and of the Conference. Therefore I should like to set out our own broad reactions to the revised document which is now being submitted to us by management.

I should like to note first with interest and some gratification the reductions proposed in this document by the management to try to meet some of the main concerns which have been voiced by several Council members, including the United Kingdom. On the surface the proposals now made seem reassuring. Specific cuts have been made, and the rate of real growth is to be only 0.257%. When we look below the surface, however, I think there are grounds for some disquiet. In the first place, nearly all the reductions have been made by taking advantage of the natural termination of programmes and by cutting or deferring non-recurrent costs. Of course, that is every administrator's natural first instinct, but it does not go to the heart of the real difficulties which FAO now faces. It is plain from the financial examination made by the relevant committees that in practice FAO cannot most regrettably count on the full and prompt payment of the contributions which the Conference will be asked to assess. Realistically we all know from the outset that FAO is almost certainly going to have to live with significantly less, and we deplore that, but we are not in a position to change it.

If we ignore the plain realities and go ahead with a budget which does not foresee and provide flexibility for such an obvious contingency, there will be two consequences.

First, other member states will in practice find themselves paying relatively higher assessments in compensation for those who failed to meet their obligations. Given the very serious budgetary problems which affect so many developing countries, this cannot be satisfactory.

Secondly, if - or rather when - there are these contingencies to meet, the consequence must be that unprogrammed cuts have to be made by the administration without proper forethought, and this must be to the detriment of FAO as an Organization. Moreover, it must impact very unfavourably upon the huge needs of its developing members.

Now there is another point: budget assessments will be set in terms of dollars on the current exchange rate, as Mr. Shah explained. He drew our attention in particular to the table in the document which deals with the possible variations as a result of this. Although proposals will be considered separately in relation to the Special Reserve Account, I think we can certainly expect further significant currency movements during the biennium which could seriously affect the burden in national currencies which faces a large number of member states.

I should ask at this point that the management should provide an extension of the table to illustrate the possible consequences of a Lira/Dollar exchange rate, first of 1225, and secondly of 1200.

Another factor which disturbs us in the United Kingdom is that the Programme of Work and Budget as presented does not allow the Conference to judge its realism by comparison with the actual out-turns, either during the last biennium or during this one. By out-turn, I mean the actual cash spending, excluding those commitments which have not so far matured into spending.

Money which is set aside for commitments which is not yet spent provides a cushion of liquidity. The carry-over of such liquidity from the end of one biennium to the next, as pointed out by the distinguished delegate of Japan, is very significant. If programmes are heavily committed but are not heavily spent, there must be a question mark over the effectiveness of their planning. There must be a question mark over the realism of the provision which is proposed for them. There must also be a question whether any of that provision should be transferred to other programmes with a much tighter cash flow. We have consistently sought this information over several years, but it has not been provided.

Therefore, the United Kingdom formally requests the management to prepare and circulate to the Conference actual cash out-turn figures for each programme and sub-programme, first for the previous biennium ending 31 December 1985, and secondly, for the present biennium up to 30 June 1987, or the latest possible date. Information of this kind ought to be available as a matter of course to any competent administration. We would certainly be able to supply it in London, and I cannot believe that the figures would not be available here.

The United Kingdom's view is, therefore, that the revised draft Programme of Work and Budget ought to have been constructed in a different way: not how can we keep going as many of our present programmes as possible, but what are the real priorities, which developing countries need now and how can we redirect and rebuild our activities in accordance with those needs? Programmes which have run for several years should have been rigorously reviewed. For example, we think that there is scope for cutting the largest single programme in the budget which is held by the Economic and Social Policy Department. Its collection of statistics and studies could surely be reviewed, for instance to make room for more spending on operational work such as the Tropical Forest Action Plan. Indeed, it is striking, and I think not satisfactory, that the Forestry and Fisheries Departments together have a lower budget than that of the Administration and Finance Department.

Of course, management may reply that there is enough flexibility in the budget as proposed to accommodate a prolongation of the financial crisis, if we take that together with steps to increase the Working Capital Fund. It is true that there is a large element in the budget whose virtue is proclaimed as being that it is entirely unplanned, that is the Technical Cooperation Programme. There must be, therefore, a strong risk that, if cuts have to be made,

they would fall precisely upon this programme, and indeed we have already heard a suggestion to that effect. Nevertheless, the United Kingdom, like the distinguished delegation from Zambia, would not be happy if budgetary constraints had to bite on that particular programme, and we believe very strongly that the TCP ought to be better protected from such a risk. This could only be done if it were more consciously planned and directed beforehand.

We are unfavourably struck by the peculiar and tentative discussion of the TCP's regional distribution, which you will find in paragraph 4.27 of the Programme of Work and Budget. This seems to be a kind of guess about what is likely to have happened in two years' time. We believe very strongly that the largest part of the TCP - maybe up to 90 percent - should be planned beforehand, with a small part being kept back for contingencies. We also believe that the bulk of its resources should go to the two poorest regions, Africa and Asia and the Pacific. The latter in particular seems likely from paragraph 4.27 to come out very badly from the present arrangements, given the huge number of poor people, and especially rural poor, for whose development its governments are responsible. I should like here especially to reinforce the remarks of the Chairman of the Programme Committee about the relationship of this issue to the environment and fisheries aspects. In general we believe that all operational programmes should be much more purposely deployed, and I expect us to discuss this in more detail at the Conference.

There is a special need for such programmes to provide consistent policy advice and support for reforms and adjustment which are based on appropriate overall and sectoral policies in countries which now face the most desperate economic difficulties. This should not be left only to the Investment Centre. It should run through all the programmes of the Organization, and this is not now so. For instance, it is not characteristic of FAO's activities in tsetse-trypanosomiasis and in seed improvement. These programmes seem to have a life and momentum of their own. By contrast, in the programme for the Pan African Rinderpest Campaign and the FSAS these wider issues are taken into account. We believe that FAO is not playing its proper part in working with other major sources of finance to help particular countries to develop a country strategy for policy investment and institutional priorities in FAO's sectors of activity which are suitable to the desperate straits in which so many now find themselves.

The next broad point which concerns my country in the revised Programme of Work and Budget is the proposal to increase the number of field representatives by four. As I pointed out on an earlier item of the agenda, this is not in accordance with the 1986 recommendation of the Joint Inspection Unit. It may seem a small item to focus on, but we believe that the issues behind it are wide.

Finally, we must also remember that the contributions to the budget are not the end of the story in relation to the proposed obligation of members. We have to add to that the proposals for the Special Reserve Account and the Working Capital Fund. We have to deal with those proposals under item 11 of the agenda and we will, of course, discuss them further then, but the general point is clear: that they add to the burdens of all members. We are not, therefore, persuaded that the case has been made for a programme and draft budget of this kind which involves even the small real increase proposed in this document. We also think that there is greater scope for absorbing cost increases. Concerns of this kind have indeed been widely voiced by developing countries in considering recent budget proposals of other United Nations specialized agencies. I must, therefore, indicate that the United Kingdom cannot support the present proposals. We, therefore, strongly urge the management to make further revisions to the Programme of Work and Budget and submit a revised document with further substantial amendments to the Conference.

Hans POPP (Switzerland): First of all, I should like to thank Dr Shah for his excellent and competent presentation as well as the two chairmen for their valuable contributions. We have no quarrel with the size of the budget. We appreciate the effort made to have more or less zero growth. We appreciate the efforts made in having economies.

Let me turn to the question of priorities. In the introduction, some indications and ideas are put forward with regard to priorities, but they are missing in the Detailed Programme. In this connection, let me turn to my main point, which is to dwell a little on the role of FAO in its

main task, eradication of hunger. In our view, FAO is still too much, if not exclusively, a technical assistance agency. technical assistance is needed, surely, but it has to be well applied and integrated into a concept of agricultural policies and rural development, integrated into a strategy of food security. In this respect, FAO is not sufficiently playing its role. In these days we are talking of reforms. It is precisely on this point that reforms are meant. We should like to see FAO much more than up till now assisting member governments in the formulation of such agricultural policies, in the implementation of a strategy for food security to assist them in the Coordination of all kinds of aid from different sources towards this main goal.

In our view, FAO's role is not only not in the first place to fulfill the wishes and demands of individual member country governments but to give guidance and even, if necessary, to take initiatives in the formulation of policies and strategies which in the end will be successful in achieving such noble goals as the elimination of hunger to improve the living conditions of rural people.

The basic elements of such policies are well known. We find them in many places in FAO documents. Let me mention the four Is: Incentives, Investment, Infrastructure, Institutions. We all know about the important role of a good price policy, of the importance of stable and secure farm prices to the producers. the Government of my country would like to see FAO become the leading agency in the field of agricultural policy formulation and implementation, not only at headquarters but at the country level, because this is the role of FAO and, for instance, not primarily the role of the World Bank and other agencies. One gets the impression that in many countries FAO is left outside of the discussion and implementation of agricultural policy.

If reforms are needed within our Organization to change this to give FAO back its role, we should not hesitate to engage in this endeavour. We would invite the Director-General and the Secretariat to formulate its view and its position on this issue and give it to us at the Conference.

Let me be quite clear on one point. If we talk of reform, we want to strengthen this Organization and not weaken it. We want to make this Organization more effective, because it is needed. We should like to see this Organization in the forefront in the fight against hunger and misery.

To conclude, let me add this. The Government of my country would be prepared to increase its resource contribution to this Organization if needed if we had the assurance that the resource transfer will really help to improve the food situation and the living conditions of the people concerned.

Elio PASCARELLI (Italy): Mr Chairman, I am not going to intervene as the depository of truth or wisdom or in any special function except that of a member country of this Organization to express my views on the subject that we have been considering and discussing. I would, first and foremost, say that I have high regard for what the two chairmen of the Programme and Finance Committees had to report to us. We fully trust the wisdom of their judgment and the depth of their discussions. I happen to be one of the members of the Finance Committee. In this connection, while congratulating them on the synopsis of the conclusion of the report they have presented to the Council, I would like to say that in the month of May/June, Italy was one of the three dissenting members - there were not two dissenting members - who could not at that time give their support to the level of the budget. We put forward some proposals very much like the British delegate did today and we said that we were afraid that, because of the violation of: the obligations of one member country, we had been facing a very hard problem of liquidity. I would never use the word "crisis". From a knowledge of financial law and financial signs, I think that the word "crisis" would not be proper. This is a liquidity problem, and we wish it could be as short as possible. On that particular subject we said we are to expect another shortfall in the next biennium. We are not satisfied with the danger which confronts us of having to cut the programmes without having the authority to change them. But when the Secretariat, through the Deputy Director-General, told us that our worry had been taken care of by avoiding a vacuum in the sovereign bodies' work of this Organization, namely through the delegation of power to this Council to meet more often than usual, if necessary, to consider shortfalls in contributions, exchange rate variations which could accrue, and if we could have the passing by the Organization, or the finer possible passing by exhausting the Special

Reserve Account, then we would have a sovereign body empowered to take the necessary measures without falling into the trap we fell into last December because we had the Secretariat asking us what to do and the Conference was not called. The Council had no power to intervene and change the programmes.

Where these worries have been considered by the Secretariat and the Director-General has made provisions, we shall propose to the Conference that the Council be empowered to take and accede to a decision and then if we are quite satisfied with the level of the budget, we are not taking any reserve, we shall approve it and we commend the Director-General for making the cuts he has made in the revised budget which Mr Shah has so clearly presented to us.

Concerning the cost increase, that is a gamble, the cost increase reduction from US \$ 18 million to US \$ 13 million is a gamble. We know that, especially after the decision of ICSC. Perhaps I might tell the Organization that as in other circumstances during the last two years my country stands ready to provide not volumes of criticism, but money; not words, but facts, concrete help in order to face this eventuality and be sure that none of the countries beneficiaries of the aid from the FAO, suffer because of cuts in the Programme owing to the necessity of absorbing the US \$ 5, 6 or 7 million.

Briefly, another point about Miscellaneous Income. In order not to upset the conclusions of the Finance Committee last night, Italy agreed to warn the Secretariat to exert caution in forecasting the Miscellaneous Income which is quite strange to our system. We never attribute Miscellaneous Income before the biennium or before the year. It is like selling the skin of the bear before killing the bear, something like that. Again, we propose that when we speak out, not now, on reforms, this system can be abandoned and Miscellaneous Income be attributed to members only when they are really safe.

On the exchange rate also, we had a profound discussion on whether to suggest to the Conference using the last day rate. This is absolutely silly because on that date the dollar might sink to 1225 as some people here seem to wish, or it might jump to 1305. We know that it is so erratic, why do we not propose to the Conference that we take the average of a full month? That makes more sense than referring it to the effects of speculation on the stock exchange market or the other exchange markets.

Finally, on TCP, once again my country proposes not to contribute criticism in words and say, "You are not to touch TCP, and if you carry over unliquidated obligation, get it from God." We shall look at it very carefully. We want beneficiary countries to be sure that as far as we can go we shall do that so that the TCP will not suffer at all. I am sorry that my colleague from Japan is absent, but I strongly disagree with him, it is an untouchable entity of this Organization.

I wish to add that we cannot plan emergencies. I do not know whether some delegates think that they or we may plan emergencies and see what is needed for them. God is there to watch over what happens in this world, so let us keep what is in the TCP funds and if the funds are needed, do not believe that the first multi- or bilateral donor of this Organization will hide somewhere.

Ms Anne-Lise PETERSEN (Denmark): At this stage the Danish delegation only wishes to make a few comments on the proposed Programme of Work and Budget for 1988-89, as a more detailed discussion will take place in Commission II of the Conference next week. Furthermore, in order to get a full picture of the situation, you cannot discuss a Programme of Work for the next biennium without taking into account the current financial situation of the Organization.

My delegation therefore finds it extremely difficult to assess the proposed Programme of Work as long as we do not know whether the necessary resources for the implementation of the project will be available.

Another point I would like to make is that reading through the document one gets a broad picture of the many activities FAO is engaged in, but apart from the cuts made in the administrative costs, it is very difficult to get a clear impression of how the priority setting mentioned in the introduction to the document has been carried out.

In this connection, I want to stress once more that the Danish delegation has for several years now asked for a much sharper priority setting within our Organization. We do however realize that priority setting is difficult and even painful exercise as it means cutting away activities in order to be able to concentrate on main priority areas.

The question of priority setting cannot be discussed separately but must be considered in the light of the outcome of the discussion in the Conference on the future role of our Organization. My delegation therefore wants to come back to this issue with more specific remarks concerning priority areas in Commission II, when the Conference has discussed the overall future role of FAO.

I just want to underline that the difficult financial situation international organizations, including our own, are faced with makes it even more important to concentrate on activities which have a long-term developmental effect in food and agriculture.

Finally, concerning the budget level proposed, my delegation has noted the moderate real increase which, however, has to be evaluated in the light of the currency situation. We are still examining the proposal and our final position on the budget level will be given at the Conference. As already stated in earlier meetings, the Danish Government is not in general opposed to budget increases as such, nor do we wish to make overall cuts. On the contrary, we wish FAO to be an effective and efficient organization.

Guillermo Enrique GONZALEZ (Argentina): Somos conscientes de las limitaciones de tiempo a que estamos sujetos y tendremos ocasión de analizar con mayor profundidad en la Conferencia, pero deseamos fijar, de la manera más sucinta y clara posible, nuestra posición en uno de los principales temas de nuestra Agenda.

En primer término, mi delegación agradece la intervención de los Presidentes de los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas y la clara exposición del Doctor Shah. Coincidimos en que, en las actuales circunstancias, la FAO enfrenta un problema financiero grave que no tiene aún la proporción de una crisis que afecte su existencia misma. En todo caso, si se puede hablar de crisis, se trata de una crisis que afecta a casi todo el Sistema de las Naciones Unidas y en la que se dañan las bases mismas del multilateralismo.

La FAO ha cumplido y cumple un rol destacado en los esfuerzos para erradicar el hambre y la desnutrición. Su valor y vigencia están más allá de toda duda. Sus objetivos tanto para el corto como el mediano plazo son válidos, y a nuestro juicio, se ajustan a las necesidades de los países en desarrollo. Sin embargo, las limitaciones financieras de la Organización y de muchos países miembros, agobiados algunos por la deuda externa y en un contexto internacional negativo, nos obligan a redoblar esfuerzos en la formulación de prioridades y en la administración de los recursos disponibles.

Mi delegación coincide, en general, con las prioridades de los programas que aparecen en el documento C 87/3 que en definitiva son las que resultan de las que los propios Estados Miembros hemos fijado en los diversos foros. La Secretaría de la FAO ha reflejado en el citado documento la voluntad mayoritaria de sus miembros. Permítaseme señalar la decepción de mi delegación por la relativamente baja participación del PNUD en los fondos extrapresupuestarios para los Programas de Campo de la FAO. Confiamos que la leve recuperación que se observa en 1986 se acentúe en los años venideros y pueda mantener el ritmo de crecimiento de los fondos fiduciarios. En este último aspecto, debo destacar la satisfacción de mi delegación por ver que el documento destaca con toda justicia la acción desarrollada por el Gobierno de Italia. La Argentina conoce de la generosidad y solidaridad italiana, que se expresa tanto en forma bilateral como multilateral.

Creemos que en momentos de una limitación presupuestaria, la FAO debe tratar de ampliar al máximo las posibilidades que ofrecen este tipo de asociaciones. Compartimos la política del Director General de continuar disminuyendo los gastos fijos en servicios de personal. La reducción del porcentaje de recursos totales que se gastarán en puestos de plantilla es un hecho positivo. Por otra parte, el cambio en neto entre los puestos nuevos y suprimidos no es sustancial ni parece afectar a la capacidad de la FAO para actuar eficazmente, ya que en su mayoría son reemplazados por consultores competentes. Creemos, sí, que una mayor utilización de instituciones y técnicas nacionales en la ejecución de los proyectos, no sólo redundará en beneficio financiero de la Organización sino también de los propios países en desarrollo donde se llevan a cabo las actividades.

Sr. Presidente; ahorraré los comentarios que mi delegación tiene sobre los distintos programas principales para la Comisión II en que se tratarán estos temas con detenimiento durante la próxima semana. Solamente déjeme decir dos palabras con respecto al Programa de Cooperación Técnica. Por varias delegaciones se han referido a este punto y considero oportuno dejar sentada, desde ya, nuestra posición sobre el particular. El Programa de Cooperación Técnica tiene una gran significación para todos los países en desarrollo. Los criterios vigentes para su utilización son, a nuestro juicio, adecuados y responden fundamentalmente a las necesidades de los países en desarrollo, como lo sugiere el número de solicitudes presentadas en el último bienio.

En lo que hace al monto de los mismos, y a pesar de que mi delegación estuvo entre las que oportunamente apoyaron el incremento del tope de los proyectos de 250 000 a 400 000 dólares, entendemos que la Secretaría ha actuado con prudencia al tratar de mantener el efecto catalizador del PCT mediante un mayor número de operaciones en pequeña escala.

En este sentido, creemos que sólo excepcionalmente los montos de los PCT deberían superar los 250 000 dólares. Tratando de resumir, en términos generales nuestra posición, Sr. Presidente, diríamos que la delegación argentina entiende que las estrategias, objetivos y prioridades para 1988/89 son correctas y tienen nuestro respaldo. Obviamente la realidad financiera de la Organización, nos obligará a actuar con una dosis de pragmatismo. Vemos con satisfacción que se han aumentado porcentualmente los fondos destinados a Programas, y disminuido los servicios de personal. El incremento del 0, 25 por ciento en 1988/89 respecto al bienio anterior al tipo de cambio de 1700 liras por dólar no debería ser objetable ya que implica un aumento mínimo simbólico.

Mi delegación, sin embargo, reservó su posición sobre este tema en la última sesión del Consejo y debe todavía mantener esa posición hasta la Conferencia debido a que el monto sujeto a cuota tendrá un incremento muy superior, como lo ha explicado el Dr. Shah muy bien, debido a la caída del dólar frente a la lira italiana. Ello implica que los países en desarrollo más castigados por la fluctuación del cambio y de la tasa de interés, seamos también los más perjudicados al momento del pago en dólares de nuestras contribuciones.

La Argentina enfrenta una grave crisis económica como consecuencia del pesado servicio de la deuda externa y disminución de los precios internacionales de sus exportaciones. Su moneda se ha visto depreciada sustancialmente respecto al dólar, y en consecuencia, no estamos en condiciones de asumir nuevos compromisos financieros con los organismos internacionales, particularmente cuando éstos responden a fluctuaciones en la paridad de cambios del dólar frente a otras monedas fuertes; fluctuaciones en las que los países en desarrollo no tenemos ninguna responsabilidad ni beneficio de ningún tipo. Quizás la solución podría encontrarse en que esa diferencia que se da por los cambios en los ajustes de paridad pueda ser compensado por aquellos países cuyas monedas se han revalorizado frente al dólar. Otra alternativa podría ser que la Conferencia, teniendo en cuenta que los tipos de cambio pueden continuar fluctuando en altos porcentajes en los próximos meses decida fijar una paridad de cambio a los efectos de la determinación del monto sujeto a cuota que se acerque más a la utilizada en el presupuesto vigente.

Por último, deseo manifestar que coincido con el enfoque del documento C 87/3 en lo que hace a la Región de América Latina y el Caribe. Tal diagnóstico de la situación, lamentablemente es acertado; y digo lamentablemente porque el panorama descrito y las alternativas que nos presentan a corto y mediano plazo no son optimistas. La Región se ha estancado en su crecimiento, y en algunos aspectos inclusive se ha involucionado.

Se requiere urgente atención por parte de la FAO. El estudio y Plan de Acción que se está realizando para la Región puede destacar los principales problemas y sugerir medios de acción para superarlos, pero es evidente que se requerirán mayores recursos y que en la FAO deberemos destinarle una mayor atención a la Región.

Bashir El Mabrouk SAID (Libya) (original language Arabic): First, I should like to offer my warm thanks to Mr Shah for his excellent introduction. I should also like to thank the Chairmen of the Programme and Finance Committees who have provided us with a very faithful report on the views expressed at the meetings of those two Committees.

It was my honour to attend the work of the Programme Committee as a member. I had occasion then to express my views on most of the programmes which were discussed during those meetings. Similarly, I expressed my viewpoint during the last Council meeting. That is why I shall be brief.

FAO has always proved its capacity to face up to the varying contingencies in the outside world. FAO is aware of the requirements of developing countries within the context of crisis. We would have hoped that this would have been reflected in the Programme of Work and Budget with an increase in the allocations of the Programme.

Technical activities aimed at developing countries: we have cause to be pleased to note that technical activities have been maintained while the support activities have decreased. We were glad to see that the Programme of Work and Budget stresses the importance of the Technical Cooperation Programme. We were particularly pleased to note that because this is a key ingredient if we are to assist developing countries.

Having heard some of the viewpoints expressed by delegates, I have the following to say.

First, the view has been expressed that the problem of cash flow or liquidity threatening FAO should be the basis of the Programme of Work and Budget. Those views are far from new. We have heard them expressed before, and they are far from reasonable views. We insist that we cannot accept such an approach because this would cast even more fog over our discussions here. We are astonished to note that some people are saying that FAO should play a greater role than that which it has played so far in agriculture. They want FAO to become an academy for the scientific and theoretical study of agriculture.

Questions were asked about the priorities to be given, and these priorities may be used to introduce a note of discord. We have heard that those priorities are not the priorities proposed by the Secretariat. They are requested by member countries through the governing bodies of FAO. The Programme Committee has made splendid efforts in studying these priorities, and these are truly reflected here. That is the reason why I can assure you that we wholeheartedly agree with the priorities which we see listed in this document. We give our full approval to them.

Humberto CARRION M. (Nicaragua): También nuestra Delegación, Señor Presidente, desea ser muy breve en este tema, ya que en la Comisión de la Conferencia tendremos la oportunidad de manifestar más ampliamente nuestras consideraciones y observaciones al respecto.

No cabe duda que la Organización entera ha hecho un gran esfuerzo para elaborar un plan de trabajo y un nivel de presupuesto que pueda ser aprobado por consenso. La Secretaría, los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas, el Consejo y sus distintos Comités técnicos han intervenido de manera directa, responsable y dinámica en la preparación del Programa y del Presupuesto y en el establecimiento de las prioridades de acción para el próximo bienio, así como en los objetivos a plazo medio.

El trabajo de nuestra Organización alrededor del Programa y del Presupuesto 1988-89 se ha realizado dentro de un contexto de crisis financiera creada artificialmente por la falta de pago del total de sus contribuciones del mayor contribuyente de la FAO.

En este sentido el aumento neto propuesto de sólo el 0,25 por ciento del nivel de presupuesto, es insuficiente para que la Organización pueda hacer frente adecuadamente a su esencial y noble tarea de contribuir a la eliminación del hambre y la desnutrición en el mundo, y, por lo tanto, contribuir al desarrollo integral de los países pobres de la tierra. Sin embargo, aunque nos oponemos al crecimiento cero, reconocemos el esfuerzo del Director General de presentarnos un nivel de presupuesto que pueda ser aprobado por consenso. Nuestro Gobierno desea unirse a ese consenso.

No podemos tampoco ignorar el dinamismo que el Director General ha desplegado en el presente bienio para realizar ajustes en el Programa de Trabajo de hasta 25 millones de dólares, tratando de no afectar los programas técnicos y económicos. Vemos con satisfacción que para el bienio 1988-89 se propone que el 46,8 por ciento del presupuesto se dedique a los programas técnicos y económicos, y el 14 por ciento al Programa de Cooperación Técnica, que mi país apoya con firmeza. Desearíamos incluso que en el futuro este porcentaje fuese elevado, tal vez al 17 por ciento del total del presupuesto.

Por otra parte, los llamados de muy pocos países desarrollados para que se hagan mayores recortes en los gastos administrativos y de personal de la FAO para el próximo bienio, son rechazados por nuestra Delegación por el peligro que esto significaría para la eficiencia y la eficacia en la ejecución del programa de la FAO.

Nicaragua, Señor Presidente, tiene también motivos muy particulares para apoyar los programas y el presupuesto de la FAO. Como todos los presentes aquí sabemos que el 7 de agosto pasado los cinco Presidentes de Centroamérica firmaron un acuerdo para lograr la paz en la región y para que termine la brutal e infame agresión externa en contra del pueblo y el Gobierno de Nicaragua.

Consideramos que la contribución técnico-económica que pueda hacer, y que hace la FAO, en países esencialmente agrícolas, como son los países centroamericanos es, Señor Presidente, una contribución para la paz.

DONG QING SONG (China) (Original Language Chinese): My intervention will be very brief.

First of all I would like to thank Mr Shah and the two Chairmen of the Programme and Finance Committees for their presentation of the agenda item. The Summary Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium was on the agenda of the Ninety-First Session of the Council held in June, and today we are discussing the full text of the Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium. We have noted the changes in the full text, particularly those related to programme and cost increases, which we believe is the result of the efforts made by the Director-General to coordinate various positions in the light of discussions during the Council's Session in June. We wish to place on record our appreciation for the efforts of the Director-General in this regard.

We know that meetings of both the Programme and Finance Committees held in September carefully considered the full text of the Programme of Work and Budget. We have taken note of the views expressed by the two Committees in their reports submitted to the Council. We agree to the submission of the revised programme of Work and Budget to the Conference for consideration and approval.

The Chinese delegation will further elaborate its position in Commission II of the Conference, and is prepared to join with other delegations in an effort to gain approval for the Programme of Work and Budget by the Conference.

Apolinaire ANDRIATSIARAFALO (Madagascar): Je suis heureux de prendre la parole, au nom de la délégation malgache, à ce stade de nos travaux, sans nul doute très attendus et avec impatience mais, en tout cas, d'une importance indéniable car ils préparent la vingt-quatrième Conférence générale de la FAO.

Mais je n'aurais garde de commencer sans dire combien le Comité du Programme et le Comité financier, sous la dynamique impulsion de leurs présidents, M. Mazoyer et M. Bukhari, ont fait un travail sérieux et véritablement engagé pour faire face aux difficultés auxquelles notre Organisation se trouve confrontée. Que les deux présidents veuillent bien accepter nos félicitations les plus chaleureuses pour les exposés clairs et transparents qu'ils ont faits de la situation.

Nous voudrions également féliciter M. Shah pour son exposé liminaire tout à fait complet, qui donne un tableau exact de la situation. Que le Secrétariat trouve également ici notre reconnaissance pour la clarté du document soumis à notre examen qui reflète, comme on l'a dit, les vues de la majorité des pays membres.

Etant membre du Comité financier, Madagascar a eu l'avantage de participer activement aux travaux du Comité et d'apporter sa modeste contribution lors de l'examen du sujet par les deux Comités en session conjointe.

Par ailleurs, la délégation malgache a eu l'occasion de faire part de ses avis et observations à l'endroit du sommaire du Programme de travail et budget lors de son examen par le Comité de l'agriculture et par le Conseil, respectivement à leur quatre-vingt-dixième et quatre-vingt-onzième session.

Pour ces différentes raisons, l'intervention de notre délégation ne sera pas longue. Elle se limitera, en fait, à relever les traits principaux qui caractérisent le Programme de travail et budget pour 1988-89, qui mérite toute notre attention. Le biennium qui se présente requiert de la part de la communauté internationale un effort exceptionnel car elle devra mettre en oeuvre, pendant cette période, nombre de ses résolutions les plus pertinentes et les plus constructives également pour l'avenir. Je me limiterai donc à citer la résolution de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies pour le redressement économique et le développement de l'Afrique, les programmes d'action de la Conférence mondiale sur l'aménagement et le développement des pêches, le Programme d'action forestier tropical.

Le choix des priorités dans le Programme de travail et budget tient bien sûr compte de ces résolutions et reflète fidèlement les recommandations de la Conférence générale et des différentes conférences régionales. Cependant, l'on ne peut s'empêcher de relever que certains programmes vitaux ont été soit réduits, soit gelés à leur niveau de 1986-87.

Ainsi, le Programme de coopération technique n'a pas connu d'augmentation malgré les nombreuses demandes insatisfaites. Certains sous-programmes connaissent des réductions substantielles: stockage et structures rurales: moins 95 000 dollars; industrie et commerce des produits forestiers: moins 152 000 dollars; programme de soutien à l'investissement: moins 556 000 dollars, ce qui se traduit par moins de programmes sur le terrain.

Par ailleurs, aucune disposition n'est prévue pour remédier aux conséquences désastreuses des mesures d'ajustement de programme opérées pendant le biennium en cours.

Nous comprenons parfaitement les difficultés économiques que connaissent un grand nombre d'Etats Membres, qui interdisent l'adoption d'un niveau budgétaire plus élevé mais les faits sont là, déplorables, regrettables. Les ressources envisagées sont loin de correspondre aux besoins. Déjà, les prévisions initiales de 457 187 000 dollars ont été amputées pour être réduites à 451 060 000 dollars soit un accroissement de 0,25 pour cent seulement par rapport au biennium 1986-87 au lieu de 0,48 pour cent.

Une question se pose en même temps, insidieuse, lancinante: les mêmes difficultés de trésorerie persisteront-elles en 1988, empêchant la réalisation du Programme minimum proposé? C'est déjà catastrophique pour la plupart des programmes envisagés comme si on avait fait un pas en avant et deux pas en arrière dans cette lutte contre la faim, contre la misère et contre la malnutrition. Un pas en avant, deux pas en arrière....

C'est un laxisme de dire que la FAO se trouve aujourd'hui dans une situation de crise. Certains n'aiment pas le mot, je dirai donc avec eux dans une situation difficile non seulement sur le plan politique mais également sur celui de sa gestion, en raison d'une incapacité progressive de poursuivre les objectifs qui ont justifié sa création. Mais tous à des degrés divers nous sommes responsables de cette situation et n'a-t-on pas trouvé une multitude de défauts à notre Organisation au lieu de lui donner les ressources dont elle a singulièrement besoin pour survivre et pour vivre?

Voilà le véritable défi, celui auquel nous devrions consacrer notre temps, notre imagination, notre volonté car de sa résolution dépendent en grande partie le développement d'une véritable coopération internationale et l'établissement de relations plus équitables et plus fructueuses entre les diverses nations ici représentées.

Faut-il remercier ceux-là qui, en versant normalement, régulièrement leurs contributions, ont permis l'élaboration du programme de travail et de budget. Certes, rendons à César ce qui est à César mais il s'agit là d'obligations morales sur le plan international de responsables qui ne souhaitent pas paralyser notre institution, de ceux qui voudraient ne pas frustrer les pays pauvres de la vision d'un monde de progrès promis par les inspirateurs de cette Organisation. Ils étaient une cinquantaine il y a quarante-deux ans de cela, nous sommes actuellement cent cinquante-huit.

Notre délégation, malgré son insatisfaction du niveau de programmes de travail et de budget pour les raisons évoquées précédemment ne s'opposera pas à son approbation et souhaite même qu'on ne s'y attarde pas car il faudrait justement que le Conseil se penche sérieusement sur les problèmes financiers de l'Organisation, que le temps qui nous est imparti serve plutôt et surtout à examiner en profondeur ce sujet épineux.

Il nous faut nous atteler à la tâche de trouver les voies et moyens d'assainir l'environnement de travail de l'Organisation, de lui redonner la crédibilité et la confiance indiscutables, cette confiance indispensable à son efficacité, à sa capacité de s'acquitter de sa mission.

L'échéance de cette session nous oblige à envisager dès maintenant une perspective plus immédiate, plus concrète. Penchons-nous sans perdre de temps sur les dispositions pertinentes du rapport du Comité financier en sa soixante et unième session, notamment les paragraphes 3.35 à 3.78. Préparons et présentons à la Conférence générale le matériel qui lui permettra de prendre les décisions et les résolutions circonstanciées qui s'imposent.

En gros, il s'agira de combler un trou de 67 millions de dollars dont 38 millions au titre de 1986, de reconstituer le compte de réserve spécial et le fond de roulement et à ce sujet une idée Cardinale devrait semble-t-il s'imposer à tous: j'ai relevé dans la première intervention, rejoignant d'ailleurs l'opinion émise par la délégation de l'Argentine, que le document qui nous est présenté reflète les points de vue de la majorité des Etats Membres ici présents. Une idée cardinale devrait me semble-t-il s'imposer, celle du respect de la voix du plus grand nombre car à quoi bon parler de dialogue, à quoi bon parler d'égalité des Etats et de coopération si les décisions largement débattues et arrêtées démocratiquement au sein de notre institution doivent être occultées par des conceptions animées d'un égoïsme pervers, subtilisant cette donnée fondamentale de nos relations.

On ne peut que demeurer perplexe en voyant certains repousser la progression de la part du budget qui permet de passer des concepts et des discussions à des actions décisives au bénéfice de la restructuration des économies du Sud et, partant, du monde.

J'en ai terminé. Vous avez senti que je me suis interdit d'en dire plus car ma délégation sera appelée à intervenir de nouveau, si l'occasion s'en présente, à la deuxième commission de la Conférence générale.

Rainer PRESTIEN (Germany, Federal Republic of): First of all let me thank the Secretariat for the preparation of documents C 87/3 and CL 92/4.

I wish to thank Mr Mazoyer, Mr Bukhari and Mr Shah for their lucid comments on the documents.

The Programme of Work and Budget for 1988/89 was discussed on several occasions over the last few months. The Finance and Programme Committees, as well as the Council and other bodies, intensively discussed the programme and financial issues of our Organization. We welcome the fact that a number of suggestions and proposals which were made in these bodies were incorporated into the new programme budget document.

First, let me make a few general remarks on the Programme of Work. We had already pointed out at the 91st Council Session that the priorities were established rightly in the Programme of Work. I am pleased to see that a new priority, environmental protection and prudent management of renewable resources was added as had been proposed by my delegation in June.

I will now comment on the direct financial issues. In times of great financial difficulties of the Organization, it is a difficult task to prepare the Programme of Work and Budget. All agencies in the UN system are presently faced with financial constraints. Economies were inevitable, also already within the framework of the regular budget for 1986/87. We feel that our Organization with total economies to the amount of US\$25 million did well, taking a mid position in the UN system.

With regard to the question of establishing new country representations, the Director-General has already partly met the requests for economies. We feel that the establishment of new country representations should be abandoned as long as our Organization faces financial difficulties, even though the additional cost would now amount to US\$550, 000 only, due to the phased timing of their establishment. Within the framework of the budget there are also positive things to assess. We welcome the low real growth of 0.25 percent only and the renewed reduction in administrative expenditures and in the share of staff expenditures which still amounts to only 51.7 percent. Much will also depend on the monetary development which we cannot forecast for the biennium ahead.

I now come to the important budget issues. The preparation of the Programme of Work and Budget for 1988-89 has undoubtedly been no easy task in view of the whole UN system. The representative of my country on the Finance Committee of FAO had welcomed the small budget increase at the 61st Session of the Finance Committee. As he had already proposed this May, he had called upon FAO to provide for emergency planning; that means, by drawing up a core and a stand-by budget to ensure the financing of the indispensable FAO activities. My delegation had already pointed out at the 91st FAO Council Session that the United Nations organizations cannot spend more money than they receive. Therefore, we consider such an emergency planning absolutely necessary. We can approve the Programme of Work and Budget for 1988/89 only on condition that such emergency planning is submitted. Relevant decisions of principle already existing in UNIDO, WHO, ILO and WMO. I feel that we should take these as a guideline.

Let me mention that my delegation shares the view expressed by the distinguished delegate of Japan that TCP is a possible area of such emergency planning. The late payment of compulsory contributions and shortfalls in income are, in our view, the main causes of the present financial crisis of FAO. Therefore, we urge all member nations who have not yet paid their contributions to meet their obligations under international law as soon as possible. A more detailed discussion on the Programme of Work and Budget will take place at the forthcoming 24th Conference. We hope that we shall still come to an agreement. We also hope that the Conference will be able to approve the Programme of Work and Budget for 1988/89 by consensus.

V.K. SIBAL (India): In the first place, we should like to express our thanks to Mr Shah for a very clear presentation and to the two Chairmen of the Finance and Programme Committees, who have introduced these reports in their own able way.

We welcome the considerably expanded information which has been given to us in the Programme of Work and Budget which has been proposed. We are also happy to note that the proposals are based on the summary Programme of Work and Budget which had been submitted and which had been extensively debated. The views which were expressed, and the concerns which were expressed, in that debate have found a place in the final Programme which has been submitted.

We further note that the net programme increase has been drastically trimmed down to a figure of 0.25 percent, or about \$1.1 million. Apart from that, an attempt has been made to meet the concerns expressed for the needs of effecting economies by the reduction of the provision of cost increases by another US\$5 million, apart from the reduction of the established post for 25. Thus, what we have in this Programme is an extremely moderate net programme increase, and if the absorption of a substantial amount of cost increases is taken into account, it is quite possible that the resources effectively at the disposal of FAO in real terms may be less than the resources available in the last biennium. This being so, it is obvious that the Director-General has gone to great lengths to accommodate views according to which there should have been either a zero growth or a very small growth in the budget.

We recognize that the Director-General had a very delicate exercise in balancing to do. On the one hand, FAO is an effective viable functioning organization which has valuable inputs to deliver. There are a large number of countries which require these inputs and there are expectations which have to be met.

On the other hand, countries are facing economic difficulties which are resulting in the contributions not coming and sufficient money not being available for legitimate programmes for which this money is needed. The balancing between requirements of FAO services and considerations of economy has been done extremely well in our view, and the necessary cuts have been applied through streamlining through administrative cuts, and we are very satisfied with that. However, this is not to say that we are not disappointed at the level of this budget. The net increase is much less than we would have wished to have. We recognize the realities which have compelled this situation to emerge, but this is not to say that we would not have wanted to have a much higher programme level so that FAO would have been able to discharge its responsibilities better, more effectively and to a greater extent.

We had the honour of being on the Programme Committee and we had a chance there to look into these proposals in detail. We fully support the Report which has emerged as it is based upon the debate and our views have been taken into account.

Concerns have been expressed during this debate also for the need for two different kinds of budgets, a core budget and another supplementary budget. We are not sure whether these formulations, these alternatives, are really practicable. When any organization frames a budget, it starts with the level of resources which it expects to have during the specified timeframe. In an organization such as FAO one cannot see any other alternative but to look at the scale of assessed contributions as a basis of the level of resources likely to be available, as long as that scale is in force, and as long as that scale is accepted by the member countries as signatories to FAO's Constitution. If that scale were to be ignored, one would be ignoring constitutional requirements. Therefore, any other alternative, apart from its unsuitability, apart from its lack of pragmatism, would also perhaps be unconstitutional. If one were even to look at another alternative for argument's sake, we are not very clear as to how we could assess with a degree of accuracy, a degree of certainty, as to what would be the expected level of resources that FAO will have. It could change from day to day, or month to month. Where is that firmness of the level of resources which you need in order to support the core budget? Even if you have some information, how do you know that that information will not change with time because the economic circumstances keep changing?

Once you make the economic circumstances of individual countries the base for expectations of levels of resources, then the changing positions of those countries, on the basis of changes in their economic situation, with resulting changes during the course of the year in how much they would contribute and would make the core budget as uncertain, as difficult to implement, and generating the same kind of problems which we seem to be facing in the present situation. We feel very strongly that, in terms of the constitutional obligations of member countries, there is no way of framing a budget except on the basis of assessed contributions, and we will address this issue in greater depth in Commission II when the times comes.

We also believe that the TCP is an extremely valuable Programme of the FAO which has been operated with flexibility and is addressed to urgent specific country requirements. We would like to see it grow. We would not like this instrument to be blunted for want of money. We are very pleased to note in the Programme which has been presented the efforts made to save on technical and economic programmes, the effort made to save on administrative costs or costs which do not promote programmes with a technical and economic content, and we are very happy that this effort has been made.

I would say a word about the objectives and the priorities of FAO. We also believe-- and this has been stated in this forum -- that the objectives and the priorities have come from the governing bodies. They represent the consensus reached in those bodies from time to time, whether it is fisheries, whether it is in the area of forestry, whether it is the reduction of poverty or the reduction of malnutrition, whether it is rural development, whether it is the environment, whatever the concern. The consensus reached in these areas have been the basis of the blueprint for action which has been developed in the FAO. These objectives and priorities are as valid today as when they were framed. When we hear of the desire to review priorities and objectives we get a little confused. We would have understood the legitimacy of this comment if we felt that these objectives had been fulfilled or were no longer necessary or that circumstances had changed so much that they had become irrelevant. But, as long as we know that these problems are still there, their magnitude is still stupendous, there is still need to address them and the FAO has a role, we feel that the objectives are legitimate and require to be pursued still further.

John JURECKY (United States of America): The US delegation to the June Council gave detailed analysis of the proposed 1988/89 Summary Programme of Work and Budget. In view of the limited time at this Council, I shall note only the most important points of the US position on the full Programme of Work and Budget.

As we stated in June, the US cannot support the proposed budget. This is not because we fail to recognize the Secretariat's efforts in preparing this budget. Indeed, we appreciate the changes that have been made since June in reducing programme growth and especially in reducing significantly the provision for cost increases. We appreciate the more detailed information and format of the 1988/89 budget but we believe that the Programme of Work and Budget does not present a clear sense of FAO programme priority. In fact, my delegation believes that the Programme of Work and Budget should not only show programme priorities but also a regional and country breakdown of these proposed programmes. The latter is already the practice in all other UN agencies.

The US considers the budget to be fundamentally unrealistic. As delegates are aware, the US Congress has not appropriated sufficient funds to allow the United States to pay its assessment in full. This situation is likely to continue for some time. The outlook for US contributions in 1988 is therefore not favourable. Even if the US were paying on time, in full, the proposed budget would impose significantly increased burdens on many countries. In the current economic climate this is not the time for net programme growth, however small. At a minimum there must be some plan articulated for adapting the programme to the resource level which can be expected. If the Conference approves a budget which contains no such plan, the Secretariat, in the US view, would be put in an unacceptable position.

The US does not dispute the broad outline of the priorities in the Programme of Work and Budget. In the Committee on Agriculture, the June Council and the Programme Committee, we have delineated what we consider to be FAO's priorities, especially the Early Warning System, Codex Alimentarius and improving the information base. Other delegations have other priorities, and it should be our collective task to give the Secretariat guidance on mutually agreed priorities to be protected in the face of resource shortfalls.

There are also areas of the Programme of Work and Budget to which the US does not agree. We consider the increase in the number of FAO representatives inappropriate, especially at a time when our government is being forced by budget constraints to close our own overseas posts and reduce our staff. We also consider the cuts in the North American office noted by Mr Shah in his introduction to be disproportionate, and we would not support them. We would support them, however, if steps were taken now to make similar cuts in other liaison and regional offices. In conclusion, even at this late date, we would hope that changes can still be made to the budget that would allow us to support it at the Conference.

Madame Sango YA TAMBWE (Zaire): Prenant la parole pour la première fois la délégation zaïroise voudrait se joindre aux orateurs précédents pour exprimer sa joie de vous revoir parmi nous et pour assurer de notre plein appui dans l'accomplissement de votre mission de Président du Conseil de la FAO. La délégation zaïroise voudrait adresser ses félicitations aux membres du bureau qui ont été récemment élus et au Secrétariat pour la documentation qu'il nous a fournie, .

Je ne parlerai pas des documents qui nous ont été présentés car la délégation approuve dans leur intégralité les objectifs à moyen terme et les priorités de programmes pour le prochain exercice biennal. Toutefois, je voudrais souligner que ce programme fait suite à un programme qui n'a pas été réalisé faute de ressources financières suffisantes. Concrètement cela veut dire, comme l'a souligné dans son introduction le Directeur général, que plus de 170 postes n'ont pas été pourvus, que plus d'une cinquantaine de réunions ont été annulées, qu'une centaine de publications n'ont pas été produites. Les causes de cette situation sont connues, je ne les citerai pas. Ma délégation se demande alors s'il ne faudrait pas se pencher sur le dilemme qui consiste d'un côté à aider l'Organisation à exécuter les programmes déjà approuvés et de l'autre côté à augmenter le volume de ses activités par l'adoption d'un programme en augmentation.

Comme nous aurons l'occasion de renouveler notre appui à ce Programme de travail et budget lors de la Conférence, je voudrais à ce stade, dire que ma délégation se rallie à l'opinion qui recommande l'adoption du Programme et budget 1988-89 par la Conférence et par consensus.

Pour terminer, ma délégation voudrait féliciter le groupe des experts qui a procédé aux évaluations externes de trois programmes d'action spéciaux de la FAO pour l'analyse objective et riche en informations qui y est faite.

A.K.M. Fazley RABBI (Bangladesh): We know that FAO has been going through financial difficulties, and we also are aware of the reasons for such a situation. In that context, we believe that the Director-General had no other alternative but to propose a Programme of Work and Budget of almost zero level growth. Although we would prefer increased activities and allocations, particularly for TCP, we express our full support for the proposal of the Director-General as contained in the document.

In this connection, we should like to express appreciation for the efforts made in the Programme and Finance Committees for the general consensus in respect of the Programme and Budget level. We hope that we in this Council would also be able to recommend the proposal to the Conference through general agreement. In the context of the basic objectives of FAO and FAO's Programme of Work and Budget, let the good will and wishes of the developed countries and the poverty and need for assistance of developing countries be the basis for our consensus in this session.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous avons eu dix-sept interventions sur ce sujet très important de notre ordre du jour, le Programme de travail et budget; il nous reste inscrits douze orateurs. Je voudrais demander au Conseil si d'autres délégués veulent participer au débat de manière à ce que nous puissions clore la liste. Que ceux qui veulent participer au débat veuillent bien se faire connaître. Le Cameroun et la Tanzanie, cela nous ferait donc quatorze interventions.

Je vais lire si vous le permettez la liste des gens inscrits: Turquie, Brésil, Trinité-et-Tobago, Afghanistan, France, Algérie, Yougoslavie, Canada, Mexique, Cuba, Australie, Egypte. Il y aurait ensuite: Cameroun, Tanzanie, Niger, Gabon. Avec votre permission nous clôturons donc la liste des orateurs pour nous permettre d'avancer.

Je voudrais également dire aux membres du Conseil qu'il nous reste un programme très chargé. Il reste le point 8, Examen du Programme ordinaire 1986-87; le point 9, Examen des programmes de terrain; le point 10, deuxième rapport sur les réunions hors programme, et le point 11, qui est très important. Notre souhait est de pouvoir terminer aujourd'hui l'examen de ces points jusqu'au point 11 inclus et de laisser pour demain matin l'examen des points 12 et 13. Cela implique que nous ayons ce soir une séance prolongée, c'est-à-dire que nous restions jusqu'à 20 h 30 de manière à pouvoir achever l'examen des points 8, 9, 10 et 11.

Nous demandons donc à MM. les délégués de bien vouloir prendre cette proposition en considération afin de nous organiser pour travailler cet après-midi. Cela étant, le Secrétaire général a une communication à faire sur la proposition du Comité de rédaction.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Voici les noms qui nous ont été soumis pour la composition du Comité de rédaction: Brésil, Chine, Danemark, Egypte, Etats-Unis d'Amérique, France, Liban, Nicaragua, Niger, Suisse, Thaïlande, Turquie, Zambie.

Si cette liste est acceptée par le Conseil, le Comité de rédaction pourra ainsi être constitué avec treize membres. Il est prévu qu'il tienne sa première réunion aussitôt après la fin des travaux du Conseil plénier, cet après-midi. Il se réunirait dans la salle du Mexique et son premier travail serait d'élire son président.

LE PRESIDENT: Je voudrais également dire qu'il nous reste deux points importants. Je souhaiterais, comme je l'ai dit en début de séance, que les contacts se poursuivent pour l'élection du Comité des candidatures, qui est constitué de onze membres, et pour la nomination des présidents des trois Commissions: I, II et III.

Ma proposition, c'est que nous puissions également régler ce soir ces deux questions, qui figureraient au point 3 de notre ordre du jour.

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 92/PV/4

Ninety-second Session

Quatre-vingt-douzième session

92º período de sesiones

FOURTH PLENARY MEETING QUATRIEME SEANCE PLENIERE CUARTA SESION PLENARIA

(4 November 1987)

The Fourth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours

Lassaad Ben Osman, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La quatrième seance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 45, sous la présidence
de Lassaad Ben Osman, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la cuarta sesión plenaria a las 14.45 horas bajo la presidencia
de Lassaad Ben Osman, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

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

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

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

7. Programme of Work and Budget 1988-89 and Medium-Term Objectives: (continued)

7. Programme de travail et budget 1988-89 et objectifs à moyen terme: (suite)

7. Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1988-89 y objetivos a plazo medio: (continuación)

TemelISKIT (Turkey): I have the dubious honour of being the first speaker after lunch, so I hope that my speech will be heard by the majority of the Council. Given the time constraints, I will try to be as brief as possible, but I cannot fail to thank Mr Shah and the Chairmen of the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee for their brilliant presentations this morning.

The revised Programme of Work and Budget which is before us is, we think, somehow our own -- I mean the member countries' Programme of Work and Budget -- because it is the result and the reflection of a very long and intense process of preparation. Starting with sub-committees and regional conferences, it underwent a very intense process to the main committees of the Council. At the Council we had very detailed discussions on the Summary Programme last June. Then it went through intense discussions in the Programme Committee and in the Finance Committee, as we have heard today. So our delegation's approach is that since we have had the time and opportunity to contribute to this process we cannot but approve the priorities and the content of the Programme of Work and Budget.

Of course, there is the financial side in these proposals, and we have had the opportunity to pronounce on that side too, but we are happy to note that at the last moment efforts have again been made concerning the budget level, and the impossible was realized by again reducing the level of the budget to -- use the words -- negligible level. We welcome this last moment development too.

As far as the overall approach of the Programme of Work and Budget itself is concerned, we have already commented on it on the basis of the Summary Programme. We approve the approach to maximize resources for technical and economic programmes.

We welcome the revising of programme priorities, and we again observe with satisfaction that these priorities were again refined at the last moment, including the priorities which Turkey supports. We approve of the cost-pruning effort, and of the trimming of cost increase. Of course, during the discussion at the Conference, we will have an opportunity to comment on the details of the Programme itself.

Having said this, I would like to make some comments -- perhaps prompted by the comments pronounced by certain delegations this morning. These concern the relation of the financial difficulties of the Organization with the preparation of the Programme of Work and Budget, and how it will be possible, in view of the looming danger of the continuation of the difficulties, to prepare a Budget on the basis that these difficulties do not exist. I would like to express our general approach to the question. We do not think that it is possible for a manager to prepare a budget based only on the hypothesis that the resources which are expected for this organization or company will not be forthcoming. It is just not possible -- especially when we bear in mind that FAO is not a company, and its only resources are the commitment of the member countries. This approach is not suitable because -- as was said by, I think, the delegation of India -- firstly, it will not be constitutional -- it will involve a shifting of burden-shared among member countries. We do not therefore really see the possibility of taking this hypothesis as a base.

But, of course, we would say that we should be realistic: this may not be forthcoming, so why not take this into consideration, and why not prepare a core budget? I am coming to this proposal. It was put under titles of "core budget", "emergency budget", or "contingency budget". In a realistic world it is perhaps possible to consider these proposals: but we still think if we continue along the way of these proposals that it will involve a reopening of the process which we started at the beginning and which continued for more than a year. It will involve further discussion of priorities: -- and when we say "priorities" that means the priorities -- the common denominator of

countries. If we reopen this debate, and if we try to, let us say, separate some priorities as having more weight than others, then I am afraid that we will need another two years to repeat the process.

This is a practical consideration but there are also other considerations, namely: suppose that we separate some part of the Budget and start spending money according to that part of the Budget. We know that FAO does not function on a monthly basis: there are immediate term projects and long-term projects, and if we try to manage these projects and programmes on the basis of what will come at the end of the month (like a salary), I do not think that FAO's activities will continue in the way that they have in the past. The efficiency of the Organization will be eroded to a large extent.

I can of course continue this argument, but I know that we are under a time constraint. We reserve our comments on this specific question -- which is vital -- to the relevant Commission of the Conference.

Before concluding, I would like to say a few words about the Technical Assistance Programme. Many delegations have referred to this important programme, and I would like to reiterate Turkey's position: that we attach very great importance to this programme and its continuation, under criteria under which it presently operates.

We were pleased to hear this morning that the United Kingdom very much supports this programme; but we were, I'm afraid, hesitant to agree with them when they said that at least ninety percent of this programme should be pre-planned. Given the nature of this programme, which was created to address short-term immediate needs and unplanned needs of developing countries, we find it very difficult to follow this idea of pre-planning everything. Turkey is one of the countries which has benefitted from this programme in the past, and this benefit was based on the fact that it met our immediate needs which arose at a given point in time. Therefore, we do not think that it can be pre-planned -- but again thank the United Kingdom delegation for their support of the Technical Assistance Programme.

In the interests of saving time, I shall not continue my intervention -- and I conclude by thanking you, Mr Chairman.

João Augusto de MEDICIS (Brazil): My delegation would like to recall the Ninety-first Session of this Council when we expressed our congratulations for the improvements the Secretariat presented in the Summary of Work and Budget. We do welcome the additional information provided on proposed shifts of resources and programme changes as well as on the planned distribution of resources among developing regions.

The Brazilian delegation does regret the constraints faced by the Organization during the current biennium which led to drastic reductions in the services rendered by the institution. In the same line, Mr Chairman, we do regret the perspectives of further reductions due to the uncertainties vis-a-vis the fulfillment of constitutional obligations by the largest contributor. This voluntary and negative attitude should in no way be confounded with the difficulties faced by developing countries, imposed by the burden of their external debt and the deterioration of the export prices of their production. We must, therefore, reiterate our position, as stated during the previous session of this Council, rejecting any attempt to propose alternative budget or contingency plans, solutions which we consider to be absolutely inadequate to deal with the forecast difficulties of FAO.

As to the 0.257% increase which is submitted to us, Mr Chairman, we do recognize it to be rather symbolic. However, it is the feeling of my delegation that whereas it will represent a reduction in real terms of contribution for a great number of developed nations, having in mind the appreciation of their currencies in regard to the US dollar as has been pointed out by Dr Shah in his presentation. This increase shall otherwise be an additional burden for developing nations, with adverse consequences on their economies. My delegation would therefore endorse the proposal made by the Delegation of Argentina that this increase be shared by those most-favoured Countries.

For these reasons, Mr Chairman, we are not in a position to express our definitive view on the Programme of Work and Budget during this meeting and reserve our position to the next Twenty-fourth Session of the Conference.

We would not like to have the above position lead to the impression that we do not favour the proposed Programme of Work, and we wish to state that, from our point of view, it presents sound and valuable proposals. We particularly want to mention the importance for developing countries of the TCP that must continue to receive our total support.

Brazil fully believes in the cause of multilateralism, but we wish to register in the records that in our opinion the sharing of the financial burden of international organizations in general is not being undertaken in a fair and adequate manner by developed countries and by developing countries according to their possibilities.

EP. ALLEYNE (Trinidad and Tobago): The delegation of Trinidad and Tobago also wishes to indicate its appreciation of Mr Shah's delivery, made in his now well recognized and anticipated style, and of course, the contributions of the Chairmen of the Finance and Programme Committees. May I say at the outset that our comments relate to items 7, 8 and 9.

The delegation of Trinidad and Tobago places considerable importance on what emerged from this meeting of the Council and its debate on the Programme of Work and Budget for 1988/89. To some extent, we are even tempted to feel that the relevant discussions of this Council - and of course the Conference - may have a profound and possible long-lasting effect on the future of this Organization. Our delegation recognizes and understands the particular circumstances which determine the general atmosphere in which budgetary matters related to the major United Nations organizations are being formulated. However, we consider it the obligation of our delegation and of each Member nation as a whole to remember that the true and real concerns of FAO are not matters which can be deferred, and if we need to be reminded, we need only read the Preamble and the Constitution of the FAO which is printed on the cover of the Programme of Work and Budget and even the Review.

The provision of food for mankind, the funding and implementation of programmes and budgets, projects which affect the very survival of millions of poor and destitute people of the world should not - and ought not from a humanitarian point of view - be subjected to political gymnastics on the basis of comparative global and financial power.

Many of us will remember the debates of the June Council meeting, but I would venture to say that social analysts and developmental economists of the next generation will find it interesting reading. In the passage of time - a few months - there is a ray of hope in that payment of political core contributions, had, we are told, improved.

Finally, I return to the imagery which I used in June: it is not that we can now say that the sword of Democles no longer hovers over our heads but rather that there is some hope on the horizon. But let us be positive, in that the trend of increased payments is a positive one which must be welcomed.

Our delegation considers that the Director-General and his staff have responded in depth to all the appeals for restraint, considering the real programme increase of US \$ 1.1 million, or 0.25 per cent over the re-costed Budget.

We must ask ourselves, can we and, in fact, must we, ask for more. Let me quote the Director of the Office of Programme Budget and Evaluation, Dr Shah, who said this morning that it is the lowest net increase ever requested by FAO. We think it is unfair and unrealistic to accuse Dr Shah and his staff of not taking into consideration the real and current financial situation of FAO at this time. Budgeting inevitably implies some risks and this applies to every country, every organization and every individual. In some respects there is no doubt that FAO staff ought to be complimented on their financial wizardry for keeping us afloat even in the ocean of uncertainty which has constantly shadowed our budgetary efforts. Our delegation endorses the Programme priorities indicated as summarized at page 2 of the Introduction to the Programme of Work and Budget. No one ought to have any difficulty with budget construction which makes judicious cuts at administrative expenditures and focuses attention and resources on technical and economic programmes. Our delegation, as before, supports the United Kingdom in its concern that the very useful and effective TCP programmes must be maintained and protected. At the same time we also say that any request for a higher level of pre-planning is a 'no go'. In this Council developing countries have consistently said that they appreciate and want the TCP programme on a continuous basis and I think it is not unreasonable to request that there be some recognition that they have the capability of determining what is good for them.

The Chairman of the Programme Committee reminded us this morning that we cannot continue - and I quote him - these constant incisive reductions of resources to critical programmes. We must be concerned, for example, with the reduction of plant production and animal production programmes. We note the level of staff cutting but the various documents also tell us of deficiencies in expert technical backstopping in the field. We take note, and perhaps I am stepping over into the next item when we observe that at pages 6 and 39 it is now globally recognized that women are significant activists in the production and preservation of food. Their importance in the impact of nutrition programmes is also recognized. Therefore there is a logical and urgent need to focus resources on women. This is not an emotional matter. There is a reason why they are referred to as the forgotten farmers. Yet there are no real increases for resources in this direction. Our delegation, as we have done elsewhere, wishes to emphasize that failure deliberately to design and maintain programmes relevant to environmental protection may lead to undesirable results which even this generation may live to regret.

We have been told that the set-back experienced by FAO as a result of the financial situation is such as has never been experienced before. However, perhaps of even greater significance is the real fact that the negative effects will reach far into future biennia.

I have one final point. Some time last year in a publication from a very prestigious research organization in the United States it was suggested that the mounting surpluses of food in some countries may lead to policy decisions by those countries such as would lead to a lowering of support for programmes in increasing food production in developing countries. Our delegation considers such conceptual projections unacceptable. We trust that this Organization, FAO, will never witness the impact of any action by any member nation such as would suggest a reality to this line of thought.

Finally, our delegation hopes that the total response by the Director General will provide a platform for consensus on the budget, and that whatever action member nations propose and ultimately decide upon in the context of in-depth study or restructuring if proved necessary for the future, we ensure, as the distinguished representative of Switzerland said, the strengthening of this Organization for future years.

Ghulam Mohammed BAHRAM (Afghanistan): We appreciate the information presented by Dr Shah and the further comments given by the two Chairmen, namely of the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee; the Programme of Work and Budget. The priorities are supported by my delegation.

However, the Afghan delegation is of the opinion that sound mobilization of natural resources of the developing countries should accelerate food production and equal distribution to meet the increasing requirements of the populations in the developing countries. However, due to financial, managerial and other various problems in such countries, the mobilization and utilization of natural resources certainly demand international and regional technical and financial cooperation for meeting their real needs, particularly of the poorest segments of the population.

The Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, with its vast agricultural resources and potentialities, is one of the developing countries which needs financial and technical help in sufficient quantity and duration in the form of some multi-purpose projects and TCP programmes which have been proved very useful in agricultural growth and development.

Bernard LEDUN (France): L'intervention de notre délégation sera relativement brève, car le Programme de travail et budget va faire, comme vous le savez, l'objet de longs développements lors de la Conférence.

Avant toute chose, nous souhaitons exprimer nos sincères remerciements au Comité du Programme et au Comité financier pour leurs travaux ainsi qu'à leurs Présidents respectifs, M. le Professeur Mazoyer et M. Bukhari, pour le compte rendu qu'ils nous ont fait. Nous appuyons, pour ce qui nous concerne, les travaux de ces deux comités qui, dans la période difficile que connaît actuellement la FAO, jouent un rôle utile qu'il conviendrait de renforcer. A ce sujet, nous serons amenés à faire des propositions concrètes à la Conférence, qui iront dans le sens d'un renforcement du rôle du Comité du Programme que nous souhaiterions voir assisté d'un groupe d'experts indépendants, désignés en fonction de leurs compétences techniques par un organe directeur approprié, comme le Conseil par exemple.

Sans anticiper donc sur les débats de la Conférence, certaines parties du rapport du Comité du Programme apparaissent mériter un appui particulier. Premièrement le Programme ordinaire. Nous approuvons l'effort fait pour améliorer le contenu de ce Programme ainsi qu'il est défini au paragraphe 2.3 du document CL 92/14. Nous reconnaissons l'impact négatif des mesures d'ajustement qui (je cite le paragraphe 2.7) "ont ébranlé les bases d'une saine programmation".

Pareillement, nous reconnaissons la nécessité de renforcer les liens entre la recherche et la vulgarisation, ainsi qu'il est exprimé au paragraphe 2.18, et nous reconnaissons l'intérêt de définir clairement les objectifs des réunions d'experts, ainsi qu'il est dit au paragraphe 2.25.

Deuxièmement, sur les programmes de terrain, nous appuyons le paragraphe 2.49, qui souligne les liens entre Programme ordinaire et Programme de terrain ainsi que le rôle à renforcer du Programme ordinaire en tant que cadre conceptuel et méthodologique pour la conception et l'exécution des programmes de terrain.

Troisièmement, sur le Programme de travail et budget nous appuyons le paragraphe 2, 63 dans lequel le Comité du programme souligne - et je cite - que les programmes ne peuvent pas faire indéfiniment l'objet de "vagues" successives d'ajustements et déclare que l'on devrait recourir à des mesures financières plutôt qu'à des ajustements de programme pour remédier aux difficultés financières.

Nous nous réservons, bien entendu, d'intervenir plus longuement et de façon plus élaborée sur tous ces points au moment de la Conférence et nous y ferons des propositions précises dont nous préférons garder la primeur pour la Conférence.

Avant de conclure, notre délégation tient à indiquer qu'elle regrette les propositions émanant de certains pays visant à réduire l'activité du PCT. Tout en reconnaissant le besoin d'une sélection rigoureuse imposée par la nécessité d'ajuster les dépenses aux ressources, nous estimons, pour notre part, que le PCT constitue néanmoins l'un des axes essentiels d'action de la FAO en raison des services qu'il rend aux pays en voie de développement au niveau de l'établissement de leur programme de développement agricole.

On ne doit pas réduire la FAO à un rôle de simple banque de données à moins de trahir sa vocation originelle et d'ignorer les besoins fondamentaux des pays du tiers monde. Mais sur ce point aussi, nous reviendrons plus longuement lors de la Conférence.

La France, à plusieurs occasions, a souligné la nécessité pour la FAO de concentrer ses activités sur, d'une part, les domaines définis par son mandat en dépassant les questions polémiques comme, par exemple, le protectionnisme, ou traités dans d'autres instances directement compétentes comme, par exemple, le "Uruguay Round" sur les négociations commerciales et, d'autre part, certains besoins prioritaires comme, par exemple, la vocation à satisfaire la contre-expertise auprès des pays qui sont confrontés à des politiques d'ajustements vis-à-vis des institutions financières internationales et, autre besoin prioritaire, l'assistance aux pays en développement dans le domaine des politiques agricoles.

Tout en nous montrant conscients des difficultés rencontrées pour concilier la diversité des besoins avec des priorités reconnues par tous les Etats Membres, nous voudrions faire observer qu'il s'agit là d'une question que les Comités du Programme et des finances devraient être en mesure d'examiner de façon approfondie avec le Groupe d'experts que nous avons brièvement évoqué, groupe d'experts qui, en raison de sa compétence technique, devrait être bien placé pour proposer les priorités aux organes directeurs et au Secrétariat.

Enfin, nous voudrions faire observer que si le Programme de terrain et le Programme de coopération technique de la FAO ont, par nature, vocation à répondre à des besoins précis des Etats Membres, le Programme ordinaire devrait, de son côté, se concentrer davantage sur un nombre limité de domaines prioritaires qui pourraient être définis par la Conférence.

La FAO, comme toutes les organisations internationales, se doit d'exercer un contrôle rigoureux sur ses dépenses, donc de sélectionner parmi ses activités celles qui correspondent le mieux à ses objectifs et aux besoins des pays en développement. Nous ne pouvons, pour notre part, que déplorer l'impact du défaut de versement de sa contribution par le premier contributeur de l'Organisation, qui coïncide de sa part avec une critique d'un budget pourtant majoré de 0, 25 pour cent seulement. Faut-il rappeler ici que, si le même pays honorait ses engagements financiers, nous serions sans doute moins tentés de voir une simple relation de cause à effet entre le non versement de sa contribution et son appel à l'austérité?

Mourad BENCHEICH (Algerie): Je voudrais, en exergue à ce que je vais dire, indiquer que la délégation algérienne entend naturellement revenir point par point au Programme de travail et budget à l'occasion des travaux de la Conférence et qu'elle se contente à présent de faire simplement quelques premières réflexions qui lui paraissent indispensables pour clarifier le débat.

La délégation algérienne considère que, contrairement à ce qui a été dit, un effort très sérieux de réflexion a été entrepris tant au niveau du Conseil que des Comités concernés pour arriver à une adéquation entre la nécessité de continuer à travailler avec efficacité et l'austérité financière à laquelle certains Etats Membres se voient obligés de faire face par nécessité mais à laquelle d'autres Etats Membres font recours pour des raisons qui ne sont pas trop claires.

Je dirai, en ce qui concerne le Programme de travail, que la délégation algérienne l'approuve dans ses grandes lignes et notamment dans certaines de ses actions qui correspondent aux priorités de l'agriculture algérienne: l'utilisation de techniques de pointe au service du développement agri-cole, la lutte contre la désertification, la lutte contre les ravageurs dont, hélas, nous avons eu quelques essais en Algérie tout récemment. Tout cela entre en droite ligne dans nos priorités et nous ne saurions qu'approuver, par conséquent, ce qui a été dit et ce qui est écrit dans le Programme de travail.

S'agissant du budget proprement dit, je crois - c'est ma conviction intime, après avoir entendu un certain nombre de délégations - qu'à l'heure actuelle, on fait un mauvais procès à la FAO. On ne peut pas à la fois ne pas payer ses contributions et dire que, pour un million de dollars, nous devons faire des prouesses d'austérité. Je crois qu'à la réflexion et à la lumière de ce que nous avons entendu ce matin et cet après-midi, le délégué algérien a le devoir de signaler ici, au Conseil, que ce mauvais procès que l'on est en train de faire à la FAO à travers le budget recouvre d'autres préoccupations. Quand j'entends un délégué dire, par je ne sais quel mystérieux calcul, que le budget a augmenté de 19 pour cent, alors qu'il n'a même pas tenu compte de l'inflation ni de l'érosion monétaire, je me demande sur quelle logique économique on s'appuie pour démontrer l'augmentation induite ou exagérée du budget.

Le Programme de coopération technique qui, comme l'a dit le délégué de l'Italie, est le fleuron de la FAO, n'a pas été épargné dans cette attaque de flanc ou frontale.

J'en arrive à une autre considération qui, celle-ci, m'inquiète considérablement. Lorsque certains délégués parlent de l'établissement du budget cas par cas en fonction des ressources disponibles, il s'agit d'une remise en cause intégrale de tout ce sur quoi la FAO s'est fondée jusqu'à présent. Le délégué algérien que je suis considère que les jeux sont désormais clairs. Le débat se pose en ces termes: voulons-nous, oui ou non, sauvegarder la FAO? Et si nous voulons sauvegarder la FAO, il faut y mettre les moyens et il faut que tout un chacun y mette du sien, faute de quoi nous allons nous engager sur la voie de l'affrontement qui ne conduira à rien d'autre qu'à une plus grande misère et à de plus grandes difficultés dans le monde.

Milutin TAPAVICKI (Yugoslavia): Mr Chairman, the Yugoslav delegation would like to give a few comments on the Programme of Work and Budget for 1988/89. We share the unanimous appreciation expressed by the Joint Session of the Programme and Finance Committee for the Director-General's further efforts to generate a platform for consensus among Member Nations. In this direction, he suggested a reduction of the net programme increase to a mere 0.25 percent and a reduction in the total number of established posts by 25. Our delegation appreciates the reasons which motivated the Director-General to propose a symbolic real term increase. The Yugoslav delegation shares the view and considers that the Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium is balanced and reasonable, taking into account the constraints faced by Member Nations. It provides a well reasoned and realistic response to often conflicting expectations of individual countries. In this regard we welcome the fact that the full Programme of Work and Budget provided considerably expanded information on the priorities and programme proposals.

In connection with the suggestion by some delegations of having special emergency planning, our delegation fully supports the stand taken and explanations given by the delegation of India. In any case, the idea has already been rejected by the Programme and Finance Committees as well as by the Council.

Taking into account expressed views and conclusions by the Programme and Finance Committees, the Yugoslav delegation has no difficulties in giving full support to the recommendation that the Council endorse the proposed Programme of Work and Budget for 1988/89 with the hope for its approval by consensus by the 24th Session of our Conference. At this stage we will not go into detail with regard to individual programmes and sub-programmes because we will have an opportunity to do this at the forthcoming Conference.

George H. MUSGROVE (Canada): We, too, would like to acknowledge and thank Mr Shah for his presentation on this item and Mr Mazoyer, as Chairman of the Programme Committee, and Mr Bukhari, of the Finance Committee, for their exposition of deliberations in those committees with respect to the Programme of Work and Budget. We recognize that we have in the Council a very compressed schedule and that discussion of this item must of necessity be rather brief, and as we have made very extensive remarks in earlier meetings at the Committee on Agriculture and at the June Council and will be addressing the matter in considerable detail in Conference in Commission II, we shall confine our remarks to a very brief collection of observations.

In spite of the fact that there is opportunity in Council, in the committees and at the Conference to discuss the Programme of Work and Budget, our country is not satisfied that it has sufficient access to the appropriate forum to talk in detail on the formation process which leads up to the Programme of Work and Budget or on its financial provisions. We say this particularly because we are not a member of the Finance Committee nor is our representative of North America a member of that Committee, either.

Our problems with the budget are a number of concerns. First is the concern at priority setting and the subsequent build up of programmes to address such priorities as are identified. We should like to preface that discussion with an acknowledgement of the improvements that have been made in this year's Programme of Work and Budget. Indeed, those improvements started with the Summary Programme of Work and Budget and its presentation. There were references to priorities; there were considerably improved explanations of how the budget was formed and how the priorities were sought. We liked the explanations given in the Programme and sub-Programme elements that tend to sharpen the understanding of how these programmes address priorities. We feel that these improvements are a start and indeed reflect some of the comments that have been made in past meetings, not only on the present Programme of Work and Budget proposal but on the one that we discussed two years ago. We feel there is very much room for improvement in this particular area, and it would be something that we would be seeking in more detail, perhaps, in the context of review and reform of the budgetary system.

The second concern that we have relates to the word "transparency". I hesitated to use it because it has drawn considerable provocative riposte when used. We still think there is considerable room for clarification of expenditures as they apply to specific or discrete activities.

The third concern is one relating to the financial situation. We, like others, would draw attention to the convergence of a number of unfortunate circumstances having to do with the interest rates, with the currency exchange rate, and with the failure to realize the assessed contributions that might have been anticipated. We hasten to regret, of course, that there are such delayed contributions and would urge those countries in arrears to come forward with their payment as soon as possible. However, I do not think that we can ignore the financial concerns arising from operations in the present biennium which will impact very largely on the budget in the next biennium. We feel that the proposal has not adequately addressed these and, though we have been told that discussions have been held in the Finance Committee on possible alternatives, we are concerned that an effective contingency has not been put forward. Our concern is at the level of the budget. Here again we appreciate the efforts which have been made to keep the proposal modest in its financial provisions and indeed the Director-General has gone through some reduction in this proposal from his summary suggestion earlier on.

Nevertheless, we are cognizant that one, two or three of the other sister UN agencies have put forward proposals containing an element of negative real growth. That is cost increases have been absorbed in part within the budgets proposed. We do not want to see a reduction in the Organization's activities; we feel however that there is room to pull in a bit and try to get somewhat more effective delivery out of a somewhat less resource.

Our country is one of those who have suffered with the currency exchange situation rather dramatically. Our contribution will, on the projection of things, rise very, very substantively in 1988, perhaps as much as 20 percent. We are aware of other countries whose increase in payment in terms of local currencies will be very much more than that. In and of itself, for our country it is not a serious situation, we cannot expect sympathy with the ability to pay, but we can say that within the context of limited budgets to pay assessed contributions to the many, many agencies across the board, we are rapidly running into an inability to meet all these.

If I could just revisit a little the item on transparency, I would like to note the observations made by the Chairman of the Finance Committee, or the Programme Committee, Mr Mazoyer, this morning that his Committee had sought some increase in clarity in the presentation of the Programme and was pleased to have received it in the Programme as it came down to them in their Committee.

I would very much like, to commend him for that clarity which he sought and the clarity he recognized as being received because we had been concerned, a year and a half ago, that reports from the Programme Committee indicated such clarity, such transparency, was already fully evident within the Organization and no improvements were needed.

Without going into detail, because there is no time for it here, we would nevertheless like to flag just a number of issues within the programme. One would be to support the observations made by our colleague from Trinidad and Tobago that there does not seem to be an increase in emphasis in terms of resource put on the role of women in development. The forgotten farmers, while treated in the prose, may not have been treated with increased resource and activity. We also feel in totality that perhaps the very valid concerns with respect to the environment - and I am thinking here of the recent report of the Brundtland Commission - which have been addressed at most of the principal FAO management meetings over the last several years may not have been given adequate treatment in terms of resource applied. We think particularly that may apply to the fisheries programme and to the forestry areas. We have advocated over the last several years increased emphasis on the policy advice that the Organization may be able to give and despatch to member countries, particularly those who are going through a substantive period of adjustment. We feel that additional attention could be given to that. Finally, our colleagues the delegation from the United States, drew attention to the proposals for country representatives, an increase of four. We, like that delegation, cannot support the proposal at this time, particularly at the stage when the United Nations is again looking at field representation and possible cooperation in that area. The North American Regional Liaison Office has come in for a very substantive cut and we find that somewhat erratic in so far as the budget for the present biennium had proposed and indeed included a rather substantive increase for that office. Such on-again growth and off-again cuts seem to me a little erratic. However, as was mentioned earlier, if there is to be a substantive cut in the Washington liaison office, perhaps other regional offices and country representatives could also suffer some economies as well.

In closing, we would like to commend the quality of presentations put forward by a good many delegates today, and most particularly our attention was drawn to that put forward by the United Kingdom, Switzerland and Denmark for the Nordic countries. Many of the concerns which they have outlined and indeed the concerns which we have outlined we feel can be addressed in a review and reform exercise. We note that that will be a subject for discussion at the Conference and we can speak in more detail at that time. As it is, our country cannot support the budget, for the reasons of the concerns that we have put forward and we shall continue our dialogue on this item in Commission II of the Conference.

José Ramón LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (Mexico): La Delegación de Mexico le felicita a usted por la forma excelente con que viene dirigiendo nuestros trabajos. Agradecemos asimismo a la Secretaría, a los Presidentes y Miembros del Comité del Programa y de Finanzas por el excelente trabajo que han venido realizando. Ellos son los artífices de complicados ejercicios de valoración técnica en la atención a las propuestas expresadas por nuestras delegaciones en los órganos rectores y subsidiarios y lo más ambicioso en la compatibilización entre necesidades mayores y disponibilidades de recursos menores. Todo esto sin embargo, Señor Presidente, lo subrayo, agravado por manejos poco correctos de ciertas Delegaciones que hoy se arrojan el derecho de exigir más transparencia y ajustes pero que aportan o amenazan con otorgar sus pequeños recursos.

Nuestra felicitación especial al Director General por la presentación equilibrada y conciliadora del documento principal. Dicho documento y las conclusiones del Comité del Programa buscan zanjar las diferencias entre aquellos que, insistimos, es un programa más poderoso para atender el creciente deterioro de la seguridad alimentaria mundial, y de las necesidades de asistencia multilateral para el desarrollo, y aquellos que inflexiblemente preconizan el crecimiento cero. De hecho, en términos reales, estas últimas Delegaciones han logrado más que el crecimiento cero. Conforme a otras estimaciones, resulta evidente una reducción real en el presupuesto para 1988-89.

La situación de muchos países en desarrollo, cuya crisis se perpetúa, agrava nuestra incapacidad económica para salir al encuentro del presupuesto con más recursos.

Es inequitativo que países como México debamos cargar el peso de los ajustes monetarios del dólar y de otras circunstancias. Por ello nos reservamos hasta la Conferencia nuestra posición respecto al nivel presupuestario propuesto. Al reiterar lo dicho en otras ocasiones, coincidimos con Argentina en que deberíamos estudiar otras alternativas en la distribución de las cargas.

Hemos examinado a fondo la documentación proporcionada por la Secretaría que cada vez perfecciona la extensión y la calidad de la presentación y del análisis. Esperamos que este renovado esfuerzo llegue a satisfacer las existentes demandas y críticas de ciertas Delegaciones que insatisfechas más allá de lo justificable siempre piden algo más. Ello sin considerar los costos y el tiempo que todo eso implica y sin reconocer que el nivel de presentación y el formato son ya suficientemente explícitos y, portanto, apropiados para la gran mayoría de los miembros de la Organización.

Nuestra Delegación reconfirma su apoyo a las prioridades del Programa propuesto tal y como lo expresamos en el 91 Período de Sesiones del Consejo cuando se presentó en su forma resumida. El Programa refleja el consenso o la posición mayoritaria que los propios Estados Miembros hemos alcanzado en los diversos foros, Nuestra Delegación constata así su apoyo a las prioridades de tal Programa y reiteramos dos cuestiones específicas, y una de carácter general, a la que debe darse mayor atención y fortalecerse.

Mencionamos en específico el Subprograma de Recursos Fitogenéticos y también la necesidad de continuar estudios más profundos y de caso sobre el papel y la influencia de las empresas transnacionales en el sector agrícola y alimentario; y en términos generales, y por ser una cuestión de gran importancia para la mayor parte de los países, el fortalecimiento del PCT que ha probado ser apropiado y efectivo para responder a nuestras necesidades.

Nos complace notar el comentario hecho por el Comité del Programa en su sesión de septiembre, que a la luz de las narrativas que aparecen en la versión final que hoy estamos analizando, ha reiterado el énfasis en la asistencia a los grupos más desfavorecidos de las áreas rurales y a la conservación y mejor aprovechamiento de los recursos naturales.

Nos sumamos también al Comité en afirmar que los problemas de liquidez sin precedente han afectado muy gravemente la ejecución del Programa bienal y la capacidad de la Secretaría para responder eficazmente. El posible futuro empobrecimiento de la competencia técnica de la FAO, resultante de la continuada limitación de los medios operacionales del personal y de las así llamadas oleadas sucesivas de ajustes en el Programa, afectarían peligrosamente su actividad y el éxito del programa regular. Por ello, Señor Presidente, debemos reconocer que la prioridad número uno de todos los Estados Miembros de nuestra Organización consiste en exhortar al mayor contribuyente, así como a todos aquellos que están en mora, a que paguen a la brevedad. Debe quedar muy claro que el punto de partida de las dudas y las objeciones de carácter financiero de algunas delegaciones en contra del Programa y del Presupuesto, radican precisamente en los retrasos en el pago del mayor contribuyente y de los efectos monetarios de la crisis económica de tal país.

Esos son abrumadoramente los principales problemas que enfrenta la FAO, y no la existencia de ineficiencia o ineficacia en la preparación y ejecución de sus programas. Basarnos en previsiones pesimistas u optimistas a priori, nos parece simplista, irresponsable e inaceptable. El Comité del Programa y de Finanzas han hecho, por tanto, un trabajo responsable, profundo y congruente con las circunstancias y con los pronósticos más serios a la vista; Aplaudimos y enarbolamos como ejemplo para el mundo la actitud altruista del Gobierno italiano que quisiéramos ver emulada por muchos otros.

Finalmente, nuestra Delegación desea reconocer el esfuerzo de conciliación que representa el programa propuesto en el Documento 87/3, los análisis del Comité del Programa en su sesión de septiembre, contenido en el Documento CL 92/4. Nos reservamos la ocasión de comentarlos en detalle durante la Conferencia, en la Comisión II.

Leopoldo ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Deseamos felicitar sinceramente al Señor Shah por la presentación clara y precisa a la cual ya nos tiene acostumbrados. Queremos felicitar también al Señor Mazqyer y al Señor Bukhari al informarnos a nombre del Comité del Programa y de Finanzas, respectivamente. La Delegación de Cuba quiere hacer su reconocimiento al trabajo realizado por los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas.

Consideramos que, teniendo en cuenta la situación financiera por la que atraviesa la Organización, la labor de ambos Comités es aún más digna de elogio.

Nuestra intervención tenía una intención muy breve y sencilla, que era expresar nuestra aprobación a la documentación presentada y solicitar el consenso para que pasara a la discusión de la Conferencia.

Creemos que el Programa de Labores que se presenta, a nuestro modo de ver es un programa equilibrado que es lo mejor que pueda presentarse, con un presupuesto prácticamente similar al del bienio anterior. Quiero advertir que las necesidades del bienio anterior con relación a este bienio se han casi cuadruplicado, y no por culpa de la FAO, no es la FAO la que crea las necesidades de los países en desarrollo; si bien consideramos que se han debido limitar las labores de la Organización, estamos conscientes también de la limitación financiera de todos los países y, por consiguiente, entendemos las restricciones que han debido hacerse para presentar un presupuesto en el que se han tenido en cuenta los criterios de todas las partes.

Mi delegación ante tal situación considera que este Programa de Labores y Presupuesto es lo mínimo que este Consejo debe presentar a la Conferencia, esperando que se logre un consenso en la aprobación del mismo.

Específicamente, y habiendo oído con detenimiento las intervenciones anteriores, creemos que podemos expresar que va a ser muy difícil afirmar con razones que la FAO se ha desviado de su alto nivel de competencia y de efectividad en sus labores, estamos esperando esas razones.

Se ha hablado de cierto fatalismo en cuanto a que la FAO en el futuro tendrá un presupuesto más bajo, ya estamos tratando de crear un futurismo o adivinanzas, no sé; nosotros sabemos que la crisis económica mundial es una realidad, y seguirá siendo realidad mientras no tomemos cuenta de cuál es la real forma de trabajar entre todos, no unos contra otros, sino entre todos, y como el mundo, según dijeron literatos latinoamericanos, más bien centroamericanos, creo que era Alegría que nos dijo que el mundo era ancho, pero era ajeno, no podía pertenecer a nadie en particular y que en todas partes de ese mundo vive gente.

La crisis es una realidad, tenemos que solucionarla todos en conjunto, no unos contra otros. No creo que se tenga que programar ni planificar la muerte; la muerte creo que nos debe sorprender, hemos de tratar de vivir, saber vivir y que ella nos sorprenda pero no planificarla, eso es pesimismo.

El crecimiento cero no es un concepto razonablemente humano, no; vivir con pesimismo es falta de fe en su propia acción, a no ser que sea deliberada la búsqueda de la muerte. Por lo tanto, nos oponemos como concepto al crecimiento cero; si discutimos entre nosotros a lo mejor buscamos, de acuerdo con la situación real de la crisis en el mundo de hoy, a lo mejor encontramos un presupuesto más bajo que el que tenemos y estamos de acuerdo en que no podemos tener otro porque la situación es crítica para todos; pero como se nos impone una raya, una línea, ya nosotros no nos sentimos tranquilos con que se nos quieran imponer posiciones. Sin embargo, estamos de acuerdo con el nivel del presupuesto presentado como solución coyuntural.

En otra cuestión queremos también recordar a algunos colegas que, un poco también pesimistas, han hablado del programa de cooperación técnica; es un instrumento valiosísimo para los países del Tercer Mundo que son los que lo reciben, no creemos haya razones tampoco válidas para capidismuir-las ni rebajarlas. Es un mecanismo que nos garantiza una auténtica multilateralidad y no casi bi-lateralidad como algunas contribuciones voluntarias o fiduciarias, como se le llama; por lo tanto, en nuestro afán de rechazar toda tendencia a la presión, no creemos que la bilateralización y el condicionamiento del destino de las contribuciones voluntarias puedan utilizarse como precondition para avanzar hacia dimensiones de asistencia más equitativas.

Finalmente, queremos expresar que hemos vivido, hemos sido testigos de todas las vicisitudes que ha atravesado el presupuesto y el Programa de la FAO en los dos últimos Consejos y las dos últimas Conferencias; hay muchos documentos disponibles; hay muchas evaluaciones, auditorías ejecutadas, hay mucha información para los que realmente queramos tener una información real de un organismo intergubernamental. Consideramos que todos los presentes aquí representamos a un gobierno legítimamente constituido y cada uno de nosotros nos respetamos a nosotros mismos, por lo tanto creo que este organismo debe resolver internamente con sus representantes legítimos sus problemas. Querer sacar de esta contexto toda esta discusión nos parece que se pueda atravesar los linderos de la multilateralidad y caer en problemas ya no técnicos sino básicamente políticos. Si eso es lo que se quiere en realidad ha de ser otro tipo de discusión, porque la causa de la crisis financiera de la FAO no estriba en la mala administración o en la ineficacia, sino que como ha sido destacado en el 90 y 91 período de sesiones del Consejo las causas reales son los atrasos de los pagos del mayor contribuyente, que además han sido acompañados por un mecanismo, también inducido, de la caída del dólar de los Estados Unidos y del decrecimiento de otros ingresos.

Por lo tanto, todo planteamiento de ese tipo enfáticamente nos hace a nosotros oponernos porque creemos que usar la crisis financiera de la FAO como pretexto y marco para atacar a la FAO no es legítimo, puede ser útil para algunos intereses, pero no legítimos.

Nuestra delegación considera que la documentación presentada, la exposición y las exposiciones de muchos colegas de este Consejo nos garantizarán llevar a la Conferencia este documento con el objetivo de hacer una amplia, abierta y fraternal discusión en la Conferencia.

Paul R. BRYDEN (Australia): First of all, I should like to thank Mr Shah and our two Committee Chairmen for their clear and helpful introduction to this item.

Australia is unable to support the budget as currently formulated. In our view it does not address the likely deficit of \$47 million and is premised on full payment of contributions over the next biennium, which is not likely to happen, and it will axe any set of priorities. Like a character from Charles Dickens, Mr Micawber, we appear to be simply waiting for something to turn up. An effective deficit budget with no indication of how to fund the deficit based on income projections which are unrealistic would not pass muster in my own parliament. We cannot support one here.

A word on the budget process: the Programme of Work and Budget has been through the Committee on Agriculture, the Finance and Programme Committees, the Council, back to the Finance and Programme Committees, and now back to Council. The result of this consideration, which is an impressive flow chart, is marginal: a reduction of US\$ 1.1 million. We are rearranging the deck chairs but will we avoid the icebergs?

Mention has been made of the national currency implications of the Programme of Work and Budget at a time of currency fluctuations. Regardless of the causes, a 50 percent increase in assessed contributions in national currency terms, as is the case with Australia, cannot easily be ignored by my Government, nor by the taxpayers of Australia, at a time when sacrifices are being made in a range of governmental activities to reduce Government expenditures. Many other countries face this situation.

My delegation shares the concern of the delegation of Japan regarding the actual US dollar increases in the budget, particularly when the proposed additional assessments for the Special Reserve Account and the Working Capital Fund are included. While consideration of the Special Reserve Account and Working Capital Fund will take place later on our agenda, we continue to feel that the argument for special assessments has not been made.

My delegation shares the views of the Swiss delegation concerning the need for FAO to re-emphasize its policy development role. Never before has the need for good, focussed, agricultural policy advice to policy makers been more pressing. This is an area of FAO's role and mandate which needs greater recognition.

Mention must be made of arrears: \$67 million is attributable to the largest contributor, but \$31 million is owed by other countries; indeed, in percentage terms - that is, arrears as a percentage of contributions - 31 countries are ahead of the United States in a sorry list of members to meet their commitments: the Organization would be in far better shape if they did.

Finally, my delegation looks forward to participating in full, frank and constructive discussions of the Programme of Work and Budget at the Conference. I must stress that, in contrast to many delegations which are satisfied with the Budget but which are not paying their bills, Australia will meet its obligations fully and promptly.

Adel Helmy EL-SARKI (Egypt) (Original language Arabic): In the name of Allah, the most merciful and compassionate. After hearing the excellent and very clear presentation by Dr. Shah of this document, I wish to express our thanks to him and to Mr Mazoyer, Chairman of the Programme Committee, and his Excellency Ambassador Bukhari, Chairman of the Finance Committee, for the very clear and sincere presentations of this subject.

My delegation values very highly the constructive and continuing efforts which have gone towards preparing this Programme of Work and Budget 1988/89, in spite of the difficulties of FAO's present situation. We would also like to praise the perseverance with which it is attempting to meet the wishes of various countries, particularly developing countries in spite of FAO's current financial crisis which we hope will soon be settled.

My country fully supports FAO's emphasis on technical and economic programmes which benefit developing countries, particularly in the TCP, which was supported by the majority of delegates who asked for it to be continued. We in Egypt have great hopes for the positive effect of the assistance provided by the agricultural development programmes, and we fully support the Programme of Work and Budget for 1988/89, as we have already stated at the Ninety-First Session of the FAO Council.

Some speakers asked for a study of the possibility of an alternative plan should FAO not receive payment of all contributions. We, because of our belief in FAO's objectives and our close relationship with FAO itself, do not see any problem in this principle being considered, so long as it does not have a negative effect on the programmes which are intended to help developing countries. We also hope that we will achieve agreement by consensus.

My delegation reserves the right to make more detailed comments on some programmes during the Twenty-Fourth Session of the general Conference.

Finally, we would also like to congratulate the three Vice-Chairmen on their election.

Felix SABAL LECCO (Cameroun): On dit que tard vaut mieux que jamais, je voudrais donc remercier mes collègues d'avoir honoré ma délégation en élisant un de ses membres, justement en ma modeste personne, comme Vice-Président du Conseil. Je voudrais à mon tour m'associer, au nom de la délégation du Cameroun, à tous les orateurs qui ont adressé leurs félicitations sincères à M. Shah, Directeur du Programme et du budget, pour la qualité des documents qu'il a élaborés, ce qui a grandement facilité les travaux des Comités financier et de Programme. Nous adressons nos remerciements au Président et aux membres pour le travail qu'ils ont accompli en examinant avec perspicacité les documents budgétaires et de programme qui leur ont été soumis. Enfin le Secrétariat général du Conseil et de la Conférence, et plus particulièrement son chef d'orchestre M. Paul Savary, véritable cheville ouvrière de cette Organisation, mérite également nos chaleureuses félicitations pour la qualité constamment améliorée de l'ensemble des documents soumis à notre examen. Ceci dit, la délégation du Cameroun, qui se réjouit des réductions des coûts administratifs et de personnel et de l'augmentation des ressources des Programmes économiques et techniques, approuve globalement les stratégies, les

priorités et programmes soumis à notre examen dans le document C 97/3, et en particulier le maintien, bien qu'une augmentation nous aurait davantage comblés, des ressources du Programme de coopération technique. En effet, le PCT, tout le monde le sait peut-être, est très apprécié dans nos pays en développement, parce qu'il contribue de façon efficace et rapide à résoudre des problèmes importants et urgents auxquels nos pays à économie essentiellement rurale ont à faire face. Pour terminer, la délégation du Cameroun, par ma voix, tient à féliciter le Directeur général de la FAO d'avoir eu le courage de ramener la croissance du budget du futur biennium de 0,4 % à 0,25 %, ce qui est une décision tristement réaliste, puisque d'une part les ressources des pays en développement, comme vous le savez tous, sont de plus en plus amenuisées du fait de la détérioration des termes de l'échange et de la situation de crise actuelle, et d'autre part parce que les pays gros donateurs semblent de plus en plus fuir devant leurs engagements et leurs responsabilités, sous des prétextes qui ne trompent personne.

J.K. KIAMBWA (Tanzania): Firstly, the Tanzanian delegation wishes to express its appreciation for the excellent introduction by Dr. Shah for this item under discussion, the Programme of Work and Budget. I also wish to thank the chairmen of the Programme and Finance Committees for their elaborate clarification of their deliberations, and of what they have agreed upon. The Tanzanian delegation has considered Document CL 87/3, and is convinced that this is comprehensive, balanced, and has thoroughly exhausted all the points raised in the different committees. We feel that the Director-General has carefully taken into account the observations of Member countries with the objective of striking a balance. Indeed, my delegation would wish to have the Budget ceiling increased; but having taken into consideration all the parameters which the Director-General has seriously taken into account, we are of the opinion that the Programme of Budget for 1988/89 is balanced, and we would therefore go along with other Member countries in supporting it.

My delegation supports the plea by the distinguished delegates of Zambia and the United Kingdom that the Technical Cooperation Programme - TCP - should be given the necessary support, given the fact that it is an area in which great assistance has been rendered to developing countries. My delegation therefore strongly objects to the request of some delegations that TCP should be one of the areas where savings could be made. We are convinced that the areas where the Director-General has already suggested us to accommodate the proposed Budget proper, and the Budget therefore deserves the support of the Council. However, the request by some Member countries that there be an increase in the contribution by Member countries does not receive my delegation's acceptance. Indeed, even with the current assessment, several countries are still in arrears, and this has been one of the main causes for cutting down the Budget. Once again, on behalf of my delegation, I wish to thank you, and hope that the Council will endorse the Programme of Work and Budget and recommend it to Conference for approval.

Sahadojj BAWA (Niger): Ma délégation se réjouit de prendre la parole à ce stade de nos travaux pour tout d'abord vous féliciter pour l'excellente conduite des travaux de la quatre-vingt douzième session du Conseil de notre Organisation qui se déroule sous votre bienveillante autorité.

Nos félicitations vont également à vos proches collaborateurs et nous formulons des vœux ardents pour la suite heureuse de nos travaux.

C'est avec un vif intérêt que ma délégation a pris connaissance du document 92 C/4 qui traite du Programme et du budget de l'Organisation. Ce rapport reflète parfaitement les soucis et le souhait que nous avons exprimés lors de notre précédente rencontre.

Après avoir écouté les exposés très brillants, parfois même vibrants des orateurs qui nous ont précédés, ma délégation est heureuse d'exprimer ici toute sa satisfaction quant au contenu du Programme de travail et du budget qui lui ont été soumis. Ma délégation souscrit en conséquence pleinement au soutien inconditionnel et responsable que le Conseil se doit d'apporter au Programme et au budget.

S'il est vrai que les rapports qui nous ont été présentés ont reflété nos soucis majeurs, ma délégation est cependant préoccupée par certaines orientations que l'on cherche à faire prendre à notre Organisation. Ma délégation aura à intervenir sur ce point le moment venu.

Toutefois, nous tenons d'ores et déjà à manifester notre préoccupation sur l'inadéquation flagrante des problèmes importants du développement de l'agriculture, d'une part, avec les programmes de travail et, d'autre part, avec les ressources financières disponibles.

Sur ce point ma délégation, tout en faisant siennes les déclarations des honorables délégués qui nous ont précédés, notamment de l'Italie, de la France, de Madagascar, voudrait déplorer ce courant nouveau qui veut que la FAO soit une Organisation théorique et à la fois une simple banque de données. Nous voulons une FAO opérationnelle et dynamique.

C'est pourquoi, tout en apportant notre appui total au Programme et au Budget qui nous sont présentés, ma délégation souligne en passant qu'il s'agit là d'un minimum vital car toutes les concessions ont été faites pour rester dans la ligne que nous impose la conjoncture internationale.

A ceux qui voudraient encore un amenuisement du programme et par conséquent une réduction du budget nous sommes tentés de dire qu'ils veulent nous conduire à la catastrophe. En ce qui concerne le PCT, ma délégation déplore son niveau actuel et voudrait proposer que la Conférence étudie la possibilité de son augmentation. Le PCT, pour nous pays en voie de développement, c'est le ballon d'oxygène. Nos pays en voie de développement, principaux bénéficiaires du PCT, savent parfaitement le rôle important que celui-ci a joué et continue de jouer dans leur plan de développement économique et social. Nous ne saurions suffisamment plaider pour la survie de notre organisation, la FAO, chargée de cette noble mission, à savoir veiller à l'alimentation correcte et suffisante de l'humanité entière, dans la paix et la concorde, dans un élan de solidarité internationale entre les peuples, sans considération de langues, de couleurs ni de religions.

Pour terminer, ma délégation voudrait renouveler l'attachement de notre pays aux idéaux de l'Organisation, la FAO, et souhaiterait inviter tous les pays membres à en faire autant en commençant par s'acquitter honorablement de leurs obligations budgétaires car les déclarations ronflantes ne suffiront jamais à remplir les caisses de l'Organisation. Le document C 92/LIM/1 reflète bien l'état de la situation financière. Il est donc grand temps que l'acte soit joint à la parole, c'est sans doute la plus douce musique que notre Organisation souhaiterait aujourd'hui écouter.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): La delegación de Colombia está agradecida a nuestra colega y amiga Petersen de Dinamarca por haber sido la primera en señalar la situación financiera como uno de los aspectos principales que debe preocuparnos en la consideración del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto. Esta mañana nos pareció, ojalá estemos equivocados, que el funcionario de la Secretaría que presentó el tema asumió una actitud olímpica, indiferente; no se refirió a la situación financiera como si todo fuera normal, que los Estados Miembros vienen pagando sus contribuciones y no está pasando nada.

A la luz de la seriedad y competencia de la administración, no podemos pensar que la FAO esté contenta o resignada con esa situación financiera que quisiéramos conocer actualizada. En cambio, encontramos muy acertada la reacción del Sr. Profesor Mazoyer, Presidente del Programa, siendo su opinión personal en el sentido de que los reajustes tienen efectos destructores; esta fue la traducción que nos llegó.

Convendrá entonces preguntarnos: ¿Será realista y objetivo adoptar un Programa de Labores y Presupuesto sobre bases inciertas de recursos que sigan conduciendo a constantes y considerables reducciones en los programas? Preguntamos: ¿Cuál será la situación financiera de la Organización al final del presente bienio? ¿Habrá déficits, y de cuánto? Desafortunadamente la declaración que hizo el representante de un importante país esta mañana no ofreció muchas esperanzas.

La delegación de Colombia reitera su opinión en el sentido de que la falla fundamental de este Programa, lo que falta es la indicación clara de lo que la FAO no podrá hacer en 1988/89, si como parece, el marco financiero continuará deteriorándose. Si el primer contribuyente no terminará de pagar sus cuotas en este bienio, ¿quién podrá asegurar que una situación acumulada, igual o peor se presentará en el bienio próximo?

La delegación de Colombia piensa que todos los Estados Miembros deben pagar puntualmente sus contribuciones, y este Consejo debe insistir al respecto en su Informe, sobre todo en relación con el primer contribuyente. Pedimos al Embajador Pascarelli que transmita el Gobierno de Italia el reconocimiento del Gobierno colombiano por la actitud siempre constructiva de nuestro país hospedante.

Hay que ser realistas; se deben definir mejor las prioridades a la luz de la situación financiera para evitar que en 1988/89 como en 1986/87 se haga necesario introducir cambios, reajustes y reducciones con notables perjuicios para los países en desarrollo. Las reducciones que ahora se proponen en relación con el presupuesto, todas, todas esas reducciones afectan la política de descentralización. Al retardo de los cuatro nuevos representantes de la FAO en los países, se suma lo ya decidido de suprimir el cago de D 1 en la oficina de Ginebra, justamente ahora cuando la FAO se propone participar activamente en la Ronda Uruguay.

La delegación de Colombia apoya, una vez más, la política de descentralización, y dentro de esa política, apoyamos las Oficinas Regionales y las Oficinas en los países. Sin embargo, pensamos que convendrá vigilar severa y constantemente a fin de que en las Oficinas Regionales y en los países se cumplan adecuadamente las funciones para las cuales esas oficinas han sido establecidas, y sus funcionarios no se dediquen a otras actividades.

La delegación de Colombia comparte plenamente con nuestro vecino y amigo de la derecha, el Embajador Ariza Hidalgo de Cuba, el apoyo al Programa de Cooperación Técnica. El promedio de 75 000 dólares es muy bajo. Será necesario además vincular los PCT a formas subsiguientes de asistencia técnica o financiera para consolidar y prolongar sus beneficios y alcanzar el originalmente llamado efecto multiplicador.

La delegación de Colombia apoya plenamente el nivel del presupuesto, aunque seguimos pensando que dentro de ese nivel pueden hacerse reducciones en algunos aspectos marginales pero que suman y cuya eliminación tendría buena presentación. Este documento será discutido a fondo en la Conferencia. No vamos a prolongar nuestra declaración. Sin embargo, hemos pensado siempre que el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto es la Biblia, la guía insustituible de nuestros trabajos en cada bienio.

Por ello consideramos necesario concluir esta declaración con algunas breves y concretas consideraciones de orden político. El Gobierno de Colombia presentó una candidatura cuyos objetivos principales estaban enmarcados en el concepto de renovación, y en la necesidad de que, cada vez más, los representantes de los Estados Miembros estén en condiciones libres, sin limitaciones ni temores, de expresar su opinión sobre los Programas y las políticas de nuestra Organización. En relación con esa candidatura, el Gobierno colombiano recientemente tomó la decisión ampliamente conocida, pero seguimos pensando que esos objetivos básicos de renovación y de cambio político siguen vigentes, particularmente ahora cuando la FAO vive uno de los momentos más difíciles, críticos e inciertos de su historia.

Horacio CARANDANG (Philippines): I shall be very brief since we shall have the occasion to make comments on the details of the Programme of Work and Budget during the Conference. The Philippine delegation merely wishes to express its agreement with the medium-term objectives, the programmes and priorities proposed. These have been discussed at length in the technical committees of FAO, the subsidiary bodies of the Council, the CCP, the COAG, the COFI, the COFO and the Programme and Finance Committees. The last Council also had occasion to look out the Summary Programme of Work and Budget on which the full Programme has been based.

The Philippine delegation concurs also with the comments made by developing country members on the Programme of Work and Budget, particularly on the TCP. The Philippine delegation also expresses its concern regarding the negative effects of arrears on the Programme of Work and Budget. We believe the Council should once more appeal to member countries to honour their constitutional obligations to the Organization. Some members have referred to the substantial increase of some member countries' contribution in terms of their local currencies. In this connection the Philippine delegation wishes to express its concern that, at a time when it is experiencing economic difficulties, its scale of contribution has been increased according to the New York scale of assessment which has been adopted by FAO.

However, at the same time there are some countries whose assessments have actually been decreased in terms of their own strong local currencies. I was wondering whether these countries could follow the example of generosity of the host country so that they would maintain their level of contribution in terms of their local currency at the same level of the past biennium.

Finally, the Philippine delegation expresses the hope that the Programme of Work and Budget can be approved by the Conference by consensus.

Mohd. Mazlan bin JUSOH (Malaysia): We apologize for coming in so late but, since this matter is of great importance, we feel we have to make our statement. We take this opportunity to congratulate the Secretariat for preparing such a comprehensive document, which was brilliantly introduced by Mr Shah. We also wish to thank the Chairmen of the Programme and Finance Committees for their equally lucid presentations. In times of financial difficulty it must be an extremely difficult task for the FAO Secretariat to balance the figures and come up with a budget as presented to us today. We appreciate this difficulty and the limitation of financial resources. However, we are strongly supportive of this proposal in its entirety. The budget increase proposal of 1.1 million, representing 0.25 percent, is actually just a symbolic increase and is far short of the actual requirement. In fact, given adequate financial resources, we should like to see at least a 10 to 15 percent increase in the budget of this Organization. We understand that member countries would be hard pressed to maintain their contributions to this budget, especially the developing countries which are afflicted with heavy debt problems and other economic reverses. If these countries are willing to support the budget, we do not see the reason for the reluctance of the richer and well developed countries to do the same.

My delegation is also appreciative of the efforts of Organization to streamline the cost increase, originally estimated at \$18 million, to around \$13 million. The effort taken to reduce some \$5 million, based on measures such as trimming of administrative costs, cutting of publications and meetings and the freezing of numerous posts are commendable to meet the financial crisis. Inevitably, some of these cost-cutting measures will have some detrimental effects on the delivery capacity of the Organization. We have heard that the Organization is finding it extremely difficulty to keep its core of expert personnel and finding it equally difficult to attract other experienced experts to join its ranks. We hope that this situation will not persist for a longer period than necessary, otherwise the Organization will suffer an irretrievable loss in expertise and a reduction of its capacity to implement projects.

My delegation is appreciative of the direction taken by the Organization in increasing the allocation for the technical and economic programmes while reducing the general and policy direction, developmental and support programmes and support services. We believe that these proposed changes are in line with the desire to perform better in implementing technical and substantive projects and effect savings in administrative services. Such a direction is desirable and would in the end, result in a much healthier and trimmer Organization. These policy changes would be in conformity with the call for reform made by Various member countries.

Regarding the programme priorities that have been stipulated in the budget document, we feel these priorities are in line with the present needs of member countries. Definitely it is logical to expect that there should be concentration in the effort to increase agricultural production in severe food deficit countries.

While on the subject of the budget, we strongly support the proposal of the Secretariat to maintain the level of allocation for the TCP. In many fora we have continuously heard the strong support of member countries for the TCP. In fact, some of us have expressed the desire to see the allocation of this programme increased but, due to the limitation of financial resources, we have to be satisfied with maintenance of allocation at the level of the previous biennium.

Nga-ma MAPELA (ZAïre): Ma delegation prend la parole pour la deuxième fois, conformément à ce que nous avons dit ce matin, à savoir que nous nous réservons le droit de reprendre la parole à tout moment opportun. Soyez sûrs que je serai bref.

On a parlé ici des bureaux de représentants de la FAO dans les pays. Il y en a un dans mon pays qui, jusqu'à ce jour, fonctionne à notre entière satisfaction. Mais si un jour on venait à adopter l'idée avancée par certains pays développés, à savoir que l'on applique le système d'un Bureau de la FAO pour plusieurs pays, ma délégation pense que cela posera beaucoup de problèmes. En ce qui nous concerne, nous ne pourrions pas appuyer pareille idée.

Ainsi, ma délégation demanderait qu'afin d'éviter une telle situation, nous approuvions la proposition du Directeur général de créer quatre nouveaux bureaux lors du prochain exercice biennal.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Mr Chairman, I remember in my very early days in UN service hearing a speech by a retiring senior official of the UN, and he said that presenting the budget of a UN organization was like a government submitting a budget to parliament in which every single member belonged to the opposition. In our case the Director-General's budget proposals were indeed criticized by some for being too high and by others for being too low, but I have been very glad to note that we have a very strong groundswell of support from the members of the Council at the end of this very long process of consultation and iteration which has led up to the document before you today and which is going to the Conference.

This debate has sent a number of very useful and interesting signals on the position of governments which they will be expressing in the Conference. At this stage I think the debate is not so much a debate with the Secretariat as a debate between Member Nations themselves. I would not wish to anticipate replies or additional information that may be given in the Conference itself, in Commission II, but I would like, before passing over the microphone to Mr Shah, to say something about three separate issues which were mentioned by several delegations in the course of the debate, and I mention these purely for information in case there are misunderstandings that it will be useful to dispel before the debate takes place in Commission II.

First of all, I should like to say something about the question of obligations, disbursements, amounts carried forward and cash flow. FAO has a financial system which has been enjoined upon us by the Member Nations, and this financial system requires us to fully fund all obligations that we make. We cannot run the Organization, we are now allowed to run the Organization, on a simple cash basis. The amounts carried over from one biennium to the next are in two distinct categories.

For the normal, regular Programme, excluding TCP, there are, of course, obligations carried forward because you cannot pay your December bills or your December obligations by the 31st December. It is physically not possible. There is a 3 month's delay and we shall be carrying forward obligations for settlement until the end of March 1988. We have been making elaborate analyses to work out in relation to cash flow exactly how much we shall be carrying forward for actual expenditure in the first three months of next year from the resources of this biennium.

For TCP the situation is somewhat different. TCP, as the members of the Council are well aware, is a very special kind of development programme. Funds are set aside - the technical phrase we use is "earmarked". Funds are earmarked as soon as a project is approved. Projects are approved by the Assistant Director-General of the Development Department. The approval of a project does not, however, by itself carry financial obligations. A project involves the provision of services or equipment, and you only make a financial obligation when you enter into a contract with a company to provide the equipment or with an individual to provide consultant services, let us say. Projects in themselves are of short duration but they may run for a year. Consequently it is clear from the very beginning that the 31st March deadline could not be applied to TCP projects and it was therefore decided and embodied in the rules of the Organization that the actual expenditure under TCP projects could proceed through the following biennium. Therefore, although we show in

our reports funds from TCP carried forward into the next biennium, for which we use the phrase "unobligated", they are nevertheless earmarked for specific projects. It is just that financially they have not been either disbursed or obligated, committed, in the narrow technical sense.

The reports on our actual cash out-turn - that was the phrase used by the distinguished representative of the United Kingdom - the results of the last biennium in terms of cash out-turn are available in the audited accounts of the last biennium, which are before the Conference.

So far as concerns the current management of the Organization in a time of financial crisis, what matters is not the very highly detailed situation sub-programme by sub-programme but the total cash situation of the Organization, the ability of the available cash resources to cover the actual obligations that we have made, so that we tend to deal on aggregated figures for the Organization as a whole. For one of my colleagues would be very glad to steer the distinguished representative of the United Kingdom to the actual documents and details which have been made available publicly to the Conference or we can make available additional details which have been given to the Finance Committee on the actual cash flow situation, which I think is the crux of what he was getting at.

The next point I should like to say something about is the policy role of FAO. This was mentioned by a number of speakers and, although it does not perhaps properly relate to the budget as such, it was mentioned so often that I should like to say something about it because of its obvious importance to the general view of FAO activities by a number of contributing nations.

FAO has for many years been providing advice of a policy nature to individual member governments and also on a sub-regional basis. If we have a fault in this it is, I think, that we have not been beating our own drum sufficiently loudly so that what we have been doing is not sufficiently widely known.

I would just like to give three examples of the type of activity which I believe could be called a policy role and which is or has been under way. In the field of forestry, the Tropical Forestry Action Plan has been mentioned several times today and in the case of many countries which have requested assistance under the TFAP it has involved a sector review leading to the identification of investable projects. This is designed to lead to the development of a pipeline for financing by multilateral and bilateral programmes. The TFAP is one example where policy-type activities are being worked out in cooperation with national governments.

Similarly in the field of fisheries, for instance, in the management of exclusive economic zones and in much of the work under the Programmes of Action adopted by the World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development just a few years ago. This is another example of national level policy advice.

In the field of agriculture, which is of course very much broader, I should like to give just one example. Delegations will certainly remember the study on agricultural price policies which was submitted to the Conference not long ago. This has been followed up by assistance provided on request to a very considerable number of governments in the development of their national price policies. These are just three examples, but there could be others.

Now we are currently in the process of bringing together the work which we do on what we call sector and sub-sector analysis because of one particular development. Delegations will remember that for follow-up on the UN Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, the follow-up mechanism at the national level is in many cases the UNDP Round Table. The Round Table explicitly deals with policies and plans. Initially, there was considerable doubt whether FAO and other technical agencies would be expected or even allowed to play a role in the Round Table process. While the process itself is still in an early phase with many teething problems, the recent signals which we have been receiving are encouraging in that governments and UNDP and other agencies expect that the specialized organizations and in particular FAO, because of its responsibility for agriculture as by far the largest sector in most African countries, will make a contribution to the Round Table process. This involves taking a view considerably above the project level and here we can talk about sector and sub-sector work.

All this, I must reiterate, is done at the request of the governments. There can be no question

at all of FAO playing the role of policy adviser in the sense of recommending policies which have not been requested. Indeed, it is perfectly obvious that many developing countries have reached a quite advanced stage of development. Probably the last thing they want is advice from FAO on how to handle their agriculture policies. The situation varies country by country and the organization makes its input only on request.

Therefore, I would like to leave the thought that the policy role has been underpublicised but not perhaps underexercised.

Finally, I should like to make my third point which is a very much more delicate one. I am sorry that I have not had a chance to discuss it in advance with the delegation of our largest contributor, but it was implied by some speakers today that the budget should be reduced because we could not expect to receive the full contribution from the largest contributor. I think there is a considerable misunderstanding on what is actually happening on the part of the largest contributor and I hope I may give some helpful remarks which will not be inaccurate.

What has been happening is the following. The United States administration has put forward requests to Congress for funding of contributions to a whole series of international organizations which are grouped in one single section of the budget. There are in fact 46 organizations in this particular chapter, at least I counted them myself and that was the figure I reached. Of these 46 organizations, only 12 are in the United Nations family. They include the United Nations itself and all the specialized agencies of which the United States is a member.

The contributions to these 46 organizations add up to a total figure which is specified in the documents before Congress. The cuts which have been made have not been made organization by organization throughout this list. What Congress has been doing is making an overall cut at the bottom, underneath the total line there is an entry, "overall reduction". These reductions have been made for a series of reasons including originally discontent with certain aspects of United Nations activities and above all budgetary difficulties and internal conflicts between financial requirements for different purposes.

The essential point for the entire system of international organizations - and this is not just FAO but all 46 international organizations concerned - is the need for clarity at the end of the line on what will in the future be the way our largest contributor will participate in all these organizations. At the present stage, it is simply not a solution to cut our budget request. That is not really the issue. In this entire process we count extremely on the support of the United States administration. The process which I have described is set off by a request by the United States administration to Congress and without the full support of the U.S. administration this of course will not be launched.

I would therefore urge those delegations who have suggested that because of the uncertainty over the level of future funding the budget should be cut, that this is not a useful or appropriate approach. This will be discussed further in the Conference in the light of the information which will undoubtedly be provided by the United States delegation and the matter can hopefully be clarified at that stage.

I very much hope that these remarks will be helpful and that I have not in any way conveyed inaccurately the process which is under way. Thank you very much. At this stage I would like to ask Mr. Shah to answer a number of other questions.

Fred J. ECKERT (United States of America): The United States would just like to say that there is no need for anyone other than the United States of America to explain United States budget policies. If anyone has a question on United States budget policies, the United States delegation is fully capable of answering them.

V.J. SHAH (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): Together with my senior colleague, I have taken very careful note of the high level of debate and the very precise reactions which members of the Council have expressed during consideration of the proposed Programme of Work and Budget.

As many members themselves have said, this is a prelude or a preview of the discussion which they, together with other Member Nations, will have in Commission II of the Conference. I am very aware that the questions posed have been limited for that very reason.

My response, taking into account the time constraints upon the Council, will therefore also be very limited and I trust that the Council will recognize that this is not in any way to be interpreted as a lack of courtesy or lack of interest in responding to the debate.

One of the first questions asked was about the effect of different currency rates on the budget level, if we went beyond the rate of lire 1250 to the dollar which is indicated in the document. To recall, at lire 1250 to the dollar the proposed budget would amount to US\$ 490 860 000. At lire 1225 to the dollar, the budget level would be US\$ 493 360 000 and at lire 1200 to the dollar, it would be US\$ 495 860 000. Thus for a lire 50 drop there is a difference of exactly US\$ 5 million.

A number of delegations have referred to figures of percentage increases. Percentage increases, of course, are frequently referred to but can easily cause confusion because an individual delegation may look at certain figures from one perspective, whereas those who listen to that statement may not be aware of the same figures, or may not assume the same basis. Some have said the effective working budget would grow by 19 percent; for some, or at least one, that in terms of the national currency of that country the increase would be 50 percent. I would urge that for sober consideration, all Member Nations would help each other if they referred not only to percentages but to the figures they considered because, after all, you do not pay in percentages, you pay in dollars and in dollar convertible currencies.

As far as all Member Nations are concerned, what do we have? We have an effective working budget for this biennium of US\$ 437 million. We have a proposed budget which at lire 1350 - and I give that just because it is in the document - would be US\$ 481.7 million. The increase as I calculate it - and we all do so - is 10.22 percent.

The first remark I would make there is that such an increase in the effective working level of the budget, substantial though it is, is not that extravagant in relation to some of the Programme of Work and Budget of other sister agencies in the UN system which have already been approved. It would perhaps be odious if I were to cite their names and cite their percentages, but we have them.

Secondly, the assessments of Member Nations: we are all aware that the effective work budget proposed after a deduction of Miscellaneous Income involves an increase in assessment. Nobody is hiding that. You are all able to see the effect in dollar terms and in terms of your national currencies. But here there is a great divergence of positions, which is inevitable. There are Member Nations which would wish in principle to contribute more because they would like to see this Organization strengthened and be of greater assistance. That is their sovereign prerogative. There are other Member Nations who say they are not prepared to see an increase in contributions. That is their decision. That is a dialogue among you, members of the Council, and among the Member Nations. I cannot comment on that.

It is also true that there are certain Member Nations which have benefited from the appreciation of their national currencies in relation to the US dollar. It is also true that others find it an enormous burden because of the further depreciation of their national currencies.

I will not lecture - heaven forbid! or bore you with figures, but if I may follow the example of my senior colleague I would merely say that this is very much a matter between Member Nations. The Secretariat respects that, and we shall be happy to assist in any further debate that you have in Commission II of the Conference. Our hope - and here I very much reflect the hope of the Director-General - is that the body of support which exists for this Organization will once again manifest itself in a consensus and a firm approval of your Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium.

Ian BUIST (United Kingdom): I am most grateful to management for the careful comments which they have made upon some of the points which I brought forth in my national statement. I am particularly grateful to Mr. Shah for giving me the specific figures in relation to the exchange rates for which I asked. That is useful and something we need to bear in mind as this debate proceeds.

I think both the management speakers indicated that we were having a debate among members rather than with management. I do not see it quite like that. I believe that there are important issues here which many of us raised in relation to the way in which management has prepared the documents which we are asked to consider, and although there may be further discussion during the Conference I do not feel it is right to expect that management should leave us on our own to deal with these questions.

I should like to thank management for what they said in relation to the cash flow point. Of course, we are very well aware of the documents which were recited. It is evident, therefore, that those do not meet the needs to which we were pointing. I should like to explain why.

When it comes to analyzing priorities, when it comes to considering the competing requirements of different priorities, when it comes to flexibility in the face of expected or unexpected financial contingencies, this too is very clearly not enough. It is for that reason that we believe that members of the Conference are entitled to have the detailed figures in relation to out-turn on the programmes and sub-programmes for which we made a formal request.

I will illustrate this again by reference to the TCP. We have listened very carefully to the anxieties expressed around the meeting, which we have shared, about the need to maintain that, and I would link that with the possible impact upon the TCP of any unexpected or expected financial contingencies. It is obvious that if there is money which is unprogrammed and unobligated it must be a "sitting duck", to be colloquial, when one runs into financial stringencies. That is a concern which we continue to have despite what management have now said.

I think that the points which have been made clearly reinforce the unease we feel not about the need to programme the budget at a lower level in case, but rather to make sure that the priorities within that budget are very carefully and clearly expressed so that we can see for ourselves what is likely to have to be deferred and sacrificed if we get into difficulties later.

It is for that reason, in a spirit of realism, that I should like to reiterate the request, and of course expect that we shall come back to this in the full Conference.

Elio PASCARELLI (Italy): I will only make a few brief remarks as I realise it is late, but I should like to express my Government's heartfelt thanks to the Deputy Director-General for what he has just explained to all of us. It was quite to the point that we should know from him what the situation is in view of some of the interventions that have been made here. Since I have the honour of representing not a minor contributor I think it is right for me, and indeed for all of us, to have the explanations which have been given. We are most grateful to him for what he has said, as well as to Mr Shah.

LE PRESIDENT: Je crois que nous avons assisté à un débat très fructueux, très approfondi, sur un point essentiel de l'ordre du jour, à savoir le Programme de travail et budget. Diverses opinions ont été émises, je suis persuadé que le Secrétariat va bénéficier des observations formulées par les différentes délégations quelles que soient leurs sensibilités.

Je crois comprendre que le Conseil dans sa majorité recommande d'envoyer le Programme de travail et budget tel qu'il est avec la majorité qui l'a approuvé, et certains délégués ont exprimé leur incapacité à l'heure actuelle, de soutenir le budget, faute d'éléments d'appréciation sur les contributions ultérieures et les montants réels que pourra percevoir l'Organisation.

Si vous n'y voyez pas d'inconvénient, nous pourrions donc considérer que ce point de l'ordre du jour a été épuisé. Il restera bien entendu à la Conférence générale de l'examiner, notamment à la Commission II, en toute souveraineté, et de prendre les mesures qu'elle croit devoir prendre pour vider cette question de manière définitive.

Si vous le permettez, nous pouvons passer à un point important que le Secrétariat va nous communiquer; il s'agit de la Commission des candidatures,

3. Preparations for the Twenty-fourth Session of the FAO Conference, including:
(continued)
3. Préparation de la vingt-quatrième session de la Conférence de la FAO,
notamment: (suite)
3. Preparativos para el 24 período de sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO, en
particular: (continuación)
- 3.1 Nomination of the Chairman of the Conference, and of the Chairmen of the
Commissions of the Conference (continued)
- 3.1 Propositions de candidatures aux fonctions de Président de la Conférence et de
Présidents des commissions de la Conférence (suite)
- 3.1 Elección del Comité de Candidaturas (continuación)
- 3.2 Election of the Nominations Committee (continued)
- 3.2 Election des membres de la Commission des candidatures (suite)
- 3.2 Elección del Comité de Candidaturas (continuación)

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Je reviens au point 3 de l'ordre du jour du Conseil. Celui-ci a laissé en suspens plusieurs décisions qu'il a à prendre. Il s'agit d'une part, de proposer des candidats pour les postes de présidents des trois commissions de la Conférence, le Secrétariat n'a reçu jusqu'à présent aucune proposition à ce sujet. Il serait nécessaire que le Conseil puisse se prononcer au plus tard demain matin sur cette question. Nous demandons instamment aux chefs de groupe intéressés de nous présenter des noms.

En second lieu, le Conseil doit élire, et non plus simplement proposer, les 11 membres de la Commission des candidatures. Nous avons reçu une liste de 11 noms que, Monsieur le Président, vous voudrez peut-être soumettre à l'approbation du Conseil. Il nous est donc proposé comme membres de la Commission des candidatures: la République fédérale d'Allemagne, les Etats-Unis d'Amérique, la France, la Gambie, la République islamique d'Iran, la Libye, le Maroc, la Nouvelle-Zélande, Trinité-et-Tobago, le Venezuela, et la Yougoslavie. C'est au Conseil de dire s'il approuve cette liste.

LE PRESIDENT: Est-ce que le Conseil a des observations? Est-ce qu'il approuve cette liste qui a été le fruit de contacts entre diverses délégations des sept régions de notre Organisation?

S'il n'y a pas d'observation nous pouvons considérer que notre Conseil a élu les 11 Etats mentionnés par le Secrétariat général comme étant membres du Comité des candidatures.

U was so decided
Il est ainsi décide
Así se acuerda

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

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

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

8. Review of the Regular Programme 1986-87 including the Independent External Evaluations of Special Action Programmes on African Animal Trypanosomiasis and Related Development, Seed Improvement and Development Programme, and Food Security Assistance Scheme.
8. Examen du Programme ordinaire 1986-87, y compris les évaluations indépendantes et externes des Programmes d'actions spéciaux: lutte contre la trypanosomiase animale africaine et mise en valeur des zones en cause, Programme de développement et d'amélioration des semences et Programme d'assistance pour la sécurité alimentaire.
8. Examen del Programa Ordinario 1986-87, incluidas las evaluaciones externas independientes de los Programas Especiales de Acción sobre la Lucha contra la tripanosomiasis africana de los animales y actividades de desarrollo afines, sobre el Mejoramiento y desarrollo de semillas y sobre el Plan de asistencia para la seguridad alimentaria.

V.J. SHAH (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): The Council has before it the Review of the Regular Programme in the format and in the presentation with which by now you are well acquainted, but this time the Council also has before it the three reports of the Independent External Evaluation, that is the Evaluations of Special Action Programmes for the Control of African Animal Trypanosomiasis and Related Development, Seed Improvement and Development Programme, and Food Security Assistance Scheme.

As the time of the Council at this session is limited and so as not to presume on the time which is available to the members of the Council themselves for substantive debate, my introduction will be extremely brief.

To deal with the review of the Regular Programme, we have continued to respond to the directives of the Conference, the Council and the Programme Committee in our efforts to make the review more analytical and informative, with a focus on implementation of achievements and results.

Since the Review first appeared in 1979 we have now covered a substantial part of our technical programmes and activities through in-depth reviews and thematic reviews. Thus, 2 programmes, 21 sub-programmes, that is over one third of the total, 5 programme elements and 9 thematic topics have been systematically reviewed over the course of the years since 1979.

The Review is in three parts. Part One of the Review is the performance report, which gives quantitative information to the maximum extent possible. It also raises issues which derive from an assessment of what has been implemented. Part Two covers the in-depth reviews of four sub-programmes: the selection this time covers both large and small sub-programmes and is based on an assessment of activities ranging from 3-7 years. The most evaluated part of the Review is Part Three which this time contains a thematic review of FAO's extension activities and an assessment of Category Three meetings - that is, meetings such as sessions of panels, for meetings and working parties.

Turning now to the three independent external evaluations: these evaluations of the Special Action Programmes were commissioned in order to have an objective and independent assessment of their performance, and to have recommendations for future improvements. The evaluations were conducted by teams of senior external consultants of international standing. Among them, there is one distinguished representative on the Council.

Each evaluation comprises three phases: firstly, a comprehensive desk review of the Regular and Field programme activities; secondly, a series of field visits; and finally, the preparation of the reports. All three evaluation reports are before you, as submitted by the external consultants, and in relation to each of these reports we submit comments of the Director-General of the findings and recommendations, and his proposals for follow-up action.

In closing, may I remind the Council that all these documents were considered by the Programme and Finance Committees at their last sessions in September. The Programme Committee in particular devoted a great deal of attention to them. The Council's attention has been drawn to their reports, and the Secretariat is very pleased that the Chairman of the Programme Committee himself, being present with us will convey to you the views of the Programme Committee on the entire subject.

M.J. MAZOYER (Président, Comité du Programme): Tout d'abord, je tiens à vous remercier, au nom de mes collègues, membres du Comité du programme, de l'attention • que vous avez bien voulu porter à notre travail et des observations que vous avez bien voulu formuler.

Concernant maintenant l'examen du Programme ordinaire j'essaierai, compte tenu du temps, d'être aussi bref que possible. Je voudrais seulement souligner quelques points importants du Comité du programme portant sur ce document et sur les trois suppléments que vous examinez maintenant.

Dans l'ensemble, le Comité du programme a, bien entendu, apprécié le document qui nous était soumis, les informations et l'analyse qu'il contient, comme vous avez pu le faire vous-mêmes. Cependant, il a été également demandé que l'on essaye d'approfondir les comptes rendus et les évaluations en indiquant plus clairement dans quelle mesure les objectifs prévus à l'origine avaient été atteints ou non. Dans le même ordre d'idée on a pensé que la section de ce document consacrée aux perspectives et aux problèmes aurait pu soulever quelques questions plus précises.

J'examine maintenant la première partie du document. Tout d'abord, nous avons remarqué que cette première partie n'est pas une véritable évaluation mais qu'en vérité il s'agit d'un rapport d'activité. D'autre part, nous faisons observer qu'elle a été rédigée avant que l'impact des ajustements de Programme ne se soit fait pleinement sentir et donc si nous en avons discuté c'est à partir d'autres informations également.

A ce sujet, j'ai donné déjà l'opinion du Comité du programme sur les conséquences de ces ajustements et par conséquent je passe.

En ce qui concerne la deuxième partie de l'examen du Programme ordinaire, elle contient les examens approfondis de quatre sous-programmes: Utilisation et commercialisation du poisson, foresterie communautaire (comprendre par là foresterie au service du développement rural), programme animal et politiques nutritionnelles.

Ces examens approfondis sont extrêmement précieux et ils ont vraiment permis qu'une série de questions très importantes et des débats d'un grand intérêt aient lieu au Comité du programme. Vous en trouverez les reflets dans les avis que nous avons donnés sur ces questions dans notre rapport. C'est certainement là une partie très importante et c'est un exercice que nous souhaitons voir se renouveler.

Dans la troisième partie, le document contient les évaluations d'activités qui recoupent en fait plusieurs programmes et plusieurs sous-programmes. C'est le cas des activités de vulgarisation et des activités concernant les réunions de la catégorie 3. Nous voudrions à ce sujet attirer l'attention du Conseil en particulier sur le chapitre relatif aux activités de vulgarisation à la FAO. Nous avons pensé qu'il s'agissait là d'un rapport d'évaluation interne de très grande qualité et que ses conclusions méritaient une large diffusion en raison de leur qualité et de l'importance du sujet.

Toutefois, nous avons fait observer à ce sujet que les thèmes à vulgariser ne doivent pas seulement, comme on le pense souvent, provenir de la recherche et des transferts de techniques Nord-Sud mais qu'également il faut pour cela puiser dans les ressources techniques immenses de toutes les agricultures du monde et dans les capacités d'innovation mêmes de la paysannerie, elle-même en relation avec les vulgarisateurs. Nous avons même employé - je ne sais plus si c'est dans notre rapport, mais je me permets de l'employer - le mot recherche-développement. Enfin, quant aux trois suppléments à ce document qui contiennent les trois évaluations indépendantes des programmes d'action spéciaux, nous avons longuement discuté et nous avons approuvé le fait que le Directeur général ait pris l'initiative d'organiser ces évaluations. Nous avons estimé qu'elles constituent un instrument de travail extrêmement précieux.

Nous sommes tombés d'accord pour que ces évaluations extérieures de programmes importants puissent continuer, même si en fait elles coûtent cher et que quelques réserves en raison de ce coût aient pu être émises.

Mais je voudrais dire par exemple que l'évaluation interne sur la vulgarisation montre qu'une évaluation peut être indépendante même si elle est interne, qu'elle n'a pas besoin d'être externe et coûteuse. Le travail sur la vulgarisation réalisé par le Service d'évaluation interne donne des résultats équivalents, pensons-nous, et nous voulions aussi le dire parce que c'est assez remarquable et c'est utile à savoir.

En ce qui concerne l'évaluation du Programme pour le contrôle de la trypanosomiase, je prends le premier des rapports d'évaluation externes. Nous avons appuyé les recommandations de l'équipe d'évaluation ainsi que les actions proposées par cette équipe et retenues par le Directeur général.

Nous avons voulu, et je vous le dis ici, attirer l'attention des pays membres concernés sur les recommandations qui leur sont adressées et qui ne concernent pas la FAO mais qui sont d'une importance capitale pour la réussite de ce programme.

Pour ce qui est de l'évaluation du Programme Semences, la conclusion des évaluateurs mérite d'être appuyée et les pays donateurs devraient y prêter attention. Mais nous avons exprimé le vœu que l'Organisation centre peut-être davantage ses activités en matière de ressources génétiques et d'amélioration des variétés sur les cultures locales et qu'elle réponde au plus près aux besoins des agriculteurs. En effet, les programmes de multiplication de semences ne peuvent réussir que s'ils multiplient et distribuent correspondent véritablement aux besoins et est adapté aux conditions locales.

Finalement nous avons estimé que le rapport sur le programme d'assistance pour la sécurité alimentaire était le bienvenu et donnait matière à ample réflexion. Nous avons souscrit aux conclusions de l'équipe d'évaluation, conclusions qui font apparaître que le concept élargi de sécurité alimentaire n'est pas en général pleinement mis en œuvre. Il s'agit de conclusions assez dures, il faut les prendre en considération et nous avons donc appuyé ces conclusions qui sont acceptées d'ailleurs par le Secrétariat.

En ce qui concerne les recommandations, il nous a semblé cependant que la proposition du Directeur général de mettre en œuvre ces recommandations de manière plus progressive que ne le disait le rapport était justifiée. En effet, la mise en œuvre pleine et entière du concept de sécurité alimentaire ne dépend pas que de la FAO, elle dépend aussi des politiques des pays et il faut que ces politiques soient elles-mêmes adaptées, qu'il y ait une décision politique dans ces pays pour que la chose puisse être faite.

Par ailleurs, cette mise en œuvre exige aussi sans doute un soutien plus important de la communauté des donateurs.

Cependant il faut bien conclure et nous avons pensé que les activités de programme d'assistance pour la sécurité alimentaire, le PASA, devaient être poursuivies et renforcées en souhaitant qu'ainsi, et malgré les difficultés qui continuent d'exister, qui ne sont pas entièrement le fait de l'Organisation, la FAO puisse jouer quand même le rôle catalyseur maximum en la matière. Ce n'est pas très facile à expliquer, je m'excuse d'avoir un peu insisté.

Voilà quelques observations et une esquisse très rapide des résultats de ce débat qui a duré trois jours et demi au Comité du programme. J'ai conscience de l'insuffisance de ce compte rendu mais vous avez un compte rendu écrit plus circonstancié et vous avez certainement lu ce rapport.

LE PRÉSIDENT: Je remercie le Président Mazoyer, Président du Comité du programme, pour son exposé clair et précis.

Raphael RABE (Madagascar): La délégation malgache remercie M. Shah pour la présentation de ce point important de notre ordre du jour et elle félicite le Comité du programme pour l'examen approfondi du sujet - trois jours et demi, nous a-t-on dit. Nous voulons réitérer notre appréciation sincère à l'endroit de son Président pour le complément d'informations précieuses qu'il a bien voulu nous prodiguer.

Notre délégation sera très brève, eu égard au nombre impressionnant de sujets que nous avons encore à traiter. Mais tout d'abord, nous voudrions féliciter le Secrétariat pour la qualité des documents soumis à notre examen. De tels documents devraient pouvoir satisfaire les délégations qui veulent connaître en détail les réalisations de l'Organisation. Les informations qui y sont contenues devraient lever les doutes sur l'efficacité et la clarté des interventions de la FAO et sur les résultats qui sont obtenus.

L'examen du Programme de terrain que nous allons aborder tout à l'heure vient naturellement en complément des informations qui sont contenues dans le rapport sur le Programme ordinaire. Par ailleurs, les évaluations de programmes d'action spéciaux devraient combler la soif de connaître de tous les délégués. Malheureusement, de telles évaluations coûtent souvent cher et l'on ne pourrait pas les multiplier puisque le niveau de notre budget est ridiculement bas. Nous le regrettons.

Nous anticipons un peu en disant que la mise sur pied d'un système de suivi informatisé des projets - et notamment des projets de terrain - ne pourrait qu'améliorer la performance de l'Organisation

Enfin, notre intervention porte surtout sur la lutte contre la trypanosomiase dont le Président du Comité du Programme a fait mention tout à l'heure, ce dont nous le remercions. Nous voudrions relever avec regret que l'école de lutte contre la trypanosomiase animale africaine est confrontée à de nombreuses difficultés financières. Nous voudrions donc lancer un appel aux différentes sources de financement afin qu'elles appuient encore plus intensément les activités de cette école.

José Ramón LÓPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (México): Agradecemos a la Secretaría la preparación y presentación de los Documentos 87/8 y Suplementos, y al Comité del Programa sus sabias observaciones y conclusiones. El examen del Programa Ordinario 86-87 representa un esfuerzo de información y evaluación transparente. Los resultados del último bienio nos confirman, una vez más la capacidad de nuestra Organización para alcanzar niveles de eficiencia mayores y para transformar sus actividades y estructura de manera firme y paulatina, conforme a las prioridades que el consenso internacional marca.

No obstante, observamos con preocupación, que los problemas de liquidez incidieron negativamente en el cumplimiento de varios programas, por lo que reiteramos el imperativo de evitar que reducciones drásticas de los recursos y del personal puedan vulnerar la reconocida efectividad de la FAO. Por eso insistimos en que, en caso de necesitarse, esos ajustes se concentren en las esferas administrativas y no en los aspectos técnicos de los programas.

Es necesario que la Organización continúe identificando los mecanismos que permitan optimizar la utilización de los recursos disponibles. Las condiciones financieras que prevalecen en la Organización han obligado a priorizar actividades. Subrayamos por tanto, que debe otorgársele la máxima

importancia a aquellos programas que responden a las necesidades y prioridades de los países en desarrollo con especial cuidado de la debida vinculación entre actividades de asistencia técnica y las necesidades de cada país. La eficiencia de las operaciones de campo dependen en gran medida de la solidez, amplitud y calidad del Programa Ordinario.

Coincidimos con el Comité del Programa en confirmar la eficiencia con que el Director General ha introducido los cambios en los programas a la vista de las limitaciones financieras impuestas y en que al respecto no podían aplicarse meros criterios de costo beneficio (párrafos 2.8 y 2.9).

En el Programa de Agricultura 2.1, nos preocupa la reducción de las actividades de capacitación, y que no haya aumentado el apoyo técnico a proyectos de campo. Subrayamos la importancia que en el Programa 2.1.1 y su reflejo en el 2.1.4 han alcanzado los trabajos y la investigación en materia de recursos fitogenéticos. El avance de esas actividades representa un importante paso hacia adelante en la modernización de las funciones de la FAO y en una mejor respuesta a los intereses estratégicos de los países en desarrollo e industrializados, de lograr una mayor seguridad alimentaria mundial viable y sostenida. En esa empresa quisiéramos ver involucrados a todos los países, en particular a los que más pueden ofrecer en este sector dada su experiencia y poder económico.

Respecto al Programa 2.1.5, y a pesar del reconocimiento que han merecido las actividades vinculadas a la promoción de resultados de la CMRADR, su impacto parece ser todavía exiguuo.

Nos congratulamos, de que en el Programa 2.1.8 se le haya dado una mayor atención a los tubérculos, raíces y plátanos, que son tan importantes para la agricultura y para la autosuficiencia de la alimentación.

Otro Programa que ha recibido un importante impulso, es el de la Pesca, que representa también un paso trascendental en la transformación y actualización de la FAO, en respuesta a una realidad que exige una explotación más racional y sostenida de los recursos pesqueros, y de una alimentación más diversificada, rica y segura.

Un tema que ha experimentado una explosión en la conciencia universal es el de la crisis de los ecosistemas, la degradación del medio ambiente y la preservación de las selvas tropicales y, portanto, el de la necesidad de convenir una estrategia de largo plazo de conservación y aprovechamiento racional de los recursos naturales y el cuidado del medio ambiente. De ello depende en buena parte la viabilidad futura de la agricultura, la pesca y la silvicultura.

Este tema con razón se ha concentrado, entre otros, en el mal llamado Programa de Montes y quisiéramos verlos atendidos con mucha mayor fuerza por otros programas. Nuestra Organización debe influir para evitar que intereses económicos de corto plazo, sigan imponiendo su lógica miope a un proceso que, de continuar así, compromete la sobrevivencia misma de la humanidad.

La cooperación técnica y el PCT han probado año tras año su gran utilidad. Ello se ha plasmado en este examen en donde se refleja el entusiasmo de los países receptores por esos programas y también, las enormes necesidades que impelen a ampliarlos.

Reconocemos, en particular, la atención prioritaria a la región de Africa, que continúa atravesando por una crisis agrícola y alimentaria estructural.

Llamamos la atención sobre el hecho de que los recursos de aquellos programas, y en particular del PCT, se han ejecutado con eficiencia y transparencia y que responden a necesidades manifiestas y a la exigencia de un uso mejor de recursos escasos.

Nos complace que salvo cuatro representantes se esté culminando la red de representaciones de FAO, y que su eficiencia y utilidad haya aumentado en beneficio de una asistencia técnica a los países y un apoyo operativo a los proyectos.

El Programa de Información y Documentación, sigue siendo una de las actividades más significativas de la FAO. Aplaudimos que el proceso de automatización y simplificación, en el procesamiento de datos y otorgamiento de servicios, particularmente este último a través del FINSYS y PERSYS, permita ahora una mejor gestión interna y un mayor acceso a la invaluable información de la FAO.

Agradecemos a la Secretaría el examen de los cuatro Subprogramas contenidos en la segunda parte, así como el de las actividades de extensión que consideramos un aspecto clave para la FAO y los gobiernos nacionales, como lo expresa el Comité del Programa en el párrafo 2.21. Tomamos nota del examen de las reuniones de categoría tres de la parte tercera, que han probado su utilidad; pero coincidimos con el Comité en que deben precisar en cada caso más claramente sus objetivos.

En cuanto a los tres programas de acción evaluados, confirmamos también su importancia y claridad. Respecto a la lucha contra la tripanosomiasis, al que damos alta prioridad, nos limitamos exclusivamente a indicar que la capacitación e investigación de nuevas fórmulas preventivas y combativas debe alentarse.

El programa de mejoramiento y desarrollo de semillas nos merece también una gran importancia, pues directa o indirectamente, consciente o inconscientemente, se pueden promover a través de efectos económicos, sociales y ecológicos deseables o indeseables.

Tal podría ser el caso de la promoción de semillas que necesariamente vienen acompañadas de insumos: fertilizantes, plaguicidas, maquinaria, sistemas de riego, etc., que pueden terminar beneficiando una agricultura de carácter comercial, haciendo más dependientes a los países en desarrollo, desplazando a pequeños agricultores y ganaderos, erosionando la diversidad genética y causando daños ambientales y ecológicos severos, como puede ser la degradación de los suelos.

Debemos recordar que actualmente la industria semillera comercial está concentrando rápidamente en grandes corporaciones que han buscado así combinar e inducir la compra de insumos agrícolas y el control del mercado de los productos agrícolas. Ese es el caso, por ejemplo de corporaciones petroleras y petroquímicas que así han incrementado el mercadeo de sus productos: fertilizantes y plaguicidas, particularmente.

Este programa debe adecuarse, por tanto, para evitar esos efectos nefastos y para impulsar una investigación de variedades y el mejoramiento y desarrollo de semillas que no conlleven a una mayor dependencia externa y que respondan a las condiciones agroclimáticas, sociales y económicas de los países en desarrollo, y a su variedad de cultivos y alimentos autóctonos. El programa debe ser explícito en cuanto que la introducción de semillas conlleva la introducción de insumos y de sistemas y métodos de producción y de mercadeo.

En cuanto al PASA, reconocemos que se han iniciado algunos progresos importantes, pero lamentamos que aún no se haya convertido en un programa completo. En ese sentido, al responder al concepto ampliado de seguridad alimentaria, debe dársele toda la atención a la comercialización, producción, acceso y uso de insumos agrícolas y al objetivo de que los países en desarrollo alcancen una mayor independencia económica y tecnológica del exterior.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Señor Presidente, el tema es importante, los documentos son, con razón, muy voluminosos y el tiempo a su disposición es muy reducido. Por ello vamos a dejar nuestra intervención a fondo sobre este tema para la Conferencia.

Sólo deseamos referirnos al Documento C 87/8 Sup.1: Evaluación del Programa de Acción para la Lucha contra la Tripanosomiasis Africana de los Animales y Actividades de Desarrollo Conexas, para apoyar, firmemente, la declaración que hizo nuestro colega y amigo el Señor Rabe, de Madagascar, en relación con que en su informe este Consejo haga un llamado para fortalecer una importante escuela: la escuela de Bobo-Dioulasso, de Burkina Faso, escuela que está dedicada a formar técnicos de niveles intermedio y que desgraciadamente tiene dificultades por falta de recursos.

En este informe de evaluación en el párrafo 18 de la parte E se dice que el Director General comparte estos puntos de vista con los consultores, de manera que, ojalá Señor Presidente, se diga en nuestro informe al PNUD y también a los donantes actuales, los generosos gobiernos y altruistas de Francia y de la República Federal de Alemania, así como otros donantes, que potencien y ofrezcan sus recursos apoyando a esta importante escuela.

Igor MARINCEK (Suisse): J'aimerais remercier M. Shah et M. Mazoyer pour l'introduction de ce point de l'ordre du jour.

Je voudrais limiter mes commentaires à l'évaluation PASA tout en rappelant que mon pays est l'un des contributeurs principaux de ce programme. Permettez-moi de rappeler d'abord que la Suisse est aussi parmi les pays qui pensent qu'il est temps, après plus de quarante ans d'existence de la FAO, de procéder à un examen en profondeur de notre organisation, notamment en ce qui concerne son rôle et sa stratégie à long terme.

Comme il est clairement stipulé dans le préambule de l'Acte Constitutif, nous avons donné à notre Organisation comme premier objectif d'affranchir l'homme de la faim. Pour suivre cet objectif de manière efficace, il est nécessaire, à notre avis, d'avoir une réorientation des activités de la FAO. Comme nous l'avons déjà dit ce matin, nous pensons que la FAO est trop axée sur l'assistance dans le domaine technique et que le rôle qu'elle joue dans le domaine de l'analyse et des conseils en matière de politique agricole est inadéquat. Vu donc l'importance que nous attachons aux aspects de sécurité alimentaire, nous saluons l'initiative du Directeur général de soumettre le PASA à une évaluation afin d'en mesurer les réalisations, d'identifier les domaines dans lesquels un renforcement est nécessaire et de définir la portée que devra prendre ce programme dans le cadre du concept élargi de sécurité alimentaire. Cette évaluation a été bien menée. Nous notons avec satisfaction les propositions des évaluateurs relatives à une nouvelle approche de la FAO dans le domaine de l'analyse des conseils en matière de politique agricole. J'aimerais souligner que ces propositions vont tout à fait dans le sens de nos préoccupations et de nos idées de réforme, un fait qui devrait rassurer les délégations qui évitent d'aborder le sujet de réforme par peur de s'engager dans une voie inconnue.

Ma délégation se réjouit également de voir que les propositions des évaluateurs du PASA ont été bien reçues par le Directeur général. Nous sommes donc intéressés d'entendre le Directeur général nous dire, lors de la prochaine Conférence, quelle suite il entend donner aux recommandations de l'évaluation en plus de ce que nous pouvons lire dans le document. Cela concerne également, notamment, l'importance accrue qu'il faudrait donner à ce programme dans la structure organisationnelle du Secrétariat. Dans ce contexte, nous éprouvons cependant des difficultés à comprendre les propositions de changements organisationnels dans la Division des produits et du commerce international, propositions que nous trouvons dans le document C 87/3-Sup.3.

Permettez-moi de souligner que l'évaluation du PASA devrait également constituer sans doute un élément précieux dans l'examen plus vaste de la FAO que nous proposons avec d'autres pays.

Une dernière question: le PCT ne pourrait-il pas être mis à profit pour soutenir les activités d'un PASA élargi dans le domaine d'analyse et de conseil en matière de politique agricole ou de politique de sécurité alimentaire?

John R. GOLDSACK (United Kingdom): We should like to thank the management for its clear introduction to document C 87/8, the Review of the Regular Programme. The introduction to the Review of Field Programmes, which we will discuss under the next agenda item, refers, quite rightly, to the close links between the Regular Programme and the Field Programme. Indeed, in the debate on the Programme of Work and Budget for the current biennium two years ago we were reassured by the Secretariat that all the funds available to the Organization - Regular Programmes, Trust Funds and UNDP - were taken into account when considering the total resources allocated to particular activities. It is thus disappointing that these documents are not accompanied by an overview explaining how this process is worked out in practice and how successful the activities have been in meeting the overall objectives set out in the Programme of Work and Budget. We are also disappointed that, with the exception of the external evaluations and those covered in Part 2, by and large the documents present us with a catalogue of activities without any detailed attempt at qualitative or quantitative analysis of the results. In the absence of this information, it is very difficult to judge how successful overall FAO has been in fulfilling its mandate.

Under the previous item the United Kingdom advocated a much more purposeful approach to the advanced planning and regional distribution of the TCP. Several speakers thereafter took the view that the TCP must remain unprogrammed because it is designed essentially to deal with unforeseen emergencies.

of course, that is not so. Emergency assistance from the TCP formed only a small part of its total commitments last year. The relevant figure, which you will find in paragraph 1.32 of the Review of Field Programmes, is only 22 per cent. Elsewhere there are encouraging references to the use of the TCP for training and for project work related to that of the Investment Centre so there can be no obstacle to the bulk of this programme being preplanned to benefit chiefly the poorest countries and the poorest groups in those countries.

Because of the constraint on time, and because there will be opportunities to discuss some of these issues at Conference next week, we offer detailed observations on only two of the topics.

On the Forestry Programme, Chapter Three, we congratulate FAO on the launching of the TFAP which is closely aligned with the broadened forestry development strategy, with its increased emphasis on the contribution of forestry to human welfare, which was endorsed by the Twenty-first Session of the FAO Conference in 1981. The strategy enhances the potential contribution of the Forestry Programme to the overall objectives of FAO for sustainable development, and the TFAP, which is the combined efforts of the tropical countries and the donor community, provides an effective framework for the intensified and coordinated action.

The review shows that the balance between the four technical sub-programmes and the balance between the main categories of activities is in line with the strategy. The increased need for direct support for developing countries associated with TFAP missions and sector reviews and the establishment of the central TFAP coordinating office were not budgeted for in the 1986/87 biennium and dependence on trust funds has further increased. At the same time the funds available for meetings and publications have been squeezed and, while there is merit in rigorous examination of the need for, and value of, meeting and publications, both have a particular role to play at this stage of the TFAP development.

Looking to the future, there are major areas in the forest resources and environment programme, for example in the field of forest resource assessments and the selection and conservation of genetic resources, for which high priority is correctly claimed in the Review and in which actions are needed urgently as deforestation continues. The important roles of forests and trees in agricultural production and sustainable land use is the basis for the re-examination of the priority given to the forestry sector by national governments in the context of the TFAP, and FAO, which has accepted the central responsibility for the TFAP, should undertake a critical review of the internal allocation of the resources available in the Regular Programme aimed at a substantial increase in the share of the Forestry Department, which stands at a little over four percent.

Great hopes are now being placed by member countries on the TFAP, and the quality of FAO's own performance will be critical to the success of the plan. This is not only a matter of financial allocations but also of manpower allocations to ensure the dynamic and imaginative leadership and the dedicated support for the action taken by tropical countries and the donor community in our respective contributions to coordinating international action.

If I may turn finally to the Evaluation of the Action Programme for the Control of African Animal Trypanosomiasis and Related Development, the United Kingdom has a long and continuing major involvement in tsetse and trypanosomiasis control research and training programmes. This evaluation study has, therefore, been of considerable interest to us, and we congratulate the authors upon the fullness and detail of their report, which not only highlights the success of the first ten years of the Action Programme but also draws out many of its weaknesses, particularly the failure of the Inter-secretariat Coordinating Group and the declining participation of affected African states in the Commission on African Animal Trypanosomiasis.

We see the FAO's principal role as that of promoting, advising, guiding and assisting in the coordination of rational agricultural and livestock developmental policies and programmes. Where implementation of these requires action against trypanosomiasis, then FAO should call upon its specialist Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis group to investigate and advise upon the appropriate chain of actions required to evaluate properly and, if justifiable, reduce or remove this constraint.

From this report, however, we cannot escape the impression that the Action Programme has given such impetus to the Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Group as to encourage role reversal. That is to say, removal of the trypanosomiasis constraint has tended to become the primary motivation, and appropriate development programmes are then being sought to justify it. Whilst we realize that there are many instances where fine distinctions cannot be drawn, we wish to emphasize that tsetse and trypanosomiasis control should generally be undertaken only as a justifiable component of an overall agricultural development plan. If these ultimate goals and benefits are not clear and realizable, then the trypanosomiasis control programmes will themselves suffer since they will not be accorded the priority and timely financial support that is so often critical to their full effectiveness.

We fully support FAO in its concern over any possible environmental pollution or degradation associated with, or following upon, tsetse control activities.

In conclusion, therefore, we reiterate that we welcome this Evaluation Report and are in general agreement with its findings and many of its recommendations. However, despite the geographical size and seriousness of the trypanosomiasis constraint, we do not agree with the suggestion that the Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Group needs further Strengthening and upgrading into a programme secretariat.

We are pleased to see, therefore, the Director-General's confirmation in paragraph 28 (a) that the manpower strength of the Group will remain the same.

We believe that the current understaffing of the Group offers FAO the opportunity to reconsider the role activities and priorities of this Group, both within and outside FAO, before its manpower strength is restored to full complement.

Ghulan Mohammed BAHRAM (Afghanistan): I thank Dr Shah for the fuller explanation of the document. Self-sufficiency in food production is important to my country. It comes from sound agricultural growth and development.

The Afghan delegation believes that intensified international cooperation for liberal assistance on research, manpower training, equipment, etc., is the basic necessity for sound agricultural growth and overall development with a proper link to agricultural extension. Therefore, some concrete measures in the form of technical cooperation to Speed up advanced research activities and extension work in the developing countries would bring about positive changes in all aspects of agriculture and food production.

Afghanistan gives top priority to agricultural research and extension and therefore substantially needs international cooperation, including exchange of research materials and financial support and training in order to scientifically utilize its vast resources.

Improved seeds play a key role in boosting agricultural production. The Afghan delegation also proposes that the International Board of Plant Genetic Resources should organize consultations on plant genetic resources and study the possibility for extending further cooperation to the countries in the Middle East.

Afghanistan, being rich in the natural plant genetic resources, appreciates such initiatives and requests the International Board for Plant Genetic Resources to support the Plant Genetic Bank of Afghanistan.

Adel Helmy EL-SARKI (Egypt) (Original language Arabic): My delegation would like to join all the earlier speakers in addressing to Messrs. Shah and Mazoyer our thanks for the excellent presentation of this agenda item. We shall Come back later in the general Conference to these matters.

We approve of the computerization of the data in FAO and we are also extremely interested in the battle against trypanosomiasis. We support what was said by Madagascar and Colombia with regard to the budgetary resources and the need for overcoming the obstacles which these two programmes confront.

A. Daniel WEYGANDT (United States of America): I would appreciate it, Mr. Chairman, if you would express my gratitude to Professor Mazoyer for the excellent job he did in introducing this report. As a member of the Programme Committee I was fortunate enough to be able to take part in the very detailed discussions which the Committee had on the review of the Regular Programme and particularly the three external evaluations. I can assure the members that the discussions were quite detailed and certainly quite productive from the standpoint of the various members. I look forward to further discussions of this at the Conference when we shall have the luxury of somewhat more time.

I should also like to express my appreciation to Mr Shah generally for the excellent evaluation work reflected in document C 37/8 as well as the supplements thereto. I should also, perhaps parenthetically, like to express my congratulations to Mr Ayazi who is not on the podium.

It should come as no surprise that the United States very much welcomes the use of evaluation in FAO. This has been a position which we have maintained for quite some time and we are very happy to see the documents before us. Particularly in the present climate, we feel that evaluation is a good means to identify programme areas where efforts need to be concentrated, concentrated efficiently and also those areas where perhaps FAO's involvement can be limited or even reduced in the light of the results which have been attained.

In any event, the areas which have been evaluated in the documents before us we consider to be all quite important. The internal in-depth evaluation of the extension programme particularly is something we welcome very much and we also welcome the format changes which have allowed us to have a more in-depth appreciation of the subject. We believe that such internal evaluations in this form should be continued in the future.

We especially welcome external evaluations which should come as no surprise also, and we were very happy to see that the Programme Committee recommended that in spite of the expense involved with external evaluations, such evaluations should be undertaken in the future.

We consider the three evaluations before us to be generally quite good. We also recognize that external evaluations can be particularly useful in mobilising donor support. I should like to underline that point because I know that this is not a completely uncontroversial subject.

Because of the limits on time, I will confine myself to a few comments on the animal trypanosomiasis programme. This is not, however, because we attach less importance to seeds or the FSAS, but I think that a number of other delegations have focused on animal trypanosomiasis so perhaps we may add our two cents also, as it were.

The United States strongly supports the need for FAO assistance to African countries in controlling both the tsetse fly and trypanosomiasis. We agree with the recommendations made in the evaluation before us.

The United States believes that the lack of support from the Programme member countries is perhaps due to the general disintegration or decentralization of their national veterinary and animal health services. I would recall that this was also a point made by one of the African members of our Programme Committee or at least to some extent made by him in our discussion.

Regional disease control programmes will not succeed, in our view, without strong centralized animal health services. The United States recommends that the African Animal Trypanosomiasis Programme adopt the programme components which are aimed at revitalizing national veterinary services.

The U.S. also recommends that recipient countries be selective on the basis of their level of enthusiasm and commitment shown towards the Programme. We support the creation of an umbrella project in order to prevent unwise expenditures being made when isolated attempts are made by smaller projects.

Finally, we would be remiss if we did not comment on the reorganization proposed in the C 87/8 Sup.3 of the Commodities and Trade Division. We generally support it, especially in so far as it should give a clearer identity to the global information and early warning system, and especially to the sub-programme on food information and early warning systems.

Rainer PRESTIEN (Germany, Federal Republic of): First of all let me thank Professor Mazoyer and Mr Shah for the presentation of this fifth review of the Regular Programme. My delegation largely agrees with the statements in the document and the conclusions drawn in it.

Please allow me a few general remarks. We welcome the clear albeit traditional structure of document C 87/8 consisting of three parts: the performance report on the major programmes in Part I, the Special Action Programmes in Part II and the training activities of the Organization in Part III which we consider of special importance. Moreover, we welcome the evaluations meanwhile already undertaken of the Action Programmes for the control of the African trypanosomiasis of animals, document Sup.1, of the Seed Improvement and Development Programme, document Sup.2, and of the Food Security Assistance Scheme, document Sup.3.

Let me now make a few comments on some important points in the documents mentioned. We welcome the preparation of the study on "African Agriculture, the next Twenty-five Years" within the framework of the programmes of the major Programme 2.1, Agriculture. Moreover, we also support in this connection the strengthening of the activities in the field of technical cooperation among developing countries, TCDC. In this respect, we regret that financial constraints have also curtailed the Organization's activities within the framework of the major Programme, Agriculture, in particular in the field of training, paragraph 1.9 and table 1.2.

As we have gathered from paragraph 1.16 of the document, in 1986 over 1, 600 work/months financed from the major programme 2.1 were utilized to support field projects under the Regular Programme. My delegation knows and appreciates the fruitful interrelation between the activities within the framework of Trust Funds and those of the Regular Programme which have proved to be an important source of knowhow over the last 40 years of FAO's work. Nevertheless, we are of the opinion that 1600 work/months is a very high figure to backstop field projects.

We would like to ask the Secretariat to make every effort to ensure that the servicing of the core tasks under the Regular Budget does not suffer from the workload of not backstopping special programmes.

We feel that the budget allocation of just over 14 percent to the TCP is too high. Under the agenda item Review of Field Programmes, we should also point out that the UNDP is the central agency for handling multilateral development cooperation in our view.

We shall make further comments on specific questions in particular at the Twenty-fourth Conference Session.

We can largely agree to the results of the special programme evaluation. We consider the evaluation report on the control of African trypanosomiasis a suitable basis for expert talks among possible donors. In this connection, we support the request for the establishment of national coordination committees. Details should be discussed among experts.

We attach great importance to seed development and give our support to such projects in many partner countries. We believe that only a longer term commitment in that field will ensure lasting success. The willingness for dialogue must therefore continue on a long-term basis. We particularly welcome the external evaluation of the Food Security Assistance Scheme, FSAS. The Scheme is judged positively, and this is also confirmed by the evaluation report. However, we have doubts about an extension of mandate as proposed by the consultants. From our point of view, it would be sufficient to continue the action programme as so far and to eliminate the weak points which exist, in particular in the field of coordination between donor countries, FAO and recipient countries.

João Augusto de MEDICIS (Brazil): The Brazilian delegation congratulates the Secretariat on the preparation of documents C 87/8 and on its three supplements, recognizing the effort to convey a precise image of the programmes and activities of FAO during 1986-87. We are also pleased to acknowledge the careful and thorough evaluation of that document which was undertaken by the Programme Committee and which is reflected in document 92/4.

Repeating what my delegation already mentioned during discussions on the previous agenda item, we wish to second the Joint Committee Session's view as expressed in paragraph 1.4, reiterating our regret that unprecedented liquidity problems due to factors beyond FAO's control had negatively affected the implementation of the current Programme of Work, with the ensuing curtailment of approved activities.

We also acknowledge the report of the 53rd Session of the Programme Committee and the thorough and comprehensive analysis it performed on the Review of the Regular Programme. In that regard, my delegation also appreciated the integrated manner with which Regular Programme and related Field Programme activities were covered in the Review, and particularly useful was the inclusion of extra-budgetary resources along the Regular Programme allocations.

Special attention should be drawn to the findings of the Committee in paragraph 2.21, regarding the key role played by extension activities in FAO as well as in national governments policies. My delegation supports the three issues underlined by the Committee in this paragraph as deserving emphasis, namely participatory action/research process; targeted approaches; and adaptability and flexibility of methodologies.

With regard to Chapter XI of the Review, dealing with Category 3 meetings my delegation is also prepared to endorse the findings of the Programme Committee, contained in paragraphs 2.22 to 2.25, underlining that no doubt these meetings, provided they have clearly defined goals, play a valuable role in guiding both FAO and member countries through the important exchange of different views and experiences, which cannot be substituted by other means of action, such as surveys and publications.

Finally, we also have gone through the External Evaluation of the Special Action Programmes: 1) Control of Animal African Trypanosomiasis; 2) Seed Improvement and Development; and 3) Food Security Assistance. My delegation can easily go along with the findings of the Programme Committee regarding those three documents.

I should like to call special attention in this regard to the proposal of a School for the Fight against tsetse, anti-tsetse Elat, to be set up in Bobo-Dioulasso in Burkina Faso, to prepare technicians of intermediate level for the francophone countries which are facing a lot of difficulty and lack of finance.

All in all, my delegation welcomes the presentation of the Review of the Regular Programme 1986/87 and is prepared to endorse it for submission to the Twenty-fourth session of the Conference.

Leopoldo ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Vamos a ayudarle ya que el tiempo no es mucho. Nosotros queremos, en primer lugar, expresar que este tema del programa para nuestra delegación tiene mucha importancia, al cual siempre hemos atendido con mucho cuidado. Tenemos preparada una gama de análisis con vistas a su participación en la Conferencia. En este sentido queremos específicamente felicitar al Sr. Mayozer por la presentación del tema, y considerar que la exposición nos dio todo un alcance del esfuerzo del Presidente del Programa y de la FAO en presentarnos las tareas de Programa que la FAO está realizando y puede realizar.

Nosotros lamentamos que los programas no puedan tener más fondos a su disposición, pero es conocida la situación a que está sometida la Organización por una crisis económica ajena. Aprobamos en todas sus partes la exposición. Sin embargo, queremos unirnos específicamente a la exposición amplia, brillante y concisa que hizo la distinguida delegación de México sobre varios temas del programa, específicamente en cuanto a la crisis del ecosistema, al Programa de pesca, a los problemas de análisis de la situación de las semillas y de los recursos fitogenéticos, y en específico, a la cooperación técnica y a los PCT, que para nosotros constituyen la expresión más clara de multilateralismo y asistencia técnica que garantiza que la FAO ayude directamente a los gobiernos en forma práctica, rápida y con un interés nacional que nos aleja bastante del bilateralismo.

Nosotros queremos específicamente apoyar también la llamada que nos hizo la distinguida representación de Madagascar sobre la situación que está atravesando la lucha contra la tripanosomiasis africana; su priorización y específicamente la situación de que el PNUD pueda ofrecer su apoyo a la Escuela de Lucha anti-tse-tsé Elat, que está situada en Bobo Dioulasso en Burkina Faso; una escuela que pueda garantizar la formación de técnicos y de personal intermedio para la ayuda a ese

continente que necesita de la formación de estructura de técnicos para continuar una lucha que viene desempeñándose con mucho esfuerzo, y debe tener el apoyo de toda la organización internacional al respecto.

Esto específicamente para decirle que estamos de acuerdo y que en cada tema tendremos un análisis cabal en la Conferencia.

Anastase MUREKEZI (Observateur du Rwanda): La délégation rwandaise se réjouit de la qualité des documents présentés par le Secrétariat sur ce point relatif à l'examen du Programme ordinaire 86-87, y compris les évaluations indépendantes externes sur les trois programmes présentés.

En ce qui concerne précisément ces programmes, ma délégation appuie totalement les conclusions et les recommandations concernant le concept élargi de sécurité alimentaire. Pour nous, le Rwanda, pays essentiellement agricole, le Programme de sécurité alimentaire se confond avec le concept d'autosuffisance alimentaire qui pour nous signifie la valorisation rationnelle des ressources naturelles, en préservant l'environnement, de façon à dégager les ressources indispensables pour nourrir la population et à dégager en outre les Surplus pouvant servir à l'acquisition des moyens de production tout en évitant à la population nationale de Consommer ce qu'elle ne peut pas produire facilement sur place. Et c'est dans ce cadre que les évaluations portant sur la trypanosomiase africaine et l'évaluation du Programme semences en rapport avec l'accès aux ressources phytogénétiques rencontre l'assentiment de la délégation rwandaise. Il est souhaitable effectivement qu'en voulant valoriser le capital semencier l'on fasse également appel aux potentialités énormes qui sont contenues dans les zones des pays du Sud. Mais je voudrais faire remarquer aux honorables délégués que l'accès aux ressources phytogénétiques est devenu un problème assez sérieux, qui est en relation avec le transfert à la fois de ressources mais aussi de technologies du Nord vers le Sud mais également entre les pays du Sud.

Pour ce qui concerne la balance à établir entre les activités de terrain de la FAO et les analyses et les conseils que l'Organisation doit donner aux pays membres, je voudrais lancer un appel en me joignant par ailleurs aux nombreuses autres délégations pour que la FAO puisse disposer de moyens financiers supplémentaires, de façon à continuer à renforcer son Programme de terrain tel qu'il apparaît aux évaluations tout à fait Satisfaisantes, et que la FAO puisse effectivement, comme l'a souhaité l'honorable délégué de la Suisse, procéder en profondeur aux analyses et aux conseils à donner pour le réajustement des politiques agricoles nationales.

V.J. SHAH (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): We are very grateful to the Council for the reception it has given to the document and more particularly to the external evaluation of the three Special Action Programmes.

I think the points which I would draw from your discussions are, first, the recognition - we are gratified - of the seriousness of the work we are trying to do. That is the first point.

Secondly, there is the fact that external evaluations can be extremely valuable, and we shall continue to have resort to them within the limits of resource availabilities because, as you all recognize, these are very expensive exercises; but their value is undisputed.

The third point I would stress is the fact that, as you have recognized in the debate, there is an open willingness on the part of the Director-General and his Secretariat to recognize the feedback from this evaluation. I can give you three instances of this. One is a willingness to accept recommendations when it is seen that these are aimed at improvements which are feasible. Secondly, caution in accepting those recommendations which involve structural changes or changes of such a nature that we cannot accommodate within the foreseeable future, as has already been recognized, for example, in even a relatively small recommendation like the strengthening of a particular unit dealing with trypanosomiasis. When it is not possible to accept it in an immediate future we honestly say that it is not feasible to do so. A reverse example is that of the minor reorganization in the Commodities and Trade Division where we feel that the change proposed should be accommodated and can be within the proposals for a biennial Programme of Work and Budget.

Two questions were raised about the Food Security Assistance Scheme, There was a question raised by the representative of Switzerland as to how the increased resources of F\$AS would be used. I should like to state that the main use of the higher donor contributions would be to prepare more comprehensive food security programmes, for interested developing countries. In these comprehensive programmes there would be elaborated an analysis as full as possible of the food security problems in the broader context, including production, stability, and the issue of access.

Mr Chairman, I have elements for a more detailed reply, but with your permission I would refrain from going into a more detailed reply at this stage in view of the time constraint. May I also suggest, with your agreement, that since the Council found the views of Programme Committee useful in considering this subject, and since Member Nations will be devoting more time to this subject in Commission II, we can very well arrange for the views of the Programme Committee to be brought to the attention of Commission II when you consider this item, Mr Chairman, I hope I have done justice to the debate.

LE PRESIDENT: Je crois que nous avons fini avec le Point 6. Je pense être l'interprète des membres du Conseil pour dire que le Conseil a apprécié le travail fait par l'évaluation externe des programmes 86-87 et considère qu'il s'agit là d'une méthodologie qui porte ses fruits et a permis au Conseil dans sa majorité d'appuyer les conclusions de cette évaluation. Cependant, malgré la contrainte du temps, et compte tenu du fait que cette question va être examinée plus en profondeur à la Conférence, le Conseil a quand même pu fournir quelques appréciations sur les trois Programmes qui ont fait l'objet d'un tri, à savoir: Programme de sécurité alimentaire, celui de l'amélioration du développement des semences, et celui de la lutte contre la trypanosoroiase, qui a retenu l'attention de nombreux délégués. Je pense donc que nous pourrions adresser ce document à la Conférence, en soulignant l'importance que l'on a accordée à un bon développement du Programme ordinaire de la FAO, et qui se trouve donc être au centre des réflexions de la Conférence, dans le cadre de la FAO.

Nous en avons fini avec le Point 8, par conséquent, de l'ordre du jour.

Adel Helmy EL-SARKI (Egypt) (original language Arabic): Having heard the extensive and fruitful discussions on this subject, we urge you, Mr Chairman, to adjourn the meeting so that we may prepare the next set of items to be discussed by the Council, the more so as there is a meeting of the Drafting Committee to be held immediately after the adjournment of this Council meeting.

José Ramón LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (Mexico): Creo que es oportuna la propuesta que ha hecho el delegado de Egipto. Hemos estado aquí sentados un buen rato, Sr Presidente, y creo que merecemos un descanso y se nos podría convocar pronto para continuar con nuestras labores.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous pourrions peut-être proposer au Conseil un compromis. Nous devons terminer l'examen de ce point aujourd'hui puisque nous devons finir nos travaux, demain. Est-il possible de proposer au Conseil une suspension de séance d'une demi-heure à trois quarts d'heure? Mais je souhaite très vivement que nous nous retrouvions ensuite avec le quorum pour examiner les points suivants. Le Conseil est-il d'accord avec cette proposition?

The meeting was suspended from 18.30 to 19.30 hours.

La séance est suspendue de 18 h 30 à 19 h 30.

Se suspende la sesión de las 18.30 a las 19.30 horas.

9. Review of Field Programmes 1986-87
9. Examen des programmes de terrain 1986-87
9. Examen de los Programas de Campo para 1986-87

LE PRESIDENT: Je demande à M. Lignon de bien vouloir introduire le sujet.

R.S. LIGNON (Sous-Directeur général, Département du développement): Le document C87/4, examen des programmes de terrain de la FAO pendant le biennium 1986-87 qui est soumis aux membres du Conseil, a déjà été examiné par le Comité du programme et le Comité des finances au cours de leur dernière session. Le résultat de ce double examen se trouve dans les paragraphes 244 à 248 du rapport du Comité des programmes et dans les paragraphes 324 et 330 du rapport du Comité des finances dans le document CL 92/4. Ce document est divisé en quatre chapitres qui se réfèrent successivement aux ressources, tendances et perspectives, c'est le chapitre 1, à l'évaluation des projets de terrain, chapitre 2, aux activités de la FAO dans le domaine de l'aide aux services de planification et de programmation, c'est l'objet du chapitre 3, et enfin ce document présente dans le chapitre 4 quelques réflexions sur l'évolution des activités de terrain de la FAO.

Brièvement, puisque ce document figure au programme de la Conférence, je voudrais soumettre à l'attention du Conseil les conclusions les plus importantes de l'examen des programmes de terrain.

Les activités de terrain de la FAO ont continué à se développer au cours du biennium puisque les dépenses se sont élevées à 315 millions de dollars en 1986 et atteindront environ 320 millions de dollars en 1987. Vous pouvez comparer ces chiffres aux dépenses des années précédentes qui se trouvent dans le tableau n° 1 annexe au rapport.

On note, et c'est un point important, un renversement de la tendance à la baisse de nos activités financées par le PNUD. Les dépenses financées par le PNUD s'élevaient à 109 millions de dollars en 1984, atteignent 128 millions de dollars en 1986 et un niveau proche en 1987 tout en notant que 1987 est la première année de la mise en oeuvre du quatrième cycle et à ce titre, est en général une année de transition délicate entre deux cycles du PNUD. Si l'on considère le niveau des approbations de projets, on constate que notre coopération très étroite avec le PNUD dans la programmation et la formulation des projets a donné de très bons résultats, grâce aussi au niveau très élevé des ressources du Programme. A ce propos, je voudrais vous dire que la pledging Conférence se tient actuellement à New York, c'est la Conférence de financement. Je ne peux pas vous donner le chiffre exact mais il est très élevé, de l'ordre, avec les organisations satellites, de plus d'un milliard de dollars alors que le montant des projets approuvés et appuyés par la FAO s'élevait à 112 millions de dollars en 1986 et on pense qu'il atteindra 150 millions de dollars en 1987, soit une augmentation de 33 pour cent environ. La part des dépenses financées par le PNUD devrait donc s'accroître fortement dans le prochain biennium.

Je voudrais souligner aussi que les activités financées par des fonds de dépôt continuent à se développer normalement, comme vous pouvez le noter en observant les courbes qui sont dans le chapitre 1, avec des irrégularités dues à l'intervention quelquefois de gros donateurs, par exemple le Gouvernement italien, par exemple le fonds de dépôt avec l'Arabie Saoudite, qui se signe une fois mais ne se signe pas constamment à la même hauteur. Mais la tendance générale est à une augmentation régulière de la coopération FAO/Gouvernements pour une coopération dite multi-bi, et ceci grâce à la confiance que nous accordent nos partenaires et peut-être aussi, je crois, grâce à une intense coopération entre la FAO, les pays donateurs, que je remercie ici très sincèrement et les pays bénéficiaires.

Enfin, les activités du Centre d'investissement continuent à se développer, soit dans le cadre du Programme FAO/Banque mondiale, ceci malgré les difficultés ou malgré les retards apportés à cause de la restructuration assez radicale de la Banque mondiale, soit dans le cadre de notre coopération avec les autres agences de financement comme le FIDA, les Banques régionales de développement et autres institutions financières, y compris le Programme FAO/Banques, qui intervient surtout dans le cadre de la promotion du secteur privé. Je voudrais souligner à ce sujet que le montant des investissements sur la base des projets préparés par la FAO s'est élevé à 3 milliards de dollars en 1986 dont la moitié provient des financements des institutions internationales.

Dans le chapitre 2, nous avons essayé de présenter une évaluation qualitative globale aussi objective que possible de nos activités de terrain. Comme vous le savez, les représentants de la FAO jouent un rôle important dans ces activités, soit dans une préévaluation des requêtes qui leur sont soumises par les gouvernements, ils adressent au Siège une information systématique sur le déroulement de nos activités de terrain. Ces informations sont analysées et synthétisées dans la première partie du chapitre 2. Dans le même temps le Service d'évaluation a mis en place un véritable système qui permet de procéder maintenant à l'évaluation de près de 100 projets individuels annuellement ainsi qu'à des évaluations thématiques dont les résultats sont dans la deuxième partie de ce chapitre 2, et en particulier vous avez noté deux évaluations sectorielles, l'une dans le domaine de la mécanisation, dans le cadre d'une évaluation faite avec le gouvernement donateur, c'est-à-dire l'Italie, et l'autre dans le domaine des engrais, avec le Gouvernement hollandais.

Nous avons mentionné les difficultés rencontrées dans ces activités, dans les activités de terrain, et nous essayons constamment d'en tirer les leçons pour une plus grande et une meilleure efficacité.

Cette recherche permanente d'une meilleure efficacité s'est traduite par des améliorations régulières et progressives qui ont été apportées les années précédentes, par exemple l'introduction de plans de travail standardisés, des mesures pour améliorer le reporting, c'est-à-dire la préparation et la distribution aux personnes concernées, aux institutions concernées, des différents rapports de projet.

A la suite d'une longue étude, et profitant des possibilités de l'informatique, nous sommes en train de mettre en place un système global d'information et de surveillance de l'ensemble de nos programmes de terrain. Quand je dis "l'ensemble" je veux dire qu'ils soient financés par le PNUD, qu'ils soient financés par les fonds de dépôt, qu'ils soient financés par le POT, et ce système global, couplé avec d'autres systèmes informatisés de la FAO, constituera sans nul doute une étape importante dans ce processus continu d'amélioration de l'efficacité des programmes de terrain. Le Chapitre 3 est un examen plus détaillé des activités de la FAO dans un domaine qui a été évoqué à plusieurs reprises au cours des débats du Conseil d'aujourd'hui et d'hier, celui de l'appui de la FAO aux institutions de planification et de programmation de développement rural permettant ainsi aux pays de jouer un rôle plus efficace dans la définition des politiques de développement rural et aussi un rôle plus important et plus efficace dans la coordination des aides qu'ils reçoivent. Dans le cadre de ces activités, nous avons mis l'accent sur la valorisation des ressources humaines, c'est-à-dire la formation du personnel de ces institutions ainsi que leur Organisation.

Corrélativement à ces activités, la FAO a renforcé et développé - Monsieur le Directeur général adjoint y a fait allusion - les études sectorielles et sous-sectorielles, tout en apportant un appui aux gouvernements pour mettre en place des politiques d'ajustement nécessaires. Ces activités permettront aussi de renforcer les interactions des programmes de terrain avec les programmes réguliers de la FAO, mais aussi la coopération entre les programmes multilatéraux et bilatéraux dans les secteurs intéressés.

Dans le chapitre 4, nous avons cherché à mettre en évidence des aspects particulièrement importants de l'évolution de notre Programme de terrain. Vous savez que, actuellement, il y a des changements très importants dans les politiques, les niveaux, les situations des pays en voie de développement et donc les besoins en assistance technique évoluent très rapidement. Nous avons mentionné dans ce cadre l'orientation de nos projets vers le développement des capacités nationales, ce qu'on appelle les nouvelles dimensions, par l'utilisation croissante de ces capacités dans l'exécution de nos projets et dans les opérations de coopération technique entre pays en développement. D'autre part, nous avons rappelé que les objectifs de la Conférence des Nations Unies sur la réforme agraire et le développement continuent de servir de cadre de référence à notre action, comme servent de référence à notre action le Plan forestier tropical, le Plan d'action découlant de la Conférence mondiale sur les pêches, ainsi que les programmes d'action spéciaux dont vous avez déjà parlé. Le développement de ces capacités nationales concerne les groupes les plus pauvres de la population qui sont la cible principale de nos projets, et plus particulièrement les femmes. Une partie du chapitre 4 est consacrée à ces aspects de notre Programme. Nous avons aussi mentionné le rôle croissant des organisations non gouvernementales dans le développement des communautés rurales, la participation populaire, en soulignant la coopération fructueuse qui s'est établie sur le terrain avec les organisations non gouvernementales locales, de même que l'aide que nous apportent certaines organisations

non gouvernementales à l'exécution et au financement de certains de nos projets. J'espère, Monsieur le Président, que cette brève introduction facilitera la tâche du Conseil dans l'examen de ce document qui couvre une partie très importante des activités de l'Organisation. Je voudrais en terminant insister sur l'extension géographique et la complexité croissante de notre Programme de terrain et sur les efforts que nous faisons pour améliorer sa gestion et sa planification.

LE PRÉSIDENT: Je remercie Monsieur Lignon pour ses explications et son exposé très clair.

Nous ouvrons le débat. Quels sont les délégués qui souhaiteraient prendre la parole?

Joachim WINKEL (Germany, Federal Republic of): My delegation would like to thank Mr Lignon for his lucid introduction to document C /84. We should also like to thank the Secretariat for the presentation of document, "ReView of Field Programmes 1986-87". To begin with, a few remarks on the document itself: we appreciate the traditional structure of the document, as also applied last year. This method allows comparisons of the information material presented in previous years.

The document in terms of contents provides US with a wealth of positive statements, such as on the activities of the Investment Center which we had already discussed when reviewing the Regular Programme, the strengthening of the training activities, the support of TCDC and ECDC as well as follow-up to WCARRD.

We welcome the renewed increase in field project expenditure, as shown in Table 1.1. In 1987, too, field programmes are expected to conclude with an, even though moderate, increase. It seems to us that the priorities have been established rightly within the framework of the field programmes - I mention table 1.3, graph 1.4 - following traditional weighting as well.

The evaluation of the projects undertaken in Table 2.2 and diagram 2.1 shows that on an average more than three-quarters of the projects have to be rated as good or at least satisfactory. My delegation would like to encourage the Secretariat to continue its efforts to promote increased project and programme evaluation. A greater evaluation allows conclusions to be drawn on how to further reduce the low share of Unsatisfactory projects and thus to increase the Organization's efficiency. We believe that improved coordination at country level could make a considerable contribution in this respect.

For the Government of my country the Development Programme of the United Nations (UNDP) will continue to be the center for multilateral technical cooperation. We, therefore, feel that the share of the TCP in the Regular Programme which has been increasing for years should not further increase. My country is granting technical cooperation through its own development agencies. Rural development has an important place in that programme. The share of this field of cooperation continuously increased in the last calendar year to 39.4 percent of our technical and financial cooperation.

The Federal Government will also in future continue its fruitful cooperation with the developing countries.

John R. GOLDSACK (United Kingdom): We would like to thank the Secretariat for document C 84/4, Review of Field Programmes.

We are disappointed to be able to identify in the document such little evidence of the use of field programme to support the agricultural sector in the adjustment programmes being implemented by many of the poorest member states. There are references to this in the paragraphs dealing with the Investment Center. But the apparent general absence of systematic programmes designed to help agriculture play its part in the adjustment process in the poorest and most heavily indebted countries points to a serious gap in FAO's approach to field activities.

We welcome the emphasis on Africa in the distribution of spending of the field programme shown in page 13 of the document. However, the rest of the table does not suggest a pattern of help for the poorest people in the poorest countries which one would wish to see and we believe truly reflects FAO's mandate.

The table on page 7 showing the falling share of UNDP expenditure passing through FAO is revealing. Under the UNDP system recipient countries choose the sector to which they allocate UNDP funds. I should stress that this allocation is a reflection of country choice and is not the responsibility of UNDP. I think we have to ask ourselves why the figure has declined. Statements by delegates here in Rome claim a high priority for all FAO programmes, and yet decision-makers in capitals seem to have less definite perceptions. Perhaps there is a message somewhere here about the relevance of some of the skills offered by FAO. This point was touched upon by the Director-General in his address to the June Council when he said that the content of FAO programmes was to some extent shaped by the available staff skills.

However, the main weakness in the document is that from it we gain no feeling of how activities funded from different sources - UNDP, TCP, Trust Funds - complement each other.

We are left without any real sense of focus of all FAO actions at the country level. To us this seems to suggest that the time may have come to consider a revision of the management structure which would bring all elements of FAO's field activities into a much sharper country focus.

As with the previous agenda item, we shall have the opportunity to discuss some of the issues next week and at this stage I wish only to comment briefly on the special trust fund activities for locust and grasshopper control. During the recent locust, grasshopper and army worm emergencies in Africa, FAO has attracted and directed very substantial donor aid to the National Plant Protection Agencies of affected countries. This has enabled them to perform more effectively their traditional role of protecting proper areas: that is tactical pest control. Far less assistance has been sought or directed by FAO to regional pest control organizations which are traditionally the front-line task forces concerned with destroying pests at source outside crop areas and before they multiply and spread to the crop areas. That is strategic pest control. While the 1986 and 1987 harvests have been assured through tactical campaigns costing donors some \$80 - 100 million, not enough has been done at the strategic control level to prevent the recurrence of epidemics and upsurges in 1988 and future years which could require similar levels of expenditure by donors.

This is a theme to which we shall return in greater detail at Conference next week.

Hasim ÖGÜT (Turkey): At the outset I wish to thank Mr Lignon for his lucid introduction to the review of field programmes 1986-87. As this subject is also on the agenda of the Conference, I will confine my statement to a few aspects of the review which we consider to be worth mentioning at this stage.

First of all, I should like to express our satisfaction at the steady growth which the Trust Fund Programme has registered over the past years. Regarding the components of the Trust Fund projects, we are pleased to note that the multi-bilateral funds continued to take the largest share. However, we feel that showing the unilateral trust funds as a component of the overall Trust Fund Programme gives us a wrong impression on the general level of this programme, because the unilateral Trust Fund programmes address the needs of only a few countries. In other words, they do not have any global or regional significance. Therefore, we suggest that in the future reviews unilateral Trust Funds should be presented separately but with some greater details.

We appreciate the initiative taken to strengthen the capacity of FAO to monitor the field project implementation at Headquarters through the establishment of a computerized system. We believe that FAO country representatives also have a significant role to play in the monitoring of these projects. Therefore, we would like to stress the importance of integrating the country representatives into the planned field project monitoring system referred to by Mr Lignon.

We attach great importance to using, to the greatest possible extent the national capacities in the execution of field projects. We suggest that this point should be given further importance by FAO so as to increasingly meet the consultancy and training needs of the projects by means of establishing contracts with the national experts or institutions.

In this connection we also wish to see increased TCDC arrangements aiming at procuring equipment and recruiting consultants from developing countries.

Lastly, we should like to underline the significant contribution of the TCP to the overall field programme activities of FAO. In our view, however, the TCP funds, which indirectly contribute to the field programme, should be kept at a certain balance. In this way, such direct involvement as project formulation assistance can be taken care of through the Regular Programme resources and thus the impact of the field activities under the TCP can be further enhanced in direct involvement in the form of action-oriented projects.

Raúl LOPEZ LIRA (Mexico): La delegación de México se une a la satisfactoria acogida que dio el Comité del Programa al incremento en los programas FAO/PNUD, y al crecimiento constante de los fondos fiduciarios. Esto prueba la confianza que tenemos tanto los organismos como los países a nuestra Organización, en las materias de su competencia. Asimismo, aplaudimos las medidas adoptadas por la FAO para mejorar la gestión y vigilancia de los programas de campo, entre los cuales destacan los trabajos en materia de computarización, detrás de los cuales inevitablemente está el factor humano.

La voz de la delegación mexicana continuará haciendo sentir lo expresado en el párrafo 3.126 del documento 87/4, respecto a la disminución de la proporción de actividades ejecutadas en la región Latinoamericana y del Caribe, a pesar de que se indique que están fuera del control de la Organización. Alzamos nuestra voz particularmente en un período en el cual la crisis económica motivada por el pesado servicio de la deuda externa, el deterioro de los términos de intercambio y del comercio, y el creciente proteccionismo, hacen que el flagelo del hambre y la malnutrición haga presa a las masas de nuestras poblaciones. Requerimos hoy más que nunca de un apoyo serio y continuado para evitar la degradación ulterior de nuestra seguridad alimentaria.

Aplaudimos la actitud del Comité del Programa en su aprecio a los esfuerzos hechos a través del PCT para apoyar la CTPD y la CEPD. Esos esfuerzos están en el corazón mismo de nuestra Organización y quisiéramos haberlos visto fortalecidos.

Finalmente, insistimos en que en la aplicación del Programa de Campo deben aprovecharse los recursos materiales y humanos de los propios países beneficiarios. Con tal propósito deberá reclutarse preferentemente al personal nacional radicado en esos países, en lugar del personal extranjero.

Del mismo modo se podría favorecer la creación de cuerpos técnicos a través del uso de equipo y de capacitadores nacionales, los cuales podrían multiplicar y extender el impulso y efectos que se derivan de la aplicación de programas.

Otro elemento que deberá contribuir a elevar el nivel de eficiencia y aprovechamiento de los programas de campo consiste en la posibilidad de que los gobiernos determinen, orienten y evalúen las tareas que realizan los Representantes Permanentes de la FAO ante los países. De esa forma, esos representantes se involucrarían en tareas prácticas y no preferencialmente administrativas como ha venido ocurriendo.

Ronald MACINTOSH (Canada): Mr Chairman, in our usual balanced and constructive fashion, we are here to pay some tribute to the Review of Field Programmes document. We have in the past had some comments to make about the quality of the document. We felt there had been some improvements in the last edition and we feel that there have been some further improvements in this edition. We compliment the efforts made by the Secretariat in assembling the materials. The initial part of the review contains some quite extensive descriptions of FAO activities in a variety of sub-sectors. There is a great amount of useful information on the quantity of assistance delivered, on sector shares, on geographic shares and on the source of the funding.

For us, the most important chapter is Chapter Two, the Assessment of Field Projects.

There also has been some improvement in the efforts to evaluate the quality of the projects. We are told that the work of the Evaluation Service and of the Field Programme Committee has been strengthened.

On the whole, we felt that the Assessment chapter demonstrated a greater degree of objectivity and analysis. In fact, we felt that the analytical tone adopted for the individual case studies that were mentioned in the Review showed a great deal of objectivity in the examination of the practical problems faced by mounting and executing programmes in the field.

If we could make one comment - on this I return to the balance in our intervention - which I hope will be regarded as constructive, we would hope in the future for a more extensive discussion of the problems of programme management in FAO.

As we have stated in previous meetings, we are also concerned that there remains apparently little emphasis on impact assessment or other forms or post-project monitoring in FAO's approach to evaluation.

We shall have an opportunity at the Conference to address in greater detail consideration of reform and review of FAO, and certainly the Canadian delegation will be treating field programmes very prominently in its own interventions on that subject. For the purposes of this Council, I should like to flag three areas that we shall be addressing in the Conference, and we hope that again this will be taken in a constructive spirit.

The first problem is that we feel that there is not enough opportunity for members to exert an in-depth consideration of field programmes in FAO. We feel that we must find facilities which engage the membership more actively in considering all the problems that field programmes face. We do not feel that two days every two years at the Conference is quite enough for this purpose.

Secondly, we have touched briefly at the last Council on our view that there needs to be in FAO a more consolidated approach to field programme delivery. Indeed, what we should like to see progressed towards is a unified field programme delivery structure. We very much believe that there should be conceptual coherence, conceptual unity, between the Regular Programme and the Field Programme. However, we believe that there is a strong case to be made for some operational distinction. We believe that this would lead to a greater measure of transparency in the area of financial accounting and also in the area of personnel deployment. We also feel that a distinct structure for field programme delivery would assist in the efficiency of the delivery systems.

Thirdly, we would like to see - as other speakers have noted - a much greater emphasis in the area of policy advice. Mr Walton has explained that it is a little difficult to do this sometimes if the governments do not ask for this sort of advice. I should only like to compliment the FAO on what ability they have, and that ability is, in fact, to sell services they possess. We believe that, if an identifiable unit were available in FAO that made clear FAO's capacities in this field and the priorities that the Organization attaches to policy advice, particularly in the context of economic adjustment, there would be more requests and FAO's programmes would be more relevant as a result.

Elio PASCARELLI (Italie): Je regarde l'heure et je serai bref, comme d'habitude. Je n'ai pas de papier à lire, mais je ne peux manquer, au nom de mon Gouvernement, de féliciter sincèrement M. Lignon pour ce qu'il a dit et pour ce qu'il a fait, surtout, ainsi que ses collaborateurs qui sont en contact étroit avec mon Gouvernement.

Nous nous enorgueillissons d'avoir le fonds fiduciaire le plus massif. Nos relations sont donc étroites et nous en sommes très heureux. Nous n'avons pas de critique à faire; nous ne faisons que recevoir celles qui ont été faites par les organes compétents qui ont discuté beaucoup plus longtemps que nous ne pouvons le faire ce soir sur ce magnifique examen des programmes de terrain.

J'ai eu le temps de relire ce que nous avons conclu au Comité financier et au Comité du programme et je souscris entièrement aux louanges qui ont été adressées à ces programmes de terrain, tout en notant ce que nous avons cherché nous-mêmes à corriger, c'est-à-dire le déséquilibre entre les fonds destinés à l'Amérique latine et aux Caraïbes et les fonds destinés à notre continent. Or, en tenant compte avec le maximum d'attention des besoins constants de ce continent, nous avons commencé - et M. Lignon peut en témoigner - à diversifier aussi nos contributions. Et la preuve de notre confiance dans ce magnifique service de la FAO, c'est l'accroissement constant de notre fonds qui atteint maintenant un sommet jamais atteint jusqu'ici. Je félicite M. Lignon et je vous remercie.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): El distinguido colega y amigo, el Embajador Pascarelli de Italia además de confirmar que nuestro país anfitrión se coloca cada día más a la cabeza de la asistencia para el desarrollo, lo cual complace vivamente al Gobierno de Colombia, además de ello decimos, tuvo expresiones de elogio y reconocimiento al Sr. Lignon, Asistente del Director General Jefe del Departamento de Desarrollo y a sus colaboradores, y opiniones favorables que los representantes de Colombia compartimos plenamente.

El Sr. Lignon y quienes le acompañan en su Departamento cumplen una excelente tarea, y este documento así lo confirma. El debate sobre este tema fue iniciado por el distinguido colega y amigo Dr. Winkel de la República Federal de Alemania quien hizo algunas consideraciones importantes y serias que compartimos. Es circunstancia también propicia para pedirle al Dr. Winkel que transmita al Gobierno de la República Federal de Alemania el reconocimiento y la gratitud del Gobierno de Colombia por la valiosa asistencia que recibimos de ese importante país.

Compartimos igualmente alguna de las apreciaciones hechas por nuestro distinguido colega y amigo Sr. Ogüt de la República de Turquía. Quisiéramos referirnos a la evolución de las actividades de Campo que se presenta muy bien en este documento, para apoyar sobre todo la nueva orientación que debe darse en la FAO a la calidad de los expertos y a los períodos de su utilización.

Estamos de acuerdo en que ya algunos países en desarrollo han alcanzado grado intermedio y pueden prescindir de la asistencia técnica tradicional para que ésta les sea remplazada por expertos de altos niveles a corto plazo. Naturalmente estamos también de acuerdo con el documento en que todavía hay algunos países que necesitan esa asistencia técnica como se venía ofreciendo en el pasado. Y quisiéramos preguntar a la Secretaría, si en la FAO, en el Departamento de Desarrollo particularmente, disponen de una lista de expertos especializados en disciplinas varias relacionadas con las necesidades de los países en desarrollo; lista que debería estar a disposición de los gobiernos, sobre todo en relación con la frase que aparece en el primer párrafo de la evolución de actividades que es cuando dice que muchos países necesitan todavía formas de asistencia en un momento dado. Creemos que esto sería conveniente. Seguramente existe, pero nos gustaría constatarlo. Atribuimos particular importancia a las actividades de formación y por eso nos complace que en los últimos diez años se hayan formado aproximadamente 500 000 personas, entre ellas muchas mujeres, y que ahora a las mujeres se les esté dando mayor participación en importantes proyectos multidisciplinarios.

Apoyamos lo que dijo nuestro colega y amigo Lopezlira de México sobre la necesidad de que la FAO revise su actitud frente a la asistencia técnica que debe ofrecer a los países de América Latina y el Caribe. Pensamos que se ha ido procediendo en los últimos años con base en cifras y en indicadores obsoletos que es necesario revisar y actualizar.

Esto no quiere decir que no estemos de acuerdo con las prioridades que la FAO concede, sobre todo al Africa y a otros países menos adelantados; pero será conveniente que la posición de América Latina y el Caribe sea ahora analizada dentro de un marco diferente. Esperemos que a este respecto, el estudio sobre nuestra Región, que se solicitó en la pasada Conferencia Regional de América Latina y el Caribe celebrada en Barbados, estudio sobre el cual sabemos que trabajó con intensidad y competencia la FAO, ese estudio esperamos, repito, pueda reflejar esas cifras que justifiquen lo que dijo México y nosotros apoyamos.

También queremos apoyar al colega mexicano en la necesidad y conveniencia de que la FAO intensifique, porque ya lo viene haciendo en cierta medida, el mayor uso de expertos nacionales y de instituciones nacionales. Este documento indica que ya muchos nacionales de los países beneficiarios han asumido con competencia la dirección de importantes proyectos, y creemos que debe seguirse en esa buena dirección.

Igualmente queremos apoyar la importancia creciente que la FAO está dando a la CTPD y CEPT. Creemos que eso es fundamental. Otra observación importante nos lleva a las relaciones entre el PNUD y la FAO. A pesar del decrecimiento que ha sufrido la participación de la FAO en la ejecución de proyectos financiados por el PNUD, nuestra Organización sigue siendo la primera agencia de ejecución del Programa de Naciones Unidas, y a la vez el PNUD sigue siendo la primera fuente de recursos para los proyectos de la FAO.

Por eso, nos interesan las cifras y los comentarios que aquí se consignan a este respecto. Observamos en el gráfico 1.2 que han descendido considerablemente las asignaciones del PNUD a la FAO, después de que en el segundo ciclo esas asignaciones alcanzaron un nivel muy alto, han ahora descendido considerablemente para el cuarto ciclo; y nos inquieta un poco la tímida información que hay en el párrafo 1.12 donde dice que esos recursos no han sufrido fluctuaciones, y en general han disminuido. Creemos que tendríamos que ser aquí más afirmativos, más realistas, aunque no sea muy agradable decirlo; es decir, que en realidad ese descenso ha sido considerable y preocupante. Frente a eso, también consideramos un poco no muy realista la afirmación que se hace en el párrafo 1.15 donde dice que hay razones para creer que la parte correspondiente a la FAO se estabilizará o mejorará, se estabilizará o mejorará. No creo que nosotros debamos aspirar a que la parte correspondiente a la FAO que sobre el cuadro 1.2 ha descendido del 31 por ciento en 1972 pueda estabilizarse al 19 por ciento de 1986. Sobre todo, no deberíamos conformarnos con esa estabilización frente al hecho de que afortunadamente los recursos del PNUD han comenzado a mejorar notablemente a partir de 1986, y posiblemente en 1987 se dispondrá de mil millones de dólares.

Somos conscientes de que entre las relaciones del PNUD y la FAO, las decisiones de los gobiernos son factor determinante. Con base en esa premisa, quisiéramos preguntar al distinguido amigo Sr. Lignon cuáles han sido las causas, a juicio de la FAO, que han determinado ese decrecimiento de ejecución de proyectos por parte de nuestra organización. ¿Podría acaso influir el 6 por ciento que ahora se atribuye a los gobiernos, gobiernos que ejecutan directamente los proyectos? ¿Acaso se debe también en parte a que en el seno del PNUD se están también ejecutando algunos proyectos, sobre todo multidisciplinarios?

En general, nos interesa saber cómo han sido las relaciones entre la FAO y el PNUD en los últimos años, y sobre todo cómo se prospectan esas relaciones ahora en el cuarto ciclo que va a iniciarse o que se está iniciando justamente en 1987. Y todo esto sería conveniente saberlo porque la delegación de Colombia piensa que en nuestro Informe convendría insistir ante los gobiernos en la necesidad de que concendan más alta prioridad a la agricultura en sus planos nacionales de desarrollo, para que así el PNUD reciba de los gobiernos las orientaciones y las directrices indispensables, a través de las cuales se destaque, se confirme la importancia de la agricultura, y la FAO pueda tratar, por lo menos, no de volver al nivel anterior, sí de mejorar considerablemente el bajísimo nivel actual.

Ngá-Ma MAPELA (Zaire): Nous félicitons le Secrétariat pour la qualité du document que nous sommes en train d'examiner. Nous félicitons également M. Lignon pour son exposé introductif à ce document.

Ma délégation voudrait remercier tous les pays donateurs qui contribuent par des fonds à travers la FAO à aider les pays en développement à mettre en oeuvre un programme de terrain qu'ils ont préalablement défini. Nous nous félicitons de la bonne coopération qui existe d'une part entre la FAO et le PNUD, d'autre part, entre la FAO et les institutions financières, dans le cadre de l'exécution de projets que le PNUD et ses institutions financent. Nous pensons qu'il ne pouvait en être autrement car la FAO possède une longue expérience dans l'exécution de projets sur le terrain et comme l'a bien dit la Conférence mondiale sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural, la FAO demeure l'Organisation des Nations Unies chef de file en matière d'alimentation et d'agriculture.

Nous voudrions solliciter et encourager la FAO dans sa politique d'utiliser en priorité les capacités des pays en voie de développement dans les projets de terrain. De la même façon nous appuyons les efforts que déploie la FAO pour rechercher les voies et moyens de relever la part de pays en voie de développement dans les commandes d'équipement.

Lorsque nous parlons d'évaluer les programmes qu'exécute la FAO sur le terrain, nous ne devrions pas perdre de vue que les premiers évaluateurs qu'il faut écouter sont les gouvernements des pays bénéficiaires de ces programmes. Il en est de même de la coordination des activités des organismes des Nations Unies dans les pays en développement, coordination qui relève, nous le savons, de chaque gouvernement du pays où se déroulent ces activités.

Almir F. de Sá BARBUDA (Brazil): While going through document C87/4, my delegation verified that even though a moderate increase was achieved in the biennium, the field programmes are still much behind desirable levels, especially considering the magnitude and complexity of the problems faced by developing countries. We would like to underline the importance of TCP projects and all other FAO activities aiming at fostering ECDC and TCDC.

We also welcomed the presentation in Chapter 2 of this document, the careful and detailed analysis and evaluation of six project examples. We recognize the efforts undertaken by FAO to improve the performance and efficiency of its field programmes through the strengthening of the evaluation service and we extend our support to further initiatives in the same line.

In Chapter 4 of the document we had the opportunity to verify the evaluation of FAO field activities in view of the changing nature of the necessities of recipient countries. In that connection, we would like at the same time to support and express our wish for the tendency towards an ever increasing number of national project professionals as well as for the government execution of projects.

On document C92/4 specifically on the views of the Programme Committee regarding a review of field programmes, 1986-87, my delegation acknowledges its conclusions. Many of the conclusions were dealt with above, but we would like to bring the contents of paragraph 2.47 to the attention of this Council, namely when it regrets the declining allocations of extrabudgetary funds for activities in Latin America and the Caribbean, a fact which has already been mentioned by the Ambassador for Colombia and the delegate of Mexico. We regret this fact, even though it is also noted in the document that our region benefited from a range of TCDC activities under the TCP.

On the whole, the considerations expressed by the Programme Committee coincide in general with those of my delegation and we can thus briefly state our endorsement and appreciation of the work done and the conclusions in paragraphs 2.44, 2.58.

By way of conclusion, we would commend the work done by the Secretariat in the Review of Field Programmes 1986-87 and we also think it deserves approval by this Council and by the Twenty-fourth Session of the Conference.

Salim SARRAF (Liban) (Langue originale arabe): Permettez-moi très brièvement d'exprimer mon sentiment. Tout d'abord, je voudrais remercier M. Lignon et à travers sa personne tout le Secrétariat pour l'excellente préparation et présentation du document C 87/4. Je le remercie, le Secrétariat également, pour les efforts déployés dans ce domaine que nous apprécions hautement et qui ont visé à améliorer ces programmes de terrain du point de vue du contenu et du point de vue de la présentation.

Comme ce document sera débattu longuement au cours de la prochaine Conférence, je me contente de dire ici même que nous l'approuvons entièrement sur ce point.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Perhaps I may again say two or three words before passing the microphone over to Mr Lignon.

First, I should like to make a correction on something that I said under an earlier agenda item. My information was incomplete and slightly misleading. When we were speaking about commitments and disbursements I said that under non-TCP sections of the Regular Programme disbursements had to be

completed by the end of March in the year following the biennium. The exact situation is that by the end of March in the year following the biennium the books have to be closed and handed over to the external auditors. However, the actual physical writing of cheques can continue until the end of December. That is the complete factual situation.

There are two points only that I want to mention on this item, both linking in to earlier discussions. First of all, on the question of country focus, there are a number of FAO programmes which have what I would call a horizontal focus or a subject matter focus, including most of our action programmes, some of which we have already looked at, such as those for food security assistance, trypanosomiasis control or seed improvement. Those are the horizontally focused ones.

On the question of country focus or, so to speak, vertical focus, the shape which this problem takes varies enormously country by country and subject matter by subject matter. In many cases what FAO is actually providing is a very small part of the assistance which fits into a much larger government national development plan, or sectoral or sub-sectoral strategy.

It is important for all concerned - and this is fully recognized by all concerned - that such FAO assistance, which is relatively small, should have a multiplier effect by fitting into a country focus of this nature. I do not think that this hinges in any way on the administrative arrangements for the Field Programme. Those will be looked at in a rather different context, I think, under another agenda item which is before the FAO Conference.

Still on the question of country focus, it links up also to the discussion on the policy advisory role of FAO, and to that I think the chapter on planning assistance in this document before the Council and the Conference is extremely relevant. The objective of FAO in providing policy advice, short-term, medium-term and long-term, must be to build up the capacity of the countries concerned to do this job themselves. Training is an essential part of the whole undertaking, and there is a lot of work under way on this, described in the report. I would draw attention, as a very interesting recent example, to the project funded by Italy which has been started in recent months, implemented by FAO and headquartered in Argentina, for the training of agricultural development planners in Latin America and the Caribbean, agricultural planning at macro- and at micro-level.

The second point to which I want to refer is the strategy for the locust problem. The exercise which we have undertaken together with governments to deal with the locust and grasshopper problem has been of an emergency character. Nevertheless, from quite early days we have been working on a strategy for longer term prevention measures. Of course, this will be coming up at the Conference, but I should just like to mention now that the situation between locusts and grasshoppers is very different. Grasshoppers travel rather small distances. They breed over vast areas, and the strategy has to be crop protection against infestation by grasshoppers. The strategy is not the eradication of grasshoppers wherever they may be breeding. For locusts the situation is almost the other way round. Locusts travel over enormous distances and the strategy is to attack them in their breeding grounds. This is essentially an international problem, a regional problem, and the long-term solution is the building up of regional organizations, of which a number have been in existence for many years but have had serious difficulties lately.

FAO, the World Bank and the UNDP have been in discussion on this matter for almost a year. There have been discussions with donors and with the representatives of the regional organizations and of African countries. There will be further discussions next month in December at the next donors meeting, and we shall be going into this matter further in the Conference.

At this stage, perhaps Mr Lignon could take over.

R.S. LIGNON (Sous-Directeur général, Département de développement): D'abord je voudrais remercier les délégués qui ont apprécié ce document, qui nous ont fait des commentaires extrêmement pertinents dont nous tiendrons compte à l'avenir. Je pense que ceci contribuera encore à améliorer la présentation de ce document dans les années prochaines.

Brièvement, je voudrais répondre à deux questions essentielles qui ont été soulevées par plusieurs orateurs.

La première, c'est le problème de la participation de la FAO dans les projets financés par le PNUD. Je crois qu'il y a une chute qui est due à un grand nombre de raisons. Je voudrais les mentionner comme ceci. Si l'on part par exemple du tableau 1.2 qui démarre en 1972, à ce moment-là la Banque mondiale n'avait pas de rôle particulier dans la fourniture en assistance technique en agriculture. Vous savez qu'actuellement la Banque mondiale est probablement l'Organisme qui a la plus grosse capacité financière en terme d'assistance technique, une partie importante étant consacrée à l'agriculture. La Banque mondiale exécute souvent elle-même ses programmes d'assistance technique dans le secteur agricole. Ensuite il y a l'apparition, depuis une date plus récente, de l'exécution par les gouvernements. Je crois que l'on ne peut que s'en féliciter, même si cela diminue notre part dans les activités financées par le PNUD, je crois qu'on ne peut que se réjouir de la part plus importante que prennent les gouvernements. Ceci implique la mise en oeuvre d'autres méthodes de coopération, mais diminue "le chiffre d'affaires" si je puis dire.

Troisièmement, je pense qu'il y a aussi le fait que le PNUD a créé le Bureau d'exécution des projets. Dans le cadre de ce Bureau d'exécution des projets, nous avons dû, à plusieurs reprises, faire des commentaires auprès du PNUD, dans la mesure où le Bureau d'exécution des projets d'abord ne doit fonctionner que dans le cadre du consensus, qu'après que les Agences spécialisées du système aient exprimé leur point de vue sur le sujet, et surtout leur incapacité passagère ou plus longue, pour exécuter les projets multisectoriels, et deuxièmement, parce que les pays opèrent en sortant la plupart du temps dans des contrats du système des Nations Unies dans le consensus de 1970.

Enfin je crois qu'il y a un autre aspect du problème aussi qu'il faut souligner, c'est que les pays donateurs sont souvent en terme d'assistance technique (je ne parle pas en terme d'investissements) plus intéressés par les programmes d'assistance technique dans le secteur rural, que ce soit sur un plan bilatéral ou même multilatéral, et que par conséquent le PNUD en tient compte dans les exercices de préparation du Programme par pays, en sachant que l'agriculture sera privilégiée.

Récemment, au cours d'une table ronde dans un pays africain, le Ministre du Plan disait: "ce n'est pas la peine de trop s'occuper des problèmes du développement rural puisque mon collègue du Ministère du développement rural trouve beaucoup de crédits pour exécuter ses propres projets".

Je crois que cet ensemble de raisons fait qu'il y a une diminution de la part de l'agriculture dans les projets financés par le PNUD.

Ceci étant dit, nous pensons que dans l'effort de programmation, le travail que nous avons mené avec le PNUD a permis d'obtenir des résultats plus satisfaisants dans certains pays. La part de l'agriculture dans les programmes, du PNUD représente entre 35 et 50 pour cent. Voilà ce que je voulais dire à ce propos. Je crois qu'on ne peut pas espérer revenir aux chiffres de 1970-72, à une époque où n'existaient pas de nombreuses autres organisations qui, plus ou moins, peuvent s'intéresser au moins partiellement aux problèmes de développement rural. Pour répondre aussi à une autre question, nous avons naturellement des fichiers informatisés, des rosters comme on dit, que ce soit au Centre d'investissement, que ce soit dans les divisions techniques où nous entretenons les listes, le plus possible à jour, des experts auxquels nous pouvons faire appel, et je crois que dans ce domaine cela nous permet d'augmenter l'utilisation des spécialistes des pays en voie de développement, notamment dans les opérations de coopération technique entre pays en développement. Je crois que ce sont les questions les plus importantes.

Très brièvement, pour dire que le Programme de coopération technique a un rôle catalytique important, si je peux citer simplement deux ou trois pourcentages: 42 pour cent des projets du Programme de coopération technique ont directement débouché sur des projets de suivi financés par le PNUD, les fonds de dépôt, ou des institutions de financement. Un autre chiffre aussi pour vous montrer son effet catalytique, et notamment pour répondre à une question par le délégué de la Turquie, les projets de formulation, qui ne dépassent pas 3 pour cent en valeur des dépenses du PNUD, ont eu un effet multiplicateur qui varie entre 20 et 30 pour cent.

Voilà, Monsieur le Président, les quelques questions auxquelles je souhaitais répondre maintenant, étant bien entendu que nous pourrions revenir sur l'ensemble des questions qui ont été soulevées par les honorables délégués lors de la Conférence.

LE PRESIDENT: Je crois pouvoir être l'interprète du Conseil en disant qu'il se félicite des améliorations constatées dans la présentation du Programme de terrain 1986-87 de la FAO.

J'émet le vœu que ces efforts soient poursuivis pour avoir encore des améliorations supplémentaires qui permettent de répondre à toutes les questions sur la répartition des efforts à travers les pays ou les continents et également de voir encore plus clair dans le pourcentage des activités agricoles de la FAO dans les programmes PNUD et dans le pourcentage du financement par le PNUD des programmes FAO.

Nous devons continuer à rechercher de manière soutenue tout ce qui est de nature à augmenter le pourcentage de l'agriculture et les activités de développement international et je pense que cet effort qui commence à porter ses fruits depuis quelque temps mérite d'être poursuivi activement et que nous devons tous prendre en considération une harmonisation maximum des activités tout terrain entre les deux agences.

Nous pourrions passer maintenant au point 10 si le Conseil en convient. Le Comité de rédaction doit commencer à travailler. nous nous limiterons donc aujourd'hui au point 10 et peut-être pourrions-nous passer la parole au docteur Shah pour présenter rapidement ce point. Il s'agit d'un point pour information et je propose que le docteur Shah nous introduise le sujet.

10. Second Report on Unscheduled Sessions in the 1986-87 Biennium

10. Deuxième rapport sur les réunions hors programme pendant l'exercice 86-87

10. Segundo informe sobre las reuniones no previstas en el biennio 1986-87

V.J. SHAH (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): The document before the Council for this item is CL 92/3, which is the Second Report on Unscheduled Sessions in the 1986-87 Biennium: for information. The practice for submitting these documents to the Council dates back to 1973, and it is usually at the Autumn Session of the Council that you receive this report for information. In the report which had been submitted to you last year, we reported that there had been 34 unscheduled sessions approved and 30 sessions cancelled in 1986. In the document now before you, we update that information for 1987, and the results will not come as a surprise. I refer to the fact that there were only 11 unscheduled sessions approved, and 80 sessions cancelled.

Even since this document was set for processing, 4 other sessions have been cancelled and I state them specifically because, according to your practice, the whole list of these sessions appears as an annex to your Report.

The 4 sessions cancelled since the document was finalized are: 1. AGP 717-8 - FAO Panel of Experts on Pesticide Specifications, Registration Requirements and Application Standards (Programme 2.1.1). The reason for its cancellation was that there was insufficient time available for the follow-up to the last meeting of the Panel and for revision of the resulting guidelines. 2. RNEA 807 - Regional Consultation on the Role of NGOs including Agricultural Trade Unions in Rural Development in Near East (Programme 2.1.5). The reason for cancellation of this meeting was that the Agreement was not ratified by the required number of countries; the meeting would therefore not have been warranted. 3. RAFR 702-5 - Joint FAO/WHO/OAU Food and Nutrition Commission for Africa (Programme 2.1.6.). This meeting, by agreement of all the sponsors, has been postponed to the next biennium. 4. REUR 803 - Technical Consultation on the European Cooperative Network on Durum Wheat (Programme 2.1.2). Cancellation of this meeting was recommended by the European Commission on Agriculture at its meeting held in June 1987.

This essentially is the report before the Council which the Council may wish to note. I am of course at your disposal for any clarification which may be required.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie M. Shah. Est-ce que Messieurs les délégués ont des questions à poser M. Shah sur cette information?

Nous pouvons donc remercier M. Shah pour cet exposé clair et complet.

14.1 Invitations to Non-Member Nations to attend FAO Sessions

14.1 Invitations à participer à des réunions de la FAO adressées à des Etats non membres

14.1 Invitaciones a los Estados no miembros para que asistan a reuniones de la FAO

Et maintenant avant de lever la réunion je voudrais informer le Conseil de ce que l'Ambassade de l'Union soviétique, le 4 novembre 1987, a communiqué au représentant régional de la FAO pour l'Europe le désir de son gouvernement d'être invité à la quatre-vingt-douzième session du Conseil en cours.

Une invitation du Directeur général à participer comme observateur a été envoyée le 4 novembre en vertu des paragraphes B.1 et B.2 des Principes régissant l'octroi du statut d'observateur aux Nations. Ces paragraphes stipulent que les Etats qui ne sont pas membres ou membres associés de l'Organisation mais qui sont membres de l'une quelconque des institutions spécialisées des Nations Unies ou de l'Agence internationale de l'énergie atomique peuvent, sur demande et sous réserve des dispositions énoncées au paragraphe B.4, être invités par la Conférence ou par le Conseil à se faire représenter par un observateur à une session de ces organes.

L'admission de l'Union soviétique en qualité d'observateur à la quatre-vingt-douzième session du Conseil est soumise à l'approbation du Conseil. S'il n'y a pas d'objections, nous pouvons considérer que l'Union soviétique est admise à participer comme observateur à la quatre-vingt-douzième session du Conseil. Il n'y a pas d'objections?

L'Union soviétique est admise à participer comme observateur à la présente session du Conseil.

The meeting rose at 20.45 hours

La séance est levée à 20 h 45

Se levanta la sesión a las 20.45 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 92/PV/5

Ninety-second Session

Quatre-vingt-douzième session

92º período de sesiones

FIFTH PLENARY MEETING CINQUIEME SEANCE PLENIERE QUINTA SESION PLENARIA

(5 November 1987)

The Fifth Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.45 hours

Lassaad Ben Osman, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La cinquième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 45 sous la présidence
de Lassaad Ben Osman, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la quinta sesión plenaria a las 9.45 horas bajo la presidencia
de Lassaad Ben Osman, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

LE PRESIDENT: Nous reprenons le cours de nos travaux. Nous avons un ordre du jour encore très chargé, qui comprend plusieurs points: le point 11 et tous ses sous-points, le point 12, le point 13, le point 14, le point 15 et le point 16. Je souligne que nous devons achever nos travaux ce soir.

A l'heure actuelle, le Comité de rédaction est en train de travailler sur les parties sur lesquelles nous avons déjà délibéré. Il est en train de rédiger les paragraphes relatifs au Programme de travail et budget. C'est la raison pour laquelle, M. Shah étant pris par le Comité de rédaction pour ce chapitre de son rapport, je propose d'entamer la discussion sur les points 12, 13, 14, 15 et 16 jusqu'à ce que, d'ici trois quarts d'heure, M. Shah puisse introduire le point très important qu'est le point 11.

Avec votre permission, nous allons donc commencer l'examen du point 12, intitulé comme suit: "Rapport de la cinquantième session du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques", avec ses deux sous-points: "12.1 Procédure d'élection des présidents et des membres du Comité du programme et du Comité financier" et "12.2 Autres questions découlant du rapport".

Avec votre autorisation, je vais demander à M. le Conseiller juridique de bien vouloir introduire ce sujet.

IV. CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS

IV. QUESTIONS CONSTITUTIONNELLES ET JURIDIQUES

IV. ASUNTOS CONSTITUCIONALES Y JURIDICOS

12. Report of the Fiftieth Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (Rome, 14-16 October 1987) including:

12. Rapport de la cinquantième session du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques (Rome, 14-16 octobre 1987), notamment:

12. Informe del 50 período de sesiones del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos (Roma, 14-16 de octubre de 1987) en particular:

12.1 Procedures for Election of Chairmen and Members of the Programme and Finance Committees: for discussion and/or decision

12.1 Procédure d'élection des présidents et des membres du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier: pour examen et éventuellement décision

12.1 Procedimiento para la elección de los Presidentes y Miembros del Comité del Programa y del Comité de Finanzas: para debate y/o decisión

LEGAL COUNSEL: In the absence of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters, I should just like to introduce the first part of this item which is the question of the procedures for the election of the chairmen and members of the Finance Committee and the Programme Committee. In this connection, you will recall that the Council has already considered this matter on two previous occasions. Basically, the problem was to find a solution which would be agreeable to all the members of the Council so that there could be a consensus.

There were two basic theses, one that the General Rules of the Organization should be amended in order to ensure that any region that so wished would be represented on those committees. The other thesis was that amendment of the General Rules was not necessary and that equitable regional distribution on the committees could be ensured through appropriate negotiations between regions and within the regions themselves.

At the last session of the Council, the matter was again referred to the CCLM in order to seek a solution which would lead to a consensus in the Council. The CCLM has recommended a compromise solution which you have before you in paragraphs 3 to 10 of document CL 92/5. It basically consists of an intermediate course of action which lies between amendment of the General Rules and merely leaving the outcome of the elections to prior negotiations among governments.

The solution which is proposed to you by the CCLM is that the Conference should adopt a resolution which lays down certain principles which should be taken into account by the Council when it proceeds to the election of the chairmen and members of the two committees.

The draft resolution which the Conference may wish to adopt, or which the Council may first wish to endorse, is on pages 3 and 4 of the English text of the document and you will see that in the operative paragraphs the Conference would endorse three principles. First, it would affirm the need for just and equitable representation of the various regions. Secondly, it would underline that an essential element of such representation is that all regions that wish to be represented are in fact represented. The third principle that should be borne in mind is the importance of securing equitable rotation among the countries constituting each region. Of course, the latter requires cooperation and negotiation within the regions.

The first two principles are directed at the question of which regions should be represented and if the Conference adopts this resolution it will affirm the need to ensure that each region that wishes to be represented on either of these committees, is so represented.

I think that is all I need to say on this. Later on I shall introduce the two parts of item 12.2 entitled "Other Matters Arising Out of the Report".

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie M. le Conseiller juridique pour son introduction et ses explications et je demande si Messieurs les délégués ont des interventions à présenter.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): "El Señor Roche, en su competencia bien reconocida, ha representado muy bien al Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos al presentarnos este tema.

La Delegación de Colombia piensa que el CACJ ha cumplido al máximo sus responsabilidades dentro del carácter limitado de este Comité que debe basarse sobre el fondo de las recomendaciones políticas del Consejo. No podía ir más allá el CACJ. Hemos estudiado con cuidado este proyecto de resolución que se propone a la aprobación de la Conferencia; realísticamente pensamos que apenas contiene buenas intenciones, sin embargo, creemos, Señor Presidente, que de acuerdo con el párrafo 3 del proyecto de resolución, la adopción de un texto como éste podría al menos inducir a los miembros del Consejo a meditar seriamente sobre los principios contenidos en el texto de la Resolución.

Esencialmente, Señor Presidente, sería conveniente que haya negociaciones intensas de buena voluntad y con espíritu de compromiso entre los representantes de los Gobiernos de todas las Regiones para que se logre un acuerdo y se puedan cumplir así los principios objetivos y constructivos de este proyecto de resolución que apoyamos.

Elio PASCARELLI (Italie): Je voudrais tout d'abord excuser l'absence du Vice-Président qui provisoirement a présidé les réunions de ce Comité, le professeur Panebianco, il est aussi le Président de l'université et il est maintenant retenu par des travaux à Salerne.

D'autre part, je voudrais remercier M. Roche d'avoir si clairement introduit et synthétiquement donné l'essentiel de cette draft résolution à laquelle nous avons donné notre accord mais vous savez que nous sommes héraclitiens. Les situations peuvent changer, le projet de résolution a été approuvé par le représentant italien mais nous attendons la Conférence. La vague des réformes a commencé à couler et nous ne resterons pas à regarder la vague passer. Voilà une des réformes essentielles que nous allons proposer au cours de la Conférence. Je ne sais pas si cette résolution, acceptable au moment actuel, pourra survivre aux propositions de réformes de la commission des finances qui n'a rien à voir avec les autres critères qui dominent l'élection à la commission du Comité du programme.

Nous nous réservons très clairement de présenter une proposition de modification des critères d'élection et même du nombre des membres de la commission.

Pour l'instant nous n'avons rien à ajouter à ce draft, il est valable jusqu'à ce que la Conférence commence.

Sra. Margarita UZARRAGA SAUCEDO (México): Nuestra Delegación apoya totalmente la proposición hecha por el CACJ y consideramos que el Reglamento no debe ser modificado porque esto daría lugar a ampliar el número de miembros del Comité y creemos que esto podría traer implicaciones negativas a posteriori. Consideramos que esta Resolución que se nos propone es una buena fórmula de expresar la buena voluntad de que podamos dirimir dentro de las propias regiones, y entre las regiones, la composición del Comité. Por tanto, le damos todo nuestro apoyo.

J. LYNCH (Canada): Although we had been in favour of a change in this particular area, we can accept the proposal being made, but just to underline that, it is an extremely important element that all regions be represented on the Finance and Programme Committees, and that it is necessary for the type of goodwill that has been shown recently to be manifested again at the time of the elections which are coming up.

John COOK (United States of America): The United States would like to express its concurrence with the statement of the delegate of Canada. The United States would like to support this resolution, and the United States would like to thank Mr Roche for his very clear explanation of this Resolution.

LE PRESIDENT: S'il n'y a pas d'autres interventions, nous pouvons considérer que le Conseil approuve à l'unanimité ce projet de résolution et le transmet avec avis favorable à notre Conférence.

12.2 Other Matters Arising Out of the Report

12.2 Autres questions découlant du rapport

12.2 Otras cuestiones derivadas del informe

LEGAL COUNSEL: Sub-item 12.2 is made up of two distinct questions. The first one relates to the draft resolutions concerning financial matters which are also dealt with under item 11. With respect to three of those resolutions you will recall that the Council asked that once the resolutions had been drafted by the Finance Committee, they should also be reviewed by the CCLM.

I think at this stage it would suffice if I merely said that the resolutions as drafted by the Finance Committee were found to be in order by the CCLM from a purely legal and constitutional point of view, and that the CCLM in paragraph 18 of its report concluded that if they were adopted in the form proposed by the Finance Committee, they would not involve any amendments to the Financial Regulations or any other provision of the Basic Texts.

This is merely a conclusion which you may wish to bear in mind when you come to discussing the resolutions on, the level of the Working Capital Fund, the amendment of the procedures for the application of a cash surplus, and the resolution relating to measures to deal with problems of delayed payment of assessed contributions. This is, shall we say, the legal and constitutional contribution of the CCLM to be taken into account when you discuss the relevant sub-items of item 11.

I shall now leave that particular aspect of the CCLM's report and go on to the other part of item 12.2.

This relates to a headquarters agreement to be concluded for the World Food Programme. This is dealt with in paragraphs 19 to 25 of document CL 92/5. To summarize briefly what this question is about, the first point to note is that the Italian Government has very generously undertaken to take the necessary measures to provide state-owned property for the permanent headquarters of the World Food Programme. Even after the buildings in this Terme di Caracalla complex have been restructured, there will still not be sufficient accommodation to house the World Food Programme. The Italian Government indicated that it was essential under their legislation for a separate headquarters agreement to be concluded for the World Food Programme if such accommodation was to be provided. This agreement would be concluded by the Italian Government with the United Nations and with FAO as the two parent organizations of the World Food Programme. Because of the urgency of concluding this agreement, so as to enable the Italian Government to provide the accommodation, the Director-General and the Secretary-General agreed to enter into negotiations right away. These having been initiated, the Director-General wished to consult the CCLM on the appropriate procedures that should be followed within FAO, which would be one of the parties; and in particular to ascertain the views of the CCLM on what the proper role would be for the governing bodies of FAO.

After reviewing the Basic Texts, the CCLM concluded that there was no specific text which governed this particular kind of agreement. On the other hand, a body of practice had been built up over the years, and the normal procedure for headquarters agreements that had been followed, not only for the Organization itself in Rome, but for the establishment of the various regional offices, was to submit the text to the Council for approval. However, the CCLM realized that if in this particular case the same procedure were to be followed, we would inevitably put off the conclusion of the agreement, probably till the Council session that would be held in the last quarter of 1988. This would then delay accommodation being provided to the World Food Programme. This was obviously a situation which had to be avoided.

Taking that into account, and also the fact that the contents of this agreement would in principle be along the lines of the headquarters agreements already concluded with the Government of Italy by FAO and, more recently, by the International Fund for Agricultural Development, and further taking into account the fact that from information received from the United Nations it appeared that the Secretary-General would be able to sign the agreement without consulting any other intergovernmental body such as ECOSOC, the CCLM recommended that in this particular case the Director-General be authorized to conclude the agreement with the Italian Government on behalf of FAO without submitting the text to the Council for approval before signing it.

This is the only way in which we can avoid a long delay which would put off the suitable housing of the World Food Programme. This is the recommendation made to you by the CCLM. It is to be found in paragraph 23 of its report. In the meantime, the World Food Programme will continue to be covered by the FAO headquarters agreement as it always has been.

You will also notice in paragraph 24 of the CCLM's report that the CCLM placed on record its appreciation for the action proposed by the Italian Government and expressed the hope that the necessary arrangements could be undertaken as soon as possible. I have no doubt that the Council will also share those sentiments.

I think that is all I need to say at this stage.

Elio PASCARELLI: (Italie) Il est naturel que j'ajoute tout de suite mon appréciation et adresse mes remerciements à Monsieur Roche pour avoir aussi bien exposé ce sujet. Je crois qu'il est de mon devoir de demander avec l'énergie et la chaleur nécessaire au Conseil de donner ce que le CCLM a proposé, mais je crois qu'il faudrait quand même en expliquer les raisons car il y a des doutes. Les raisons sont les suivantes; nous avons, depuis ma prise de fonction, considéré la nécessité de payer le loyer du WFP, ce pauvre abandonné qui avait été traité comme un enfant d'Electre. Nous avons commencé à donner la moitié du loyer, j'ai réussi, l'année passée, à le donner entièrement.

Pour 1988 je le promets entièrement, cela a été déjà assuré au cours de la session de la Commission du Comité pour les Programmes et aide alimentaire, mais pour 1989 subsiste un doute en ce qui concerne la possibilité de payer la contribution volontaire. La FAO est logée ici, il n'y avait pas de place pour le WFP. Comme vous le savez, la famille s'est beaucoup agrandie; ils sont arrivés cinq cents, ils sont maintenant presque quatre-mille. Le WFP a quelques pièces ici, le reste est logé à la Via Cristoforo Colombo. Nous avons demandé à nos autorités compétentes de nous accorder des contributions volontaires pour cela, mais à un certain moment un obstacle s'est élevé: celui de la base juridique. Nous avons accompli notre devoir vis-à-vis de cette Organisation que nous aimons en décidant d'allouer les fonds pour faire face aux besoins de la FAO. Les bâtiments des Thermes de Caracalla permettent à toute la famille de la FAO de se réunir sous un toit, mais il faut que nous trouvions quand-même quelque chose pour ce pauvre enfant abandonné. Or, pour 1988 la décision a déjà été prise de payer la totalité du loyer; pour 1989 il y avait des doutes. Je voudrais rassurer le Conseil - je l'ai fait devant la Commission d'aide alimentaire - que notre souci était le danger que notre parlement retarde l'approbation de la ratification de l'Accord de siège. J'espère qu'il n'y aura pas les mêmes raisons.

Il y a quelques mois nous avons eu de nouvelles élections, nous avons maintenant devant nous cinq ans - Dieu nous protège I - de législature continue. Si par hasard au début de 1989 ce processus n'était pas terminé, nous n'aurions pas la possibilité légale de payer, mais je puis aujourd'hui assurer le Conseil que le Gouvernement italien n'oubliera pas que la faute réside dans la lenteur du processus parlementaire. Il faut que les deux chambres examinent et approuvent cet Accord de siège. C'est la raison pour laquelle nous demandons que l'Accord de siège soit conclu aussi vite que possible, que le Directeur général n'ait pas à attendre jusqu'à la réunion du Conseil l'année prochaine. Nous recommandons vivement au Conseil de donner cette autorisation demandée.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): El Gobierno de Colombia ha venido reiterando constantemente su pleno apoyo al Programa Mundial de Alimentos; consideramos que es uno de los organismos que trabaja muy eficazmente, por ello nos complace que la posibilidad de que el PMA tenga su propia sede, podrá contribuir a que el personal de ese importante Programa trabaje en mejores condiciones que les permita ser aun más eficaces.

Estamos de acuerdo con el Embajador Pascarelli en la conveniencia de destacar en nuestro informe sobre este tema el hecho de que la autorización al Director General para que firme el acuerdo facilitará el pago del Gobierno italiano el arriendo que será del 100 por cien en 1988. Sobre 1989 el Embajador Pascarelli honestamente ha suscitado algunas dudas. Desafortunadamente, como ya es bien sabido, tal vez en ese año el Embajador Pascarelli no tendrá funciones oficiales directas, pero esperamos que de todas maneras él siga contribuyendo con sus luces, con sus orientaciones y su asistencia para que esa situación sea satisfactoria.

Apoyamos por ello el final del párrafo 23 sobre la conveniencia de autorizar al Director General a firmar ese acuerdo, que no contendrá diferencias importantes con los otros acuerdos. Suponemos que a posteriori se presentará un informe al Consejo al respecto y posiblemente se distribuirá el texto del acuerdo que va a firmar el Director General.

Finalmente, proponemos que el Consejo haga suyas, refrende, las consideraciones del CACJ en el párrafo 24 al dejar constancia de su reconocimiento por la actitud constructiva del Gobierno italiano.

Sra. Margarita LIZARRAGA SAUCEDO (México): Nuestra delegación no tiene más que regocijarse de que una solución de esta naturaleza venga propuesta por nuestro Comité, y se une al Embajador de Colombia en el apoyo dado para que este acuerdo sea firmado a la brevedad posible a fin de que pueda resolverse este problema, y desde luego la gratitud que debemos este Consejo refrendar al Gobierno italiano por su actitud tan positiva.

James D. AITKEN (United Kingdom): The United Kingdom would like to add its thanks to those of other delegations to the delegation of Italy, the host nation, for the very generous and helpful way in which they have negotiated. We fully support the idea that there should be no delay in signing the Agreement, but because it will be some time before Member States see this Agreement as a Council document, we would like to suggest to the Council that the Draft Agreement when prepared, is circulated to Member States - simply for information, not as a Council Document awaiting decision, so that we are aware of what is going on.

Elio PASCARELLI (Italie): Je crois qu'il faut souligner encore une fois que cette attitude vis-à-vis du Programme alimentaire mondial est déterminée par le fait que nous voulons séparer nettement notre contribution volontaire au Programme ordinaire du reste. Nous avons eu le plaisir d'annoncer que nous allions doubler (c'est-à-dire augmenter de 100 pour cent) notre contribution régulière de façon à monter dans la liste des contribuables, à être dans les dix premiers. Alors nous voulons la séparer de ce que nous croyons de notre devoir d'hospitalité. Il s'agit donc d'une contribution volontaire, mais vous savez que parfois les contributions volontaires rencontrent plus de difficultés que les contributions obligatoires. Notre contribution obligatoire a surmonté tous les obstacles auprès du trésor jusqu'au moment où le bâtiment sera bâti, ou un bâtiment existant sera aménagé.

LE PRESIDENT: Je pense donc traduire la pensée du Conseil qu'il est unanime à recommander d'autoriser le Directeur général à signer cet Accord de siège pour le Programme alimentaire mondial avec le Gouvernement italien, d'en distribuer, après signature, un exemplaire aux membres du Conseil. Le Conseil se félicite et tient à exprimer sa reconnaissance au Gouvernement italien pour l'attitude constructive et généreuse dont il a fait preuve vis-à-vis des Organismes des Nations Unies qui siègent à Rome. Nous allons insister pour que cette reconnaissance figure au procès-verbal de notre Conseil.

13. Establishment of a Regional Commission on Livestock Development in Latin America and the Caribbean: for discussion and/or decision (CL 92/7)
13. Création d'une Commission régionale pour le développement de l'élevage en Amérique latine et dans les Caraïbes: pour examen et éventuellement décision (CL 92/7)
13. Establecimiento de una Comisión Regional de Fomento Pecuário en América Latina y el Caribe; para debate y/o decisión (CL 92/7)

C.H. BONTE-FRIEDHEIM (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): It is my pleasure to introduce to Council, Council Document CL 92/7, with the proposal to establish a Commission on Livestock Development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The importance of the livestock sub-sector in the Latin America and Caribbean region may be illustrated by the fact that it accounts for about one quarter of the world's cattle population and produces about 17 and a half percent of total world beef output. In 1985 the total value of meat and cattle exports was more than one and a half billion dollars. It is estimated that livestock production accounts for about five and a half percent of the regional GDP. However, the region's self-sufficiency ratios have declined, particularly in this decade: for meat, the principal export item, the self-sufficiency ratio fell from about 112 percent during the late 1960s and early 1970s to approximately 105 percent by the mid-1980s.

This situation has given rise to concern in recent years, although there has been an expansion in animal production. The reason is that the production increase stems largely from an increase in the number, rather than from higher productivity of the animals. FAO has closely followed the situation over the years and actively supported animal production and assisted development at national level, while at the same time participating in regional efforts to accelerate the transfer of technology. On FAO's initiative, the matter has also been considered in a number of the Organization's meetings.

Animal production and animal health issues were recently raised in the Regional Conference held in Nicaragua in 1982, as well as in meetings of the COAG and the Programme Committee. During all these meetings delegates reiterated their concern at the political situation in the livestock sub-sector and the need of concerted action. There appears to be general agreement that in order to improve the situation, coordinated action at the regional level, mainly of a TCDC nature, would be called for, which could generate action programmes at the country level.

With a view to promoting direct action, it was decided to include the issue again in the agenda of the Nineteenth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean which was held in Barbados in August 1986. The Regional Conference stressed the need for action and urged FAO to promote comprehensive proposals and strategies for the development of the livestock sub-sector. As a conclusion of its discussions, the Regional Conference recommended the establishment of a Livestock Commission and requested the Secretariat to prepare the necessary follow-up action.

FAO therefore convened in Brazil in April of this year, a consultation of livestock experts from a number of countries in the region. The consultation discussed the substantive technical issues involved as well as the most appropriate follow-up action. It unanimously agreed that a Commission on Livestock Development should be established as a matter of urgency in order to promote active national and regional animal production and health development programmes.

The proposal was subsequently brought to the attention of the Programme Committee at its 53rd session in September of this year. The Committee fully supported the establishment of a Commission on Livestock Development in Latin America and the Caribbean under Article VI, paragraph 1, of the FAO Constitution, in view of the importance of the livestock sector in the economy of the region. The major tasks of the Commission would be to recommend animal production and health policies for the members of the Commission to plan and promote action for the improvement of animal production and for the survey and control of animal diseases, and to recommend common standards and practices for its performance. It is foreseen that while the Commission will deal mainly with policy and strategy matters, and animal livestock development, it will be supported in its work on substantive technical subjects by ad hoc expert consultations.

Document CL 92/7 sets out a rationale for the establishment of a Livestock Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. It proposes a draft resolution to that effect in paragraph 19 for Council decision, including the terms of reference of the Commission as well as other provisions for its proper functioning. The proposed Programme of Work and Budget for 1988-89 contains provision in sub-paragraph 2.1.3.2. to finance the new Commission's work in the next biennium.

The Secretariat will be pleased to provide further information if required.

Igor KIPMAN (Brazil): I would like, on behalf of my delegation, to present our full support to the resolution establishing a Commission on Livestock Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, an initiative which had been recommended by the Regional Conference held in 1986 and by the Expert Consultation convened in the country this year. Taking into consideration the great economic difficulties faced by the region, burdened by the service of a huge external debt, and also the specific problems of the livestock sector in Latin America and the Caribbean, which I referred to in the document, we are convinced that this initiative constitutes an appropriate support for our regional development.

Mond . Mazlan bin JUSOH (Malaysia): My delegation, after hearing of the stagnation in productivity of ruminants and the declining self-sufficiency ratio in the livestock sub-sector in Latin America, strongly supports the proposal to establish the Regional Commission on Livestock Development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Drawing from the experiences from our own region where a similar commission, APHCA, has played an important role in the promotion of animal production and health development, it is indeed timely for such a commission to be established for the region of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Such commissions have played an invaluable role in fostering international cooperation, effecting the transfer of new technologies to optimise utilization of resources, implementation of better marketing arrangements and provision of training and extension services for the countries in the region.

We feel that efforts to promote more active participation in TCDC would be enhanced through this commission. Although this proposal comes in the midst of the financial crisis, we feel that the need and the useful role that this commission can play, overrides the financial consideration. We therefore strongly support this proposal and hope that the commission can play its useful role as soon as possible.

EP. ALLEYNE (Trinidad and Tobago): Mr Bonte-Friedheim has already given us the relevant statistics which indicate the importance of livestock development to the economy of the region. In addition, of course, we have information paragraphs 4 to 9 of the document. As with the distinguished representative of Malaysia, our delegation also hopes that the present financial situation will not in any way interfere with the proposal to set up this commission, and so we only want to indicate our full support and appreciation for this initiative.

Sra. Monica. DEREGBUS (Argentina): La delegación argentina quiere apoyar calurosamente la iniciativa de crear una Comisión de Desarrollo Ganadero para América Latina y el Caribe. El Sr. Bonte Friedheim ha sido muy claro al explicarnos los motivos y los beneficios que derivarán de la creación de tal Comisión. Creemos que serán muy grandes para la Región; específicamente, si quisiéramos resaltar la importancia que en términos de cooperación económica y técnica en países en desarrollo esto constituye, y aplaudir el proyecto de Resolución que se nos presenta cuya Recomendación a la Asamblea apoyamos.

Ismael DIAZ YUBERO (España): Nosotros queremos también apoyar, y además apoyar fuertemente, la creación de esta Comisión de Desarrollo Ganadero para América Latina y el Caribe. Estimamos que en América Latina y el Caribe hay muchas zonas con auténtica vocación ganadera que pueden soportar un peso vivo muy superior al que tienen en estos momentos. Creemos que los incrementos de productividad pueden ser muy importantes en esta Región, y sobre todo estimamos que hay una base forrajera importantísima que en estos momentos no se está aprovechando suficientemente.

Por todos esos motivos y por la necesidad que en esta Región existe de proteínas de origen animal, lácteo o cárnico, y por que pensamos además el efecto que esta Comisión puede tener en el futuro de esta Región latinoamericana, es por lo que apoyamos muy fuertemente la posición oficial.

Marcos I. NIEIO LARA (Cuba): Permítame, en primer lugar, felicitar al Sr. Bonte Friedheim por la clara y precisa exposición que nos ha hecho del tema: Mi delegación ve con mucha satisfacción el seguimiento que la FAO está dando a este aspecto tan importante para los países de nuestra Región, como lo es sin duda el desarrollo ganadero. Todavía están frescas en nuestras mentes las discusiones realizadas en la pasada Conferencia Regional de Barbados, y acogemos con satisfacción el seguimiento y el dinamismo que la FAO está dando a esta acción y a las proposiciones que allí se hicieron, evidenciando una vez más la capacidad de interpretar y actuar consecuentemente según lo demandan nuestros países.

América Latina y el Caribe se ha identificado históricamente y casi pudiera interpretarse erróneamente, desde luego, como una Región de alta y eficiente producción ganadera. Lo cierto es que la ganadería en la Región ha venido experimentando un considerable estancamiento en su producción y productividad, lo cual ha tenido importantes efectos en la economía de la mayoría de los países, según se expresa con claridad en los párrafos 5 y 6 del documento CL 92/7.

La recuperación de la producción ganadera sería posible mediante un notable esfuerzo, sobre todo en lo que hace al desarrollo de fuentes de alimentos estables para el ganado partiendo de los recursos autóctonos. Ya algunas instituciones en la Región, como el Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical radicado en la República de Colombia, está dando pasos en materia de investigación para el desarrollo de los pastos y de los forrajes.

También la FAO, en el maxco subregional, está realizando algunas actividades a través del Grepag. Esta es una red de cooperación técnica que está en funcionamiento y de la cual se esperan importantes resultados. Varios países también están realizando esfuerzos en este sentido, pero es cierto que por sí mismos no podrían poner solución a estos problemas en la cuantía y en la oportunidad que se requiere.

Otro aspecto de sumo interés es el referido a la diversificación de la producción ganadera. Tradicionalmente la Región ha sido productora y exportadora de carne de vacuno, pero a la luz de las necesidades actuales para la seguridad alimentaria regional, se requiere con prontitud abordar el problema de la diversificación de la producción. Esto es, atender con mayor preferencia la producción de leche y sus derivados y aumentar la producción de otras especies ganaderas no vacunas.

Un problema importante que deberá ser abordado también por la Comisión es lo que hace a la sanidad pecuaria. Actualmente se están dando pasos en esta dirección, pero pensamos que la FAO puede tomar un papel determinante y un papel líder en estas acciones. La cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo también sería un elemento importante que la Comisión pudiera tomar con mucha fuerza, y naturalmente propiciar excelentes resultados en toda esta estrategia.

La FAO está llamada a ser, a jugar un papel decisivo y un papel líder. De hecho, algunas medidas de carácter operativo ya han sido tomadas. Se han incluido en el presupuesto del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para el próximo bienio. Han sido tomadas algunas previsiones presupuestarias a fin de poder organizar ciertas actividades.

Para concluir, mi delegación desea suscribir las conclusiones de la Consulta de expertos celebrada en abril pasado, y apoya firmemente las acciones de la FAO para poner en marcha la Comisión de Desarrollo Ganadero para América Latina y el Caribe, y en consecuencia, apoyamos la Resolución propuesta.

Sra. Rosa María VILLARELLO REZA (México): Agradecemos, en nombre de mi delegación, la presentación que hizo el Sr. Bonte Friedheim del proyecto de Comisión de Desarrollo Ganadero para América Latina y el Caribe. Quisiéramos señalar que mi delegación ve con gran satisfacción que se haya llegado ya a la elaboración de este proyecto de creación de esta Comisión que estamos seguros que coadyuvará una mayor atención para los asuntos para la ganadería de la Región. Sin embargo, quisiéramos también recordar y manifestar nuestro interés nuevamente en asumir la Recomendación que la 19 Conferencia Regional de la FAO para América Latina y el Caribe celebrada en agosto de 1986 en Barbados, hizo en el sentido, y cito textualmente el proyecto de Recomendación: "...en que basándose en el Artículo VI-2 de la Constitución de la FAO, el establecimiento de un Comité de Ganadería como órgano asesor del Consejo de la FAO". Y pidió a la Secretaría que tomara las medidas necesarias para poner en práctica esta Recomendación.

Lo traigo a la memoria esta Recomendación que hizo la Conferencia en virtud de que estamos ciertos que si bien es muy importante, como lo expuso el delegado de Cuba, esta iniciativa de la creación de una Comisión para el fomento de la ganadería de la Región, también estamos ciertos que el problema debe verse de manera global, de manera integral, como uno de los aspectos más importantes que debe considerar la FAO. Y por consiguiente, sometemos nuevamente al Consejo la iniciativa de la creación en función a lo establecido dentro de los Estatutos de la FAO, de la creación de este Comité pecuario como órgano asesor de la FAO.

James D. AITKEN (United Kingdom): The United Kingdom has had a long and friendly relationship with this region and is proud to have played a significant role in the development of its agriculture. The British Aid Programme currently supports a number of livestock projects in Latin America and the Caribbean. These focus mainly on improving animal health and productivity. The United Kingdom fully supports the establishment of a commission which we believe will result in improved coordination of livestock policies and programmes for the region and lead to the development of integrated approaches to disease control.

We hope that as a result of the establishment of the commission more emphasis will be given to training staff and to technical aspects of animal health, nutrition and animal production. We certainly stand ready to cooperate through our Aid Programme with the commission.

We believe this proposal is a good example of the type of activity which we have in mind when we say that FAO should direct its resources to priority activities where it has a unique expertise. We therefore commend this proposal.

Sra. Virginia ESPINOSA DE CARRION (Nicaragua): Los países de América Latina y el Caribe reúnen características naturales y potenciales para el desarrollo ganadero. Es en la actualidad un recurso subexplotado y con grandes limitaciones tecnológicas, lo que restringe su participación más amplia en la alimentación humana y en la economía de nuestros países. Las enfermedades tropicales, la subutilización de pastos, la baja productividad genética y el manejo tradicional del hato constituyen las principales limitaciones tecnológicas para el desarrollo ganadero en nuestros países.

Nuestra delegación apoya la propuesta de Resolución para el establecimiento de la Comisión de Desarrollo Ganadero para América Latina y el Caribe. Albergamos la esperanza de que dicha Comisión aportará logros para enfrentar los problemas con estrategias y herramientas de trabajo a disposición de nuestros países.

Ms Joan WALLACE DAWKINS (United States of America): The United States welcomes and believes necessary the establishment of a Commission on Livestock Development in Latin America and the Caribbean. Presently there is no worldwide organization which provides a forum for Latin American and Caribbean governments to discuss and resolve together the aspects of livestock development. The United States agrees that there is a need for the Commission to serve as an advisory body to the declining animal stock industry in that region. The United States proposes that the Commission invite all other regional livestock development organizations as observers to the Commission sessions. This would hopefully prevent the overlap and duplication of efforts by such groups as the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, OIRSA, PAHO, IDB and CIAGA, and the United States believes that, since Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Islands play an important role in the livestock industry in the Caribbean, the United States should participate in the Commission as a member nation or as an associate member of the Commission.

The United States agrees with the proposal that the cost of attendance at the biennial sessions of the Commission be covered by the respective participating organizations or countries. Other expenses and services, including the technical secretariat for the Commission, should be provided for by FAO's Regular Programme activities, and no new posts should be created for the Commission.

The United States believes that the expert consultation, to be attended by up to twenty experts at the cost of US\$ 85 000, is an expense that can be willingly absorbed by individual governments and regional organizations who are indeed committed to the development of the livestock industry.

We believe that without the individual commitment from Member Nations to share Commission travel expenses there will be no internal commitment from within each country to carry out future recommendations and resolutions of the Commission,

Masahiko YASUMURO (Japan): In order to avoid a rigidity in the whole programme, my delegation thinks it very important that in establishing a new committee the Organization should, in principle, dispense with an unnecessary one. In Japan we call this principle "scrap and build" system, in English, "made in Japan".

However, my delegation, in recognition of the serious constraints on livestock development in Latin America and the Caribbean, can support the establishment of a Regional Commission on Livestock Development in the region.

Sahadou BAWA (Niger): C'est avec un réel plaisir que ma délégation a écouté l'exposé très clair que M. Bonte-Friedheim vient de livrer avec sa rigueur habituelle.

C'est aussi avec joie que ma délégation voudrait apporter son plein appui à ce projet de commission régionale pour le développement de l'élevage en Amérique latine et dans les Caraïbes et voudrait formuler le vœu que cette commission joue pleinement son rôle et contribue au développement de cet élevage dans cette partie du tiers monde.

Sra. Maria Isabel CASELLAS (Venezuela): Mi Delegación quiere apoyar esta Resolución. Los países de América Latina y el Caribe tienen una gran potencialidad para el desarrollo ganadero; es un recurso que puede ser explotado con grandes posibilidades. Nuestra Delegación apoya la propuesta de Resolución para el establecimiento de una Comisión Regional de Fomento Pecuário para América Latina y el Caribe. Esperamos que dicha Comisión aportará logros para enfrentar problemas y poniendo a disposición herramientas de trabajo a nuestros países.

Joachim WINKEL (Germany, Federal Republic of): My delegation welcomes the presentation of the document and, of course, the preparation by the Secretariat, especially by Mr Bonte-Friedheim, dealing with the establishment of a Commission on Livestock Development for Latin America and the Caribbean. We share the view expressed in paragraph 3 of the document that the establishment of the Commission will fill a vacuum. We assume that one of the major items of the actions to be planned and promoted will be training and education, in order to ensure the implementation of the programme. We support the establishment of a Commission.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Nuestra Delegación desea sumarse particularmente a las declaraciones que han hecho nuestros colegas de América Latina y el Caribe y agradecer a los Representantes de otras Regiones el apoyo que han ofrecido al Proyecto de Resolución.

Sobre la participación en la Comisión de países que tengan territorios incluidos en nuestras regiones, nos parece que ello está claro al final del párrafo 10.

En relación con algunos aspectos específicos de detalle que se han sugerido para el funcionamiento de la Comisión, seguramente algunos de ellos podrán ser constructivos, pero la Delegación de Colombia piensa que tal vez no conviene desde ahora entrar en esos pormenores, puesto que como dice este Documento, está previsto que la Comisión tenga su primera reunión en el bienio 88-89 y la propia Comisión, como se dice en el párrafo 8 va a adoptar su propio Reglamento. La Delegación de Colombia piensa que es mejor esperar a que la Comisión tenga su primera reunión, que empiecen a llevar a cabo esas actividades y más adelante se irán tomando disposiciones concretas aunque, repetimos, apreciamos el ánimo constructivo con que se han presentado esas cuestiones.

V. K. SIBAL (India): We take the floor to support wholeheartedly the proposal under discussion which emanates from the Nineteenth FAO Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean and the subsequent consultation in Brazil. We should like to thank Mr Bonte-Friedheim for clearly presenting all the facts of this proposal, which we feel is fully justified and will open up very important areas in this field for the assistance of FAO in relation to technologies for the utilization of feeds and programmes for control of animal diseases and improved breeding programmes and in the area of biotechnology. The Budget implications are not very major and are very well justified. We fully support this resolution.

Elio PASCARELLI (Italie): Je ne peux pas me taire sur ce sujet parce que vous connaissez les relations étroites que nous avons avec l'Amérique latine. Je voudrais d'abord féliciter M. Bonte-Friedheim pour l'initiative de la FAO et lui souhaiter un grand succès.

Mais je voudrais ajouter que, comme d'habitude, s'agissant d'un problème essentiel pour la production de l'Amérique latine dans le domaine du bétail, nous sommes prêts à aller au-delà des paroles, des mots et, le cas échéant, nous demandons à M. Bonte-Friedheim de frapper à notre porte.

LE PRESIDENT: Est-ce qu'il y a d'autres interventions?

Nous pouvons résumer nos débats en disant que le Conseil est unanime à se féliciter de la création de cette commission pour le développement de l'élevage en Amérique latine et dans les Caraïbes, vu le poids considérable qu'a l'élevage dans l'économie agricole de l'Amérique latine et des Caraïbes.

La décision revient au Conseil, c'est le Conseil qui décide la création, donc c'est une décision du Conseil.

14. Other Constitutional and Legal Matters, including

14. Autres questions constitutionnelles et juridiques, notamment:

14. Otros asuntos constitucionales y jurídicos, en particular:

14.1 Invitations to Non-Member Nations to attend FAO Sessions: for information

14.1 Invitation d'Etats non membres à des réunions de la FAO: pour information

14.1 Invitaciones a Estados no miembros para que asistan a reuniones de la FAO: para información

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Le Secrétariat doit régulièrement rendre compte au Conseil des invitations qui ont été adressées à des Etats non membres de l'Organisation en vue de leur participation à des réunions de la FAO depuis la dernière session du Conseil.

Nous avons réservé à ce propos une cote de document pour présenter les renseignements voulus au Conseil, la cote CL 92/INF/8. En fait il n'y a pas eu, depuis la dernière session du Conseil, d'invitation adressée à des Etats non membres, de sorte que le document n'a pas été publié. J'ai simplement à rendre compte au Conseil que nous avons un état néant, aucune invitation à rapporter.

14.2 Invitation to International Non-Governmental Organizations which do not have Status with FAO: for information

14.2 Invitation d'organisations internationales non gouvernementales n'ayant pas de statut officiel auprès de la FAO: pour information

14.2 Invitaciones a organizaciones internacionales no gubernamentales que no mantienen relaciones oficiales con la FAO: para información

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: La FAO a organisé un grand nombre de réunions techniques auxquelles des organisations internationales, aussi bien intergouvernementales que non gouvernementales, sont invitées. Cela permet à la FAO d'obtenir des avis qualifiés et des informations sur des questions déterminées. Les organisations internationales non gouvernementales ayant un statut officiel auprès de la FAO sont invitées sur la base d'accords de coopération conformes aux textes fondamentaux de la FAO.

Quant aux organisations internationales ne jouissant d'aucun statut officiel auprès de la FAO, elles peuvent être invitées sur une base ad hoc si leur participation peut être considérée comme utile. Dans tous les cas où cela est possible, le Directeur général informe le Conseil du nom de ces organisations et, lorsqu'une telle notification préalable n'est pas possible, il est fait rapport a posteriori sur ces invitations.

La liste de ces organisations et des réunions auxquelles elles ont été invitées figure dans le document CL 92/INF/5.

Aucune action particulière n'est requise du Conseil à ce sujet.

- 14.3 Changes in Representation of Member Nations on the Programme and Finance Committees: for information
- 14.3 Modifications de la représentation de certains Etats Membres au Comité du Programme et au Comité financier: pour information
- 14.3 Cambios en la representación de los Estados Miembros en los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas: para información

LE PRESIDENT: Point 14.3 Modifications de la représentation de certains Etats Membres au Comité du Programme et au Comité financier: pour information (CL 92/INF/9).

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Là encore, il s'agit d'informer le Conseil de ce qui s'est passé. Nous l'avons fait par le document CL 92/INF/9 qui non seulement indique les changements apportés mais également, comme le prévoit le règlement, donne des renseignements sur les personnalités qui ont été appelées à remplacer la représentation antérieure de certains Etats Membres du Comité du programme et du Comité financier.

En l'occurrence il s'agit de M. Weygandt qui a siégé au Comité du programme, de M. Sibal qui a siégé pour l'Inde au Comité du programme et de M. Coutts qui a siégé au Comité financier.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Solo deseamos, Señor Presidente, proponer que como en el pasado en el informe del Consejo sobre este tema conste el reconocimiento por sus servicios a los Miembros salientes de esos dos importantes Comités. Igualmente, dar la bienvenida a los nuevos Miembros.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous pouvons adopter Cette recommandation. Elle est adoptée.

III. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

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

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

- 11. Reports of the Fifty-third Session of the Programme Committee; the Sixty-first Session of the Finance Committee, and their Joint Session (Rome, 14-25 September 1987) including:
- 11. Rapports de la cinquante-troisième session du Comité du Programme, de la soixante et unième session du Comité financier et de leur session conjointe (Rome, 14-25 septembre 1987) notamment:
- 11. Informes del 53 periodo de Sesiones del Comité del programa; del 61 período de sesiones del Comité de Finanzas y de su período de sesiones conjunto (Roma, 14-25 de septiembre de 1987) en particular:
- 11.1 Programme Delivery Costs
- 11.1 Coûts d'exécution des programmes
- 11.1 Gastos de ejecución del programa
- 11.2 Financial Position of the Organization
- 11.2 Situation financière de l'Organisation
- 11.2 Situación financiera de la Organización
- 11.3 Measures to Deal with Problems of Delayed Payment of Assessed Contributions:
- 11.3 Mesures visant à régler le problème des retards dans le versement des contributions:
- 11.3 Medidas para resolver los problemas de la demora en el pago de las cuotas:
- 11.4 Amending Present procedures for Application of Cash Surplus
- 11.4 Modification des procédures d'allocation de l'excédent de trésorerie
- 11.4 Modificación de los procedimientos actuales para la aplicación del superávit de tesorería
- 11.5 Increase in the Level of the Working Capital Fund:
- 11.5 Augmentation du Fonds de roulement
- 11.5 Aumento del nivel del Fondo de Operaciones

- 11.6 Replenishment of the Special Reserve Account for 1988-89
- 11.6 Reconstitution du Compte de réserve spécial pour 1988-89
- 11.6 Reposición de la Cuenta Especial de Reserva para 1988-89

- 11.7 Other Financial Matters
- 11.7 Autres questions financières
- 11.7 Otras cuestiones financieras

- 11.8 Personnel Matters
- 11.8 Questions de personnel
- 11.8 Cuestiones de personal

- 11.9 Other Matters Arising Out of the Reports
- 11.9 Autres questions découlant des rapports
- 11.9 Otras cuestiones derivadas de los informes

LE PRESIDENT: Nous passons au point 11 de l'ordre du jour Rapports de la cinquante-troisième session du Comité du Programme, de la soixante et unième session du Comité financier et de leur session conjointe (Rome, 14-25 septembre 1987) notamment: 11.1 Coûts d'exécution des programmes: pour information et éventuellement examen.

Atif Y. BUKHARI, Finance Committee (original language Arabic): I think that the report which I submitted yesterday covers all these points.

Dean K. CROWTHER (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department):

There is not a great deal that I can add to the Finance Committee report itself as the Chairman has covered the report in general terms and specifically the Programme of Work and Budget. The important thing for consideration, I think, in the Council today has to do with resolutions which must be considered. I would point to four resolutions which are for the consideration of the Council, three of which had previously been taken up by the Council in June, and one additional resolution which has been taken and proposed by the Finance Committee after careful review.

These resolutions have to do with several specific items. That includes replenishment of the Special Reserve Account for 1988-89, and this is included in the document which you have before you, CL 92/4, beginning at the end of paragraph 3.59 in the English text on page 39,

Secondly, there is a resolution for the increase in the level of the Working Capital Fund which is discussed in paragraphs 3.68 - 3.71. The resolution itself is on page 41 of the English text and there is a resolution for the amendment of procedures for application of the cash surplus which appears in paragraphs 3.72 - 3.75. This also is on page 41 of the English text.

Then there is a draft conference resolution concerning measures to deal with problems of delayed payment of assessed contributions. This is shown in paragraphs 3.76. The resolution itself is shown in paragraph 43.

In addition, the Council has received a document CL 92/LIM/1 which brings up-to-date the financial position of the Organization. It shows those contributions which have been received up until this date. The contributions in CL 92/LIM/1 were actually taken as of record dated 28 October and since that time we are pleased to say that we have received some additional contributions. If I may very carefully, I should like to read those additional contributions since they do not appear in the documents which are shown.

We have received contributions from the Bahamas in the amount of US\$ 3476; we have received a contribution from Chad for US\$ 364.48. We have received a contribution from Guatemala for US\$ 354.58; from Israel for US\$ 185 000 from Kenya for US\$ 2031.88; from the Philippines for US\$ 95268.29; from the Sudan for US\$ 16324; from Tanzania for US\$ 18434.49; and from Zimbabwe for US\$ 32649. Similarly, we have received a cheque from Antigua and Barbuda as an instalment against their instalment plan proposed of US\$ 6150.70.

This reduces the outstanding balances which have been shown at just over US\$ 98 million at this time. We have been in contact with the other countries who are still in arrears or owe current contributions and have received indications from most of those countries as to when they are likely to pay. While this is encouraging, it is important to point out that we still have a very large number of countries who have either paid nothing at all or only a small portion of their contribution.

Although the arrears in total are reducing, the number is still alarmingly large at US\$ 30 million and we have a great deal of concern over that. The Finance Committee in its report has indicated the need for continually urging all governments to pay their contributions as early as possible.

I think this completes the area of introduction on those specific items except that there may be one additional item which Mr Shah may want to make reference to. Other than that, the Chairman's introduction completes this.

V.J. SHAH (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): May I draw attention to another item considered by the Finance Committee? That is the subject of programme delivery costs. The report covers this in paragraphs 3.18 - 3.20. I do not need to recall at great length the discussion which took place in the Council at its last session in June, but as a result of that, as you will recall, the Finance Committee was requested to return to this matter at its last session in September. The Director-General offered to submit a document on the subject again to the Finance Committee which included not only the analysis of programme delivery costs which had been earlier considered by the Finance Committee, but also the letter from the representative of the United Kingdom to the Chairman of the Finance Committee dated 27 April 1987, commenting on the subject.

The document CL 92/8, which includes the earlier analysis and the letter from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom was considered by the Finance Committee accordingly.

The report of the Finance Committee is very clear. The Committee re-confirmed the views it had expressed at its last session as reflected in its report. It did not see any reason to conclude that further action on its part was warranted for the time being.

I shall be glad as always to answer any questions which the Council may have.

Thomas YANGA (Cameroun): Je voudrais tout d'abord m'informer si nous allons aborder les différents points 11.1 à 11.9 ensemble ou si nous allons les aborder séparément.

Je voudrais en second lieu faire une observation au Secrétariat sur le projet de résolution, notamment les deux projets de résolution qui concernent, dans le texte français, à la page 43 la modification des procédures d'allocation de trésorerie et à la page 45 les mesures pour faire face au problème des retards dans le règlement des contributions. A la lecture de ces résolutions, j'ai comme l'impression que leurs titres ont été inversés. J'aimerais avoir des précisions du Secrétariat à ce sujet.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous avons neuf sous-points dans le point 11, la question est posée de savoir si nous faisons un débat global ou si nous analysons ces points l'un après l'autre. Peut-être pourrions-nous pour gagner du temps mener un débat global et permettre à Messieurs les délégués de soulever ces points un à un. C'est au Conseil de prendre position. Je ne vois aucune objection à ce que nous les voyions l'un après l'autre.

Je crois qu'il serait plus clair de prendre ces points un par un, car certains sont pour décision, d'autres pour information. Je crois que le débat serait plus clair. La seule suggestion que je formule est que nous puissions tenir compte de la contrainte de temps parce qu'il nous faut voir ensuite le rapport du Comité de rédaction. Donc nous commençons par le point 11.1 Coûts d'exécution des programmes. Y a-t-il des observations sur ce point?

Elio PASCARELLI (Italie): Je voudrais me déclarer d'accord avec votre suggestion de prendre les points l'un après l'autre, mais quand même vous recommandez d'éviter le verre très amer pour demain matin en fixant un temps maximum pour chacun de nous, sinon nous arriverons jusqu'à samedi soir.

Mourad BENCHEIKH: (Algérie): Je suis ouvert à toute procédure, mais il me paraît toutefois, s'agissant d'une démarche globale, puisqu'il s'agit de traiter du problème important de l'élévation des contributions - il faut dire les choses comme elles sont - peut-être faudrait-il laisser la possibilité d'un débat global et l'opportunité pour chacun des délégués d'aborder le point sur lequel il souhaite se concentrer.

LE PRESIDENT: Compte tenu de la contrainte de temps, et de l'avis exprimé par les délégués de l'Italie et de l'Algérie, peut-être pourrions nous, sauf objection de votre part, adopter cette procédure, puisque tous les points sont liés. Nous ouvrons donc le débat sur l'ensemble.

Ms Anne-Lise PETERSEN (Denmark): I should like to support the proposal put forward by the delegate from Algeria.

J. LYNCH (Canada): With respect to the measures to deal with the problems of delayed payments of assessed contributions, Canada can support the resolution being proposed. We have supported this in other international organizations and consider it something that would be extremely useful. The particular proposal is sometimes, in terms of a weighted distribution, referred to as the ICAO S-curve because, as far as I am aware, the only organization which has also adopted a procedure such as this is the International Civil Aviation Organization. We think it is a very timely procedure and we hope it will result in earlier contributions by Member States because it will provide them with a financial incentive to do so.

With respect to the increase in the level of the Working Capital Fund, item 11.5, we have made the point before that we support the proposed increase in level of the Working Capital Fund. However, our support is limited to the first part of the proposed increase, that is the proposal in the draft resolution to increase the level of the Working Capital Fund to \$20 million as of 1 January 1988. We consider that the second part of the proposed resolution, that is to increase the level of the Working Capital Fund to US\$ 26 million as from 1 January 1990 is too large and also not necessary at this time because there will be an opportunity for this Organization to address that particular question at a later date. Therefore, we should like to propose that the resolution be amended by deletion of the reference to the increase to US\$ 26 million as from 1 January 1990.

With respect to the replenishment of the Special Reserve Account, this causes us a particular problem because in other places we have advocated this type of approach, that is, the need to have a Special Reserve Account to make sure it is at a level appropriate for the needs of the Organization. However, as many of you are aware from interventions by other members of my delegation, in our country we shall be experiencing a particularly large increase in our assessed contribution to the FAO. Taken together with the increase in the terms of our contribution for the increase in the Working Capital Fund and an increase for the Special Reserve Account, these are a large number of additional payments coming all at once. Therefore, we welcome the fact that the size of the increase is going to be limited to only half of what had been originally contemplated.

and that there is consideration being given to retaining the remaining balance to the application of sums received from countries in arrears. However, we would note with respect the resolution that this particular part, that is the fact the remaining half sum that is required will be sought from payment of arrears which will be received, does not appear very clearly. In fact, it appears that the exception to that Comes out more clearly than the question of the actual use of money coming from arrears.

We should like to recommend that the resolution be amended so that the actual text appearing in document CL 92/4, paragraph 3.59, comes out more clearly in the decision aspect of it rather than in one of the preambular paragraphs "Conscious of" or "Considering". I could discuss this later, Mr Chairman, if you want a particular proposal.

We should also like to note that, in keeping with the general thrust of proposals, that my country has made in this Organization and elsewhere, we consider that the use of the Special Reserve Account can be diminished by different types of proposals, such as going to a different currency for the denomination of the budget of specialized agencies.

Without in any way trying to complicate your life and making too many proposals, Mr Chairman, I would note that the use of the Special Reserve Account and the need to increase it could, in certain circumstances, be reduced if alternative currencies were used by this Organization, for example if the Organization were to go to Italian lire or a split lire type of approach. That particular idea is Very closely linked to the idea of the increase in the Special Reserve Account. However, it appears more as an afterthought in one of the items, and I think perhaps we could include it as a preambular item in a resolution on the replenishment to the Special Reserve Account. The items I am referring to in terms of this alternative currency are included in paragraphs 3.65, 3.66 and 3.67, particularly 3.67.

There are a number of other items which are dealt with in this particular agenda item. Without in any way attempting to prejudge the interventions Which will be made by other delegations, at this time I should like to offer general support for a further review of the question of programme delivery costs. I know this has been an item which has been debated back and forth, both in this Council and in the earlier session in the summer, as well as in the Finance Committee. We would note that the question seems to warrant more discussion and further examination than the Finance Committee has in fact indicated in the report to us. Therefore, we would encourage further examination of this, but again this is without prejudice to any interventions that might be made by other delegations here.

I hope I have not complicated your life, Mr Chairman, but if I could just recap: we have made two proposals for amendments to two of the resolutions that are being proposed here, one on the Working Capital Fund, that is to delete the part referring to the second part of the increase, and the second is with respect to the Special Reserve Account, to clarify the operational part of the resolution so that it includes material which is provided in the narrative and also, if possible, to make a general preambular type reference to the need to examine carefully the possible use of alternative currencies.

LE PRESIDENT: Je me permets de faire une remarque. Le procès-verbal du dernier Conseil de la FAO a mentionné que sur trois points il y a eu déjà un débat au dernier Conseil: pour le règlement du retard des versements de contributions (paragraphe 258 du dernier rapport du Conseil), des procédures d'allocation de l'excédent de trésorerie, ou sur le principe en tout cas, il y a eu un accord au paragraphe 273, puis sur le troisième point: fonds de roulement, un accord de principe également au paragraphes 281-282. Le point 4 n'a pas été examiné par le dernier Conseil.

Maintenant je crois que notre tâche est, comme l'a dit le délégué du Canada, de voir les résolutions dans le détail et d'y apporter des améliorations ou des modifications. Si je ne me trompe pas c'est à peu près ce qui a été fait au dernier Conseil, que j'ai voulu un peu essayer de reprendre.

James D. AITKEN (United Kingdom): Following the agreement that we should treat item 11 as one item I will speak first on the financial and personnel issues referred to in CL 92/3, and then turn with some trepidation to the question of programme delivery costs covered in document CL 92/8.

Looking first at the financial position of our Organization, we find it a little difficult to comment on some of the information before us in the absence of any up-to-date forecasts of the cash flow situation. That is not just a question of having information about income; it is also a question of projection of expenditure. Since document CL 92/3 was produced there have been a number of changes both in terms of additional contributions which we have been informed about in the update, but also all of us have been very conscious of the very dramatic currency fluctuations we have just seen in the last week or so. We believe it would help all of us in our considerations of these issues if, as a matter of urgency, the Secretariat could provide us with their current best estimates of cash flow for the remainder of this biennium, together with the latest forecasts of the cash flow for the 1988-89 biennium. It would be very helpful if, as well as having this in a numerical statement, we could also have it in a graphical presentation because many of us find this a much more immediate way of understanding the problems.

I should like to make it clear that our delegation continues to be opposed to any question of borrowing by FAO. This is a possibility referred to again in paragraph 3.45 of CL 92/4. In our view, the expenditure of the Organization should not exceed the amount of resources available to it.

Turning now to other questions dealt with in CL 92/4, on the question of procedures for dealing with the cash surplus, we should like to make it clear that the United Kingdom opposes any change in the existing arrangements for the distribution of the cash surplus and any amendment to Financial Regulation 6.1(b). We oppose any delegation of responsibility from Conference to Council to decide when cash surpluses can be withheld.

Since there is not going to be a cash surplus in the 1986-87 biennium as far as we can tell, and since the proposed changes are intended to alleviate financial difficulties currently being faced by the Organization, is it really appropriate to make changes now which will have no effect whatsoever in the 1988-89 biennium? Surely Council should review the necessity for such changes in June 1989 in the light of the financial situation at that time with a view, if necessary, to considering action in 1990 to 1991.

Turning now to the proposals on the increase in level of the Working Capital Fund, the United Kingdom remains opposed to any increase in the level of the Working Capital Fund.

On the question of the Replenishment of the Special Reserve Account, we reserve our position on this question for the present, but we believe that the events of the past year or so illustrate the need for further considerations of proposals for a budget based on the two main currencies in which expenditure is incurred. We will return to this later during the Conference debates. For the moment, we see considerable merit in the sort of proposal which has just been put to Council by the delegate of Canada.

Turning to other Financial Matters, we are pleased to note that miscellaneous income for 1988-89 has been estimated on a conservative basis. We support a continuation of this practice. We remain opposed to work being undertaken by the Secretariat which may ultimately lead to a change in the present practice for the application of Miscellaneous Income.

Turning now to personnel matters, we can understand why the paper we have been given on personnel, document 87/14, concentrates on remuneration and conditions of service. These are certainly important, but we would also argue, and have argued before, that staff are the agency's most important asset and their management is extremely sensitive and very much an issue for Council.

We are rather disappointed therefore that the papers before us did not make any real reference to the very important work being carried out by Personnel Division, in introducing the systems of staff performance appraisal, staff training and staff career development planning. We consider that these issues are as important to maintaining morale and retaining good staff as the simple question of remuneration. We also fear that an opportunity has again been missed to bring to Council an indication of the very dedicated work which is being successfully carried out by the Personnel Division.

If I may, I would like to turn now to the questions of Programme Delivery Costs.

Here the United Kingdom obviously very much welcomes that this item is on our agenda. However we recognize that it has been discussed on a number of occasions and, to be frank, I thought this morning that I was finding myself in the position of a person whom I saw recently interviewed on television, who was about to be married to a very famous film star who had also been married many times before - I think, between them, they had something like twelve marriages already, and this would be number thirteen. He was asked by a rather insensitive interviewer if he had any thoughts about his wedding night; and I was reminded this morning when preparing this speech that the gentleman said: "I certainly know what is required of me - I guess my problem is to try to make it both original and interesting". I think I have the same problem here, after so much discussion.

We very much welcome this document and the manner in which it has been presented, because it enables the Council to see for the first time, not just the examination of this question, but both the Secretariat's presentation and the views of the United Kingdom delegation on that presentation. We believe that this is a very valuable exercise and we hope that ourselves and other delegations will be able to draw upon the information in here when we are considering other items - issues connected with the budget and expenditure - and discussing these matters in Council.

When we discussed the question of programme delivery costs at the June Council, I expressed the thanks of the United Kingdom to the Secretariat for their work in preparing this paper. We also thanked Mr Shah for the part he played and the time he was prepared to devote to this exercise, despite his very heavy schedule. It is appropriate for me to reiterate those thanks now.

Before I come to the main part of this intervention, it might be helpful as a prelude just to very briefly explain what we mean by "programme delivery costs".

The dictionary definition of overhead costs quite clearly takes in things like office expenses, management, interest on capital, and other general needs of business, and items like rent are also included. This is a very useful definition; but, when looking at a very specialist technical operation, we believe that we must also include some of the technical activities which contribute to the end product, as well as the straightforward administrative overheads. I think that in this we were following the line which has been established within the United Nations system by the Joint Inspection Unit, and which was considered by Council in 1978 when it considered document CL 74/15. There we see that things which could be included in support costs were such things as technical documentation and services, participation in intergovernmental inter-agency meetings, etc., so we are obviously dealing with a concept which is broader than simply the rent of the buildings. It may be helpful now as, as I said before, a prelude, to again state the reasons why the United Kingdom raised the question of programme delivery costs and why they consider this issue is important and justifies continuing consideration by Council and the Finance Committee. It is two years ago that we first asked the question - how much does it cost FAO to spend a dollar? We asked this question because, as we have said on many occasions, we consider that FAO's primary role is to assist developing countries. We believe that because of this it is important that our contribution to FAO should be targeted to make the maximum contribution and impact in the field. We firmly believe that FAO should be, if you like, a creature with many teeth and with a very small tail - a creature that is able to act effectively.

At this point I should emphasize that we are not trying to cut the Budget, or weaken the effectiveness of the Organization. On the contrary, we hope that by discussing programme delivery costs, Council will assist the Secretariat in its efforts to switch spending from support costs to substantive programmes. This sort of development can only strengthen our organization. We all want a lean, dynamic FAO, able to respond quickly and effectively to the challenges which it faces in global agriculture. We also believe that a discussion about programme delivery costs enables Council to exercise a choice.

Every two years, we are asked to choose and purchase a programme, a Programme of Work and Budget. At the same time, in effect, we are also asked to buy the means of delivering that programme. In a way, we are rather like a farmer who is faced with the question of buying some transport to get his produce to market. He has taken a lot of advice from FAO, and he has saved up a considerable sum of money to buy a vehicle. He has a choice: he can go and buy a Rolls Royce or a Mercedes Benz limousine; or, remembering my colleagues on my right, just to show there are no trade implications here, he could also buy a Ford truck.

Now, if that farmer buys a Ford truck, we all know that he will be able to take much more produce to market than he would if he had bought a limousine. I would suggest that, when we are looking at FAO programmes, this is a question which we should be asking: do we need a truck, or do we need a limousine? I would submit that FAO is not in the business of providing limousines: they are very good for short trips to the airport, but not very good for taking loads of goods to market.

But this is not just a question of parables. We are all faced with the problem of maximizing the impact of our spending. Our contribution to FAO comes from our aid programme. If it costs FAO fifty cents to spend a dollar, then for every \$1.50 we give FAO, only one dollar goes to the developing countries. On the other hand, if we contribute \$1.50 to another agency where it costs only twenty cents to spend a dollar, then the developing countries will receive \$1.30. And this is what it is all about. Many poor countries are members of FAO. In finding scarce foreign exchange to pay their subscriptions, they are asking their citizens, their people, to make sacrifices. We owe it to these people to ensure that we get the maximum value for money for the dollars they give to FAO.

These are the reasons why programme delivery costs are important, and why it is appropriate for us all to keep them under review.

Turning to the substance of CL 92/8, we find the information in the document very useful, especially when considered in relation to other papers before the Council. In particular, I refer to document CL 92/4, the Report of the Finance Committee, and on page 44 of the English version we have the Cost Measurement System, which comments on how much it costs to deliver the Trust Funds and UNDP.

I will not trouble Council with details of calculating the delivery costs for Trust Funds and UNDP - they are outlined in CL 74/15, which was circulated in September, 1978. I would just point out that many items which, in the calculation of Trust Funds and UNDP, are considered as delivery costs, are put into the category of indirect substantive expenditure in the paper on Programme Delivery Costs in the Regular Programme. We think that, for the sake of comparison, it would be more sensible if the same approach to categorization was used in both systems.

Certainly, we do find the information before us does give us a very good guide to how much it costs FAO to spend a dollar. We say that using the comparative methods for the Trust Fund and UNDP, and applying them to the paper we have before us, and the Regular Programme, we estimate that it costs FAO over fifty cents to deliver a dollar. The Secretariat may not agree with this estimate, and we appreciate that there has to be flexibility in interpretation of the data; however, I am sure that the Secretariat, the United Kingdom, and all Member States would agree that the Secretariat should continue with its search to find ways of reducing delivery costs, and switching savings into substantive programmes. We recognize that it is not realistic to expect dramatic changes overnight --- it is a continuing process. For this reason, we would like to propose that Council, through the Finance Committee, should receive a similar Report on Programme Delivery Costs each biennium. That is our first proposal. This does not have to be elaborate: the Tables in Annex 1, with a brief covering note, would be adequate. Again we would suggest here this point about compatibility with the methodology used when calculating the delivery costs for UNDP and Trust Funds.

Secondly, we would also like to propose, to help Council, Member States and the Secretariat in this difficult area, and to make sure that there is a degree of consistency with the operation within the UN system, that we seek the advice of the United Nations Joint Inspection Unit on the presentation of the Programme Delivery Costs and the measurement of Programme Delivery Costs. I want to be very clear about what we are asking for here. We are not asking that the JIU should look at Programme Delivery Costs in FAO. What we are asking is that we would like to see the Secretariat approach the JIU for advice on the presentation of Programme Delivery Costs and the calculation of their measurement, and we would also like to see the Secretariat share the information they gained from this with the rest of Council. The JIU has been very helpful to UNICEF on this, and I am sure would be able to extend this help to FAO if requested.

Before concluding this intervention, I must apologize for its length, but this is an issue which we consider important. It has been complicated, and I hope that to some extent this intervention has helped towards a better understanding of the United Kingdom's objectives in raising it.

Masahiko YASUMURO (Japan): I would like to Start on Item 11.3, the proposed "Measures to Deal with Problems of Delayed Payment of Assessed Contributions". My delegation thinks that the introduction of the proposed measures is not so effective for the promotion of early payments of the assessed contributions, because payment by each government is Carried out under the respective national financial system and under condition Of the respective government's financial condition. However, my delegation does not oppose the introduction of proper measures to provide a rational and equitable allocation of the interest income element of a cash surplus.

Now, looking into the proposed draft Conference Resolution, my delegation must express its disagreement on the draft resolution itself, for there are some unclear elements in the draft which may cause argument when it comes to implementation.

Firstly, is "the interest income element of a cash surplus" clearly identified? I understand that interest on Bank Accounts and Deposits is controlled under the Miscellaneous Income and is mixed with other incomes such as income from the Commissary, balance of publications, revolving funds, etc. For instance, how much is the interest income element of a cash surplus in the case of the 1984-85 biennium?

And is that amount described apparently in the Financial Report, document C 87/5?

Secondly, what formula is used to Calculate the allocation? I understand that there have been some different ways on a weighted basis. For example, OECD has introduced a linear formula for weighting, ICAO has introduced a cubic formula and Unesco is Studying a square formula. My delegation feels that the linear formula would be preferable.

My delegation believes that any financial regulations or procedures should be fair and lucid. For this reason, my delegation requests the Secretariat kindly to prepare another draft resolution which contains no unclear elements.

With reference to the next agenda item, 11.4 - Amendement of Procedures for Application of Cash Surplus - I would like to make a few brief comments.

My delegation is basically against any measures, even if temporary, which would mean that to make up for the outstanding amount caused by the delay in payments by some countries, other member countries must pay the due amount. Consequently, my delegation has difficulty in supporting this draft. The proposed delegation of authority to the Council means that the Council, which only consists of less than one third of all member countries, should be allowed to decide upon such measures which necessarily and directly affect all FAO member countries. Therefore my delegation is also rather doubtful about the proposed delegation of authority.

I should now like to touch on the issue of the Working Capital Fund, item 11.5. My delegation thinks that the increase in the total Member Nations' contributions should be as modest as possible, as my delegation pointed out in agenda item 7. My delegation recognized that the present level of the Working Capital Fund is 3 percent Of the budget level, but also understands that the unobligated TCP to be carried over to the next biennium, which will be US\$ 31 million, is also functioning as a resource to protect the Organization against adverse effects caused by delays in the payment of assessed contributions. So, the present level of the Working Capital Fund and the unobligated TCP are US\$ 44 million in total, which is nearly 8.5 percent of the next biennium's budget level.

In the light of these facts, my delegation does not agree to any increase in the level of the Working Capital Fund from 1 January 1988.

Concerning the replenishment of the Special Reserve Account for 1988/89, which is agenda item 11.6, my delegation can support the Director-General's proposal for this replenishment.

Lastly, I should like to come back to agenda item 11.2, the financial position of FAO: as is generally recognized, the financial difficulty of FAO in the present biennium is caused by a large number of outstanding contributions, the decrease in Miscellaneous Income and the depreciation of the US dollar. The financial difficulty should be resolved mainly by payment of the outstanding contributions by the countries concerned, and in principle my delegation cannot agree with such measures as the obliging of other member countries to cover the arrears.

On the other hand, my delegation appreciates the efforts made by the Secretariat to undertake programme adjustments amounting to a total of US\$ 25 million, or 5.7 percent of the whole budget, although my delegation thinks that some adjustments can be made to the TCP.

Being very concerned about the recent development on FAO's financial situation, my Government, which has already paid its due contribution this June, has recently decided partially to defer receiving its share of Cash Surplus arising from the 1984/85 biennium, to next year. In a matter of days my Government will be paying approximately US\$ 3.37 million, which we believe will contribute greatly to alleviating the severe financial situation of FAO during the rest of this year.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie le. délégué du Japon de l'information qu'il vient de nous donner concernant le versement de sa contribution.

Elio PASCARELLI (Italy): I wish immediately to congratulate Japan for following the example that we set I think a couple of years ago. I was only a little deceived because he mentioned when this Cash Surplus should be referred to Japan. I do not think they have any place in which to put it. Anyhow, I do hope that you and other countries will follow the example that 23 countries have already given as a testimony of their attachment to the problems of the Organisation. I am sure that the Organization will be much more relieved by being lectured on some aspects that should, I think, be dealt with by the competent organs. Being a member of the Finance Committee, I think we have already disposed, after a lengthy discussion which took about two meetings of our Committee, and in the report which we have before us CL 92/4, we said there was no reason to discuss and discuss and be lectured on the delivery costs, especially - especially - excuse me, by countries that have no Trust Fund here. We are most concerned with delivery cost monitoring and the Secretariat satisfies our request. I do not think that other countries should tell us how to deal with delivery costs on the programmes that we finance with FAO.

Coming to the measures that have been proposed, since I am a member of the Finance Committee, and some of these, if not originated by Italy, were strongly supported by Italy in the Finance Committee, of course, it would be a contradiction to object to any of them. I will not dwell in detail on the argument because I suggest that a time allotment be made to each of us because if every time we resume the discussion with 35 minutes for each delegate we will never get through. So I summarize the stand of my country. We support all these measures as they have been formulated, with one little amendment that I would agree to as proposed by Canada: that is the fact that since this increase of the Special Reserve Account is made in two tranches - sorry, the Working Capital Fund, and the Working Capital Fund was forced by the Finance Committee in two tranches, that was our common proposal - we could delete the second part of it and make it clear that we will postpone until the time comes.

Concerning Cash Surplus, I heard from one delegate the positive decision that there should be no Cash Surplus in this biennium. Who told him? Let the fluctuations of the dollar go on and we shall have another Cash Surplus. So why should we say as of now that we have to postpone the measure that we so wisely decided on because there is no Cash Surplus? It is absolutely wrong. There may be a Cash Surplus, suppose that the dollar is worth 1,500 lire, we shall have plenty of money to give back to all the members.

I do support strongly these decisions taken by the Committee and proposed by the Committee on how to avoid the late payment of assessed contributions. We have thoroughly studied this problem. If the organs of the Council are needed for something, why should we resume all the time, all the time, in discussing them? Are we trusted or not trusted?

Finally, concerning the idea of not using one fluctuating currency today which has been so strong in the past and is now undergoing for some contingent reasons fluctuations every week, or every day, or every hour, I do subscribe also, as I did in the Committee, to the idea that we should further study the possibility of using two currencies. I do not know which is the third one. I heard about three currencies. I think there are US dollars and lire. So my Government is ready to help, the Treasury is ready to help, to examine the experiences of the other United Nations agencies and propose the budget in two currencies.

I am through. I have no paper. Again, I thank you for your patience, and again I ask you, Mr. Chairman, why do you not give a little thought to my humble suggestion that time is allotted to us? I spoke for five and a half minutes. Thank you.

LE PRESIDENT: C'est une question très importante, il faut laisser le soin aux délégués de s'exprimer complètement, quitte à ce que nous trouvions ensuite une façon de présenter le document à la Conférence mais c'est une question importante.

Ms Anne-Lise PETERSEN (Denmark): The Danish delegation realises that our Organization's financial situation is a very important issue which has impact on the Organization's possibility to carry out its functions. In that respect the report of the joint session of the Programme and Finance Committees is a very important document, but unfortunately it arrived very late and we have not yet finalized our examination of the report and the attached draft resolution. We shall have to come back to the issue in more detail at the Conference next week.

In general my delegation is of the opinion that financial problems arising from non-fulfillment of obligations by some member states should not be solved by imposing extra financial burden on other members of the Organization.

My delegation, therefore, has some difficulty with a proposed model for the replenishment of the Special Reserve Account and reserves its position on that point until the Conference.

Concerning the proposed increase in the level of the Working Capital Fund, my delegation has already stated at the last Council meeting that we can support the proposal to increase a level of the Fund to US\$ 20 million in 1988 and to US\$ 26 million in 1990 in order to maintain consistency with other organizations.

Turning now to the proposal concerning the procedures for application of the cash surplus, my delegation is opposed to changes in the present procedures and to any amendment of the financial regulations entailing a transfer of power from the Conference to the Council in order to decide on a possible deferment of the Cash Surplus. Furthermore, we are of the opinion that changes in the present procedure of application of the Cash Surplus does not solve the fundamental financial problems. Therefore my delegation would have preferred to discuss more radical changes dealing with the long-term financial problems of our Organization.

One of the long-term problems which, in our opinion, ought to be dealt with as soon as possible is the uncertainty of exchange rates, which has a great impact on the Budget as well as on the contributions in national currencies from Member States. My delegation has at a previous meeting expressed the view that one way of solving the currency problem could be to establish a basket of currencies when preparing the Budget. This approach is used in other international fora, like for instance, ECU in the European Community.

Concerning the programme delivery costs, my delegation can support the suggestion made by the UK delegation in regard to the biennial review of the cost and to putting the issue to the Joint Inspection Unit for advice. Furthermore we agree with the UK delegation that in order to create greater transparency, a detailed cash flow analysis would help members in grasping the current cash situation.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, my delegation is fully aware of the difficulties arising from the financial problems facing the Organization and we shall be prepared to discuss solutions to the problems in more detail at the Conference.

Mourad BENCHEIKH (Algérie): Je tâcherai de suivre le conseil de notre ami le délégué italien en faisant quand même une remarque préalable; ce conseil aurait dû être suivi hier, lorsque des points, qui étaient simplement pour examen, ont fait l'objet de longs développements qui vont être repris à partir probablement des mêmes arguments à la Conférence. Peut-être que là il faudrait sérieusement réfléchir à ce problème de façon que nous puissions limiter le temps de parole pour ces points qui, portés à l'ordre du jour simplement pour examen ou information, devraient être traités plus en détail à la Conférence.

Cette parenthèse rapidement fermée, j'aborde le problème du point 11 et je m'attacherai plus précisément aux points 11.3, 11.4, 11.5, 11.6, c'est-à-dire tout le mécanisme qui est proposé pour faire face aux difficultés financières que traverse la FAO.

Je dirai en exergue de mon intervention que l'Algérie, comme beaucoup de pays en développement, traverse une très grave crise économique, qu'elle a décidé de s'engager sur la voie d'une austérité très stricte qui la place d'ores et déjà dans l'impossibilité de faire face à des contributions supplémentaires du type de celles qui figurent aux différentes résolutions.

La seconde remarque que je présenterai en exergue toujours c'est qu'en définitive, à bien réfléchir et à bien considérer, je pense que la démarche qui nous est proposée est fondamentalement injuste en ce sens qu'elle demande aux bons payeurs de se sacrifier davantage pour les mauvais payeurs.

A la lumière de ce que je viens de dire je reprends les résolutions dans l'ordre dans lequel elles figurent au document CL 92/4.

Je commence par la reconstitution du compte de réserve spécial: nous comprenons très bien encore une fois les motivations du Secrétariat mais nous ne pouvons malheureusement pas y souscrire dans la mesure où nous considérons qu'il serait beaucoup plus légitime de demander, de puiser ou de réalimenter le compte de réserve spécial à partir des retards de recouvrement de contributions.

En ce qui concerne le fonds de roulement qui constitue en quelque sorte le poids spécifique de tout l'échafaudage la contribution algérienne à partir des barèmes de contributions conduit à l'impossibilité pour ma délégation d'accepter un accroissement du fonds de roulement. Nous pensons que là aussi nous devrions faire appel aux retards de contributions.

Quant à la modification des procédures d'allocation de l'excédent de trésorerie il y a là à la vérité deux questions qui gênent la délégation algérienne:

1. On demande aux Etats Membres de faire des avances de trésorerie en quelque sorte et d'aider au fonctionnement de la FAO à partir des sommes qui devraient retourner normalement aux Etats Membres. Certes, il y a eu le précédent de la vingt-deuxième session mais il serait très dangereux de s'engager sur la voie d'un blocage ou d'une mise à disposition systématique de ces excédents de trésorerie.

C'est vrai qu'il y a une novation juridique en ce sens qu'il y a une délégation quasi permanente au Conseil et là cette approche nous gêne considérablement parce que nous considérons que les questions financières, qui sont très importantes, doivent relever de la Conférence et par conséquent cette délégation au Conseil nous paraît un peu dangereuse.

Nous serions par contre assez favorables à la dernière résolution, les mesures destinées à faire face au problème des retards dans le règlement des contributions. Nous sommes a priori d'accord dans la mesure où il y a introduction d'une mesure d'équité qui nous paraît en tous les cas conforme aux intérêts de ceux qui payent dans les délais et qui par conséquent n'ont pas de recettes compensatoires à trouver.

Je ne voudrais pas vous donner l'impression que la délégation algérienne adopte une attitude négative; sa position est tout à fait justifiée par des considérations objectives. Ce disant, elle ne vise ni le Secrétariat ni personne d'autre, dans la mesure où elle est tout à fait consciente que le Secrétariat a fait son possible pour faire face à une situation extraordinaire. Nous restons ouverts à toute discussion. Là, je voudrais donner à mes paroles toute la solennité voulue: nous sommes ouverts à la discussion mais à la condition que celle-ci ne soit pas faussée dès le départ. L'une des conditions d'un dialogue fécond, à notre sens, est le versement par tous les Etats Membres,

sans exception, des arriérés de contributions et l'engagement ferme de tous qu'à l'avenir les contributions seront versées dans les délais. Ce n'est qu'alors que la question de l'augmentation éventuelle des contributions, si elle était encore indispensable, pourrait être abordée; ce n'est qu'alors que la question des réformes dont on parle tellement et qui feront l'objet d'une discussion probablement très serrée à la Conférence pourrait également être abordée. La délégation algérienne a entendu avec, je l'avoue, beaucoup d'inquiétude, certaines interventions visant à une modification, voire un bouleversement de la FAO. J'ai même noté qu'un délégué voulait transformer la FAO en espèce de FMI agricole. Alors, Monsieur le Président, je crois que nous sommes là en face de ce qui pourrait être un paquet global, de façon à ce que, les uns et les autres, nous qui sommes tous concernés par l'avenir de la FAO, nous puissions voir tous nos arguments ensemble et essayer de trouver les moyens pour que cette FAO continue à agir pour le bien de l'humanité.

John JURECKY (United States of America): Mr Chairman, I shall address myself to item 11.2, the financial position of the Organization. My colleague behind me, Mr Cook, would like to speak to a few other items.

With regard to 11.2, we share the concern expressed by other delegations regarding the financial situation of the FAO. We believe that the liquidity shortages experienced by the Organization highlight the importance many of us have attached to the establishment of clear programme priorities in the Budget proposal, that is to say the Programme of Work and Budget. This is most critical when a proposal like the one before us is unrealistic in terms of resource projections and the capacity of members to pay their assessments. As you all know, our country is involved in a strong effort to curtail the US Government's fiscal deficit. This has had, and will continue to have, important implications for US contributions to international organizations, as it does on US expenditures for domestic programmes. No programme, domestic or international, is spared. No programme is exempted from the responsibility to make the necessary adjustments.

Concerning the FAO, and being the largest contributor, we expected that the PWB would be realistic in terms of the constraints that the largest contributor faces. We were candid and clear in the June Council regarding the issue. The PWB as presented does not reflect that reality. That it does not contain a sharp sense of priorities suggests that when the Budget cuts become necessary the guidance needed will not be there to safeguard the truly critical programmes.

Unfortunately, we are not alone in respect to the contribution situation. We note with interest the Secretariat-prepared document 92/LIM/1 wherein contribution matters are presented. While not wishing to draw excessive attention to the list of countries having outstanding assessments, we find ourselves in the company of nearly 75 other fellow members, some of whom have singled my country out in a manner that brings to mind the saying that those who live in glasshouses should not throw stones. Furthermore, 34 countries in this group have amounts outstanding that exceed that of the US in terms of the percentage that they represent of the countries' assessment. While absolute magnitudes of arrears vary greatly from country to country, so also do the respective domestic economic problems.

The US Government is responding to these pressures, among others, when making decisions regarding the national budget which must have its impact on our contribution. I urge you all to be realistic as to the situation.

My colleague will now take up the other points on the agenda.

John COOK (United States of America): In regard to Agenda Item 11.1, Programme Delivery Costs, the United States would first of all like to compliment the delegation of the United Kingdom on the detailed research which it has conducted on the important subject of programme delivery costs. The United States finds it commendable that a member country has invested a considerable amount of effort in an attempt to clarify for all concerned the percentage of programme costs that go into delivery of the programmes, or in other words, the overhead costs for delivery of FAO programmes.

As Council document CL 92/8 points out, the two studies of this subject by the Secretariat and by the United Kingdom arrived at two widely separated percentages for programme delivery costs. From the large discrepancy we conclude that this is a subject requiring further study. Consequently, we agree with the delegation of the United Kingdom that the key subject of programme delivery costs should continue to be closely monitored in the Finance Committee and that reports on this subject should regularly be provided to the Council.

On Agenda Item 11.3, Measures to Deal with Problems of Delayed Payment of Assessed Contributions, the United States delegation would like to reserve our position on this matter until we have received a clear exposition of all the details of the formula which would be applied under this advance payment incentive plan.

On Agenda Item 11.4, Amending Present Procedures for Application of Cash Surplus, the United States delegation understands that the financial situation in the FAO is temporarily in extraordinary circumstances. However, we do not believe that these circumstances dictate changes in the financial regulations of the Organization. Therefore, the United States opposes this resolution.

On Agenda Item 11.5, Increase in the Level of the Working Capital Fund, the United States would like to reiterate the position it expressed at the 91st Council. That is the United States supports an increase in the Working Capital Fund to a level of US\$ 20 million as of 1 January 1988. But the United States cannot support the proposed additional increase to US\$ 26 million beginning 1 January 1990.

On Agenda Item 11.6, Replenishment of the Special Reserve Account for 1988-89, the United States supports a replenishment of the Special Reserve Account up to the level of US\$ 12.04 million, provided however - and I repeat, provided however - that this replenishment is made through savings in the FAO budget and not through additional assessments for the 1988-89 biennium.

Thomas YANGA (Cameroon): First of all, as a matter of introduction I shall maintain my question to the Secretariat concerning the title and contents of the two resolutions on the Amendment of Present Procedures for the Application of Cash Surplus and the Measures to Deal with the Problems of Delayed Payment of Assessed Contributions.

The contents of the two resolutions in relation to their title are a little confusing for me personally and I shall come back to Item 11.1 which deals with the programme delivery costs. I would like to make a few observations.

My delegation, as full members, contributors and beneficiaries of FAO feel we should be concerned with what it costs to our Organization to deliver different services, and mainly for the beneficiary countries, we should be more concerned with the realization of clear and essential objectives targeted by FAO programmes.

The difference between the two points of view expressed in the document, which is the interpretation of delivery costs of programmes is recognized not only by both sides - and here I mean the Secretariat and the United Kingdom delegation - but also by GIU as having no single definition.

At the invitation of the United Kingdom delegation which understands the delivery costs of programmes as overhead costs before the product, I should like to ask what that delegation understands by "product" in the specific case of FAO activities.

Finally, we think that if FAO can implement UNDP-funded projects with 13% of the delivery costs, the Secretariat's figures which appear in document CL 92/8 - and I emphasize that - seemed to be 18.8%. I think that word "seemed" gives a little room of some uncertainty on the figure itself. So we think that in relation to the implementation of the UNDP project, FAO can make more effort to bring the percentage down. That is all I have to say on Item 11.1.

Je voudrais aussi faire des observations sur les projets de résolutions qui nous sont soumis. Tout en déplorant la situation financière difficile dans laquelle se trouve l'Organisation, je voudrais dire, s'agissant de quatre projets de résolutions qui nous sont soumis, que nous trouvons équitable d'encourager les pays qui payent à temps toutes leurs contributions. Cependant, pour nous, les autres résolutions impliquent une augmentation des obligations financières des pays membres. Dans le cas précis de mon pays, qui l'année dernière a perdu plus du tiers de ses ressources budgétaires, estimées entre 200 et 300 milliards de francs CFA, à cause de la crise économique financière qui secoue le monde en général et les pays en développement exportateurs de matières premières en particulier, je voudrais signaler que d'autres pays sont dans une situation encore pire que celle-là. Je ne pense pas qu'une augmentation de sa contribution soit bienvenue surtout que les perspectives d'avenir, tel qu'il ressort de tous les documents. Qu'ils soient de la FAO, de la Banque mondiale ou d'autres sources, ils ne sont pas pour le moins optimistes. Donc, je crois que, pour la plupart des pays en développement et en l'occurrence le mien, l'une des causes profondes et réelles des retards ou des arrêts de contributions ne relève pas d'une mauvaise volonté à remplir leurs obligations vis-à-vis de l'Organisation dont ils sont les principaux bénéficiaires, mais résulte plutôt de problèmes économiques et financiers auxquels ils ont à faire face. Et, malgré ces problèmes, le pourcentage relativement élevé des arriérés dans le montant des contributions reçues en 1987 témoigne à la fois de la pertinence de nos propositions de leur bonne volonté à remplir leurs obligations vis-à-vis de la FAO. Enfin je voudrais exprimer clairement ici la ferme volonté de mon pays, en dépit de la situation difficile qu'il traverse sur le plan financier et économique et des mesures réalistes et douloureuses qu'il a été obligé de prendre pour y faire face, de remplir toutes ses obligations internationales, et en particulier ses contributions dans les Organisations multilatérales comme témoignage de son soutien et de son appui au multilatéralisme véritable.

N. MUKUTU (Zambia): My delegation does not support the resolution which is seeking to make a special assessment on Member Nations to provide for 50 percent of the replenishment of the Special Reserve Account. My delegation also does not support the resolution which seeks to raise the Working Capital Fund by reassessing Member Nations' payments. In general, my delegation is against any move to increase member countries' contributions to FAO. Developing countries have heavy financial burdens and many of them are already in arrears over the assessed contributions.

With regard to the Special Reserve Account, I agree with the Canadian and United Kingdom delegations that we should find a way of keeping our monies not necessarily in American dollars but it could be in lira or there could be some other arrangement.

Our main preoccupation should be to encourage Member Nations to pay their current assessed contributions. It is not possible for us to replace by any other means the delayed contributions made by Member States. My delegation also supports the United Kingdom's comments on programme delivery costs.

Mohd. Mazlan bin JUSOH (Malaysia): The Malaysian delegation wishes to congratulate Mr Crowther on his clear introduction to this item. We also wish to pay tribute to Ambassador Bukhari for the excellent work which his committee has produced.

After having studied the report of the Finance Committee, my delegation is of the opinion that the recommendations contained therein are worth the support of the Council.

Going on to specific points relating to the deliberations of the Finance Committee, we noted with satisfaction the conclusions arrived at regarding the subject of programme delivery costs. Bearing in mind the complexity of the projects being undertaken and implemented by FAO, my delegation considers that a figure of 18.8 percent in the programme delivery costs worked out according to the Secretariat's methodology is commendable.

We could not compare this figure with the figures of other agencies which have different types of programmes. Nevertheless, like the United Kingdom delegation we should also like FAO, where possible, even to trim this figure further and spare no efforts in increasing its efficiency in the delivery of projects. We commend FAO for having an open view in trying further to improve its delivery efficiency, and we note with great satisfaction that this effort is still being continued.

Referring to the financial position of the Organization under item 11.2, this matter has been in the forefront of discussions in previous Council meetings and will again feature prominently in the coming Conference. We believe that there is no excuse for being delinquent on payments of contributions to this Organization, especially on the part of the richer countries. This has seriously undermined the ability of the Organization to perform its functions effectively. For this reason, we strongly support the measures which have been proposed in this document and by the Finance Committee relating to the problems of delayed payments of assessed contributions, the proposed amendment of present procedures for application of cash surplus, the proposal to increase the level of the Working Capital Fund, and the proposal for the replenishment of the Special Reserve Account for the 1988-89 biennium.

These proposals, together with the draft resolutions as presented in the document, receive our wholehearted support. We feel that without these measures this Organization will be crippled and will not be able to perform its normal task in implementing the programmes and projects effectively.

On the resolution entitled Measures to Deal with Problems of Delayed Payment of Assessed Contributions under item 11.3, we feel it is not a punitive measure against countries which pay their contributions late but rather it is an incentive for countries to pay their contributions early.

On the proposal to amend the present procedures for application of cash surplus, under item 11.4, the financial cash flow crisis has made this step necessary, although it will incur a higher contribution from most member countries. Nevertheless, we feel that it is in the interests of every member to help the Organization in a time of crisis.

The same applies to the draft resolution to increase the level of the Working Capital Fund and the replenishment of the Special Reserve Account. We know that most of these measures will call for sacrifices among members, especially those hard hit by economic recession, but we could not afford to see this Organization falling apart and unable to carry out its duties in these difficult times.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous arrivons donc à la fin de nos travaux de ce matin. Nous devons planifier notre temps. J'aimerais donc que les délégués qui désirent prendre la parole cet après-midi s'inscrivent dès à présent, après quoi nous pourrions clore définitivement la liste des orateurs. Je donne la liste des pays qui sont déjà inscrits: Mexique, Australie, Inde, Zaïre, Cuba, France, Suisse, Brésil, Chine et République fédérale d'Allemagne. Cela fait dix pays. Nous considérons que la liste des orateurs pour cet après-midi est définitivement close car notre programme de cet après-midi est le suivant: tout d'abord, nous demanderons aux délégués qui prendront la parole d'exprimer leurs vues sur les points précis sur lesquels porte le débat de ce matin afin d'écourter au maximum les interventions. D'autre part, nous demandons au Comité de rédaction, dans la mesure du possible, de nous donner dès cet après-midi une partie de son travail afin de ne pas avoir une séance tardive comme hier soir. Et il sera probablement nécessaire d'avoir une réunion demain matin, sous la présidence de l'un des vice-présidents, en l'occurrence l'Ambassadeur Pascarelli, pour terminer notre travail. C'est la dernière minute que nous avons. Il nous restera, bien entendu, le point essentiel de la désignation des présidents et des vice-présidents des trois commissions, j'espère que, cet après-midi, des propositions concrètes seront présentées au Conseil à cet égard.

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 92/PV/6

Ninety-second Session

Quatre-vingt-douzième session

92º período de sesiones

SIXTH PLENARY MEETING SIXIEME SEANCE PLENIERE SEXTA SESION PLENARIA

(5 November 1987)

The Sixth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours

Lassaad Ben Osman, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La sixième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 45, sous la présidence
de Lassaad Ben Osman, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la sexta sesión plenaria a las 14.45 horas bajo la presidencia
de Lassaad Ben Osman, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

- II. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP (continued)
- II. ACTIVITES DE LA FAO ET DU PAM (suite)
- II. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y EL PMA (continuación)
- 3. Preparations for the Twenty-fourth Session of the FAO Conference, including: (continued)
- 3. Préparation de la vingt-quatrième session de la Conférence de la FAO, notamment: (suite)
- 3. Preparativos para el 24º período de sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO, en particular: (continuación)
- 3.1 Nomination of the Chairman of the Conference, and of the Chairmen of the Commissions of the Conference (continued)
- 3.1 Propositions de candidatures aux fonctions de Président de la Conférence et de Présidents des commissions de la Conférence (suite)
- 3.1 Elección del Comité de Candidaturas (continuación).

LE PRESIDENT: Nous reprenons la suite de nos travaux. Nous allons écouter une communication de M. le Secrétaire général du Conseil, relative à la présidence des trois commissions de la Conférence.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Nous revenons donc au point 3 de l'ordre du jour, et plus précisément à la partie du point 3.1 qui restait en suspens. Nous avons maintenant reçu les propositions suivantes: pour la présidence de la Commission I, l'Inde; Commission II, les Etats-Unis d'Amérique; Commission III, la Pologne. Le Conseil va maintenant être invité par le Président à indiquer s'il décide de proposer ces candidatures à la Conférence.

Bashir El Mabrouk SAID (Libye) (Langue originale arabe): Je voudrais une information: pour les candidatures aux fonctions de présidence, est-ce qu'on indique le nom des pays ou le nom des délégués? Nous avons l'habitude de désigner des délégués et non pas des pays.

Y. BUKHARI (Chairman of the Finance Committee) (original language Arabic): We are talking here about the three commissions. I think we nominate countries and then the countries themselves chose the candidates. I believe that the Secretariat is aware of the nominees. We can have these names. Maybe the distinguished representative of India can give the name of his candidate, and the same applies to the USA and to Poland.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Suivant l'Article VII du Règlement général de l'Organisation, le Conseil propose des candidats aux postes de président de la Conférence, de président des commissions de la Conférence, ainsi qu'à d'autres positions. Il semble donc que le Conseil doive désigner des personnes. Pour le moment, le Secrétariat a reçu communication d'un accord qui semble s'être fait sur les pays auxquels devra aller la présidence des trois commissions de la Conférence mais n'a pas encore reçu des pays intéressés confirmation du nom des personnes dont la candidature sera effectivement proposée. Il faudrait que nous ayons ces noms pour que le Conseil puisse prendre une décision définitive.

LE PRESIDENT: Il faudrait que nous ayons de la part des trois pays concernés des propositions précises de candidat. Donc nous proposons aux honorables représentants de ces trois pays, l'Inde, la Pologne, les Etats-Unis de nous donner les noms des Candidats qui seront présentés à la Conférence. D'ores et déjà, pouvons-nous admettre que le Conseil est d'accord sur le choix des trois pays?

Bashir El Mabrouk SAID (Lybia) (Original language Arabic): A point of clarification please. Nominations to the General Conference - do we mention the names of countries, or do we mention the names of delegates? I think we used to nominate delegates and not countries.

Roger LEWIS (United States of America): The United States will nominate Ambassador Fred Eckert for that position.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous avons donc Monsieur Josaf Wiejacz, Ambassadeur de Pologne, et Monsieur Fred Eckert, Ambassadeur des Etats-Unis auprès de la FAO pour la Commission III et la Commission II respectivement. Il nous reste à attendre le nom du candidat pour la délégation indienne. Pouvons-nous d'ores et déjà avoir l'aval du Conseil et sa réaction sur les deux propositions pour gagner du temps? Il n'y a pas d'observations, donc je me sens fondé à considérer que notre Conseil est d'accord pour ces deux noms. En attendant que l'honorable délégué de l'Inde nous fasse connaître le nom de la personne qui sera candidate pour le poste de Président pour la Commission I, avec votre permission nous allons passer à la suite de nos travaux. Nous passons à la suite des interventions par l'écoute de l'honorable délégué du Mexique.

- III. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (continued)
- III. QUESTIONS CONCERNANT LE PROGRAMME, LE BUDGET, LES FINANCES ET L'ADMINISTRATION (suite)
- III. ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS (continuación)
- 11. Reports of the Fifty-third Session of the Programme Committee; the Sixty-first Session of the Finance Committee, and their Joint Session (Rome, 14-25 September 1987) including: (continued)
- 11. Rapports de la cinquante-troisième session du Comité du Programme, de la soixante et unième session du Comité financier et de leur session conjointe (Rome, 14-25 septembre 1987) notamment: (suite)
- 11. Informes del 53º período de sesiones del Comité del Programa; del 61º período de sesiones del Comité de Finanzas y de su período de sesiones conjunto (Roma, 14-25 de septiembre de 1987) en particular: (continuación)
- 11.1 Programme Delivery Costs (CL 92/4, paras 3.18-3.20) (continued)
- 11.1 Coûts d'exécution des programmes (CL 92/4, par. 3.18-3.20) (suite)
- 11.1 Gastos de ejecución del programa (CL 92/4, párrs. 3.18-3.20) (continuación)
- 11.2 Financial Position of the Organization (CL 92/4, paras 3.32-3.67; CL 92/LIM/1) (continued)
- 11.2 Situation financière de l'Organisation (CL 92/4, par. 3.32-3.67; CL 92/LIM/1) (suite)
- 11.2 Situación financiera de la Organización (CL 92/4, párrs. 3.32-3.67; CL 92/LIM/1) (continuación)
- 11.3 Measures to Deal with Problems of Delayed Payment of Assessed Contributions (CL 92/4, para. 3.76) (continued)
- 11.3 Mesures visant à régler le problème des retards dans le versement des contributions (CL 92/4, par. 3.76) (suite)
- 11.3 Medidas para resolver los problemas de la demora en el pago de las cuotas (CL 92/4, párr. 3.76) (continuación)
- 11.4 Amending Present Procedures for Application of Cash Surplus (CL 92/4, paras 3.72-3.75) (continued)
- 11.4 Modification des procédures d'allocation de l'excédent de trésorerie (CL 92/4, par. 3.72-3.75) (suite)
- 11.4 Modificación de los procedimientos actuales para la aplicación del superávit de tesorería (CL 92/4, párrs. 3.72-3.75) (continuación)
- 11.5 Increase in the Level of the Working Capital Fund (CL 92/4, paras 3.68-3.71) (continued)
- 11.5 Augmentation du Fonds de roulement (CL 92/4, par. 3.68-3.71) (suite)
- 11.5 Aumento del nivel del Fondo de Operaciones (CL 92/4, párrs. 3.68-3.71) (continuación)
- 11.6 Replenishment of the Special Reserve Account for 1988-89 (CL 92/4, paras 3.52-3.60) (continued)
- 11.6 Reconstitution du Compte de réserve spécial pour 1988-89 (CL 92/4, par. 3.52-3.60) (suite)
- 11.6 Reposición de la Cuenta Especial de Reserva para 1988-89 (CL 92/4, párrs. 3.52-3.60) (continuación)
- 11.7 Other Financial Matters (continued)
- 11.7 Autres questions financières (suite)
- 11.7 Otras cuestiones financieras (continuación)
- 11.8 Personnel Matters (CL 92/4, paras 1.8, 3.95-3.107) (continued)
- 11.8 Questions de personnel (CL 92/4, par. 1.8 et 3.95-3.107) (suite)
- 11.8 Cuestiones de personal (CL 92/4, párrs. 1.8, 3.95-3.107) (continuación)
- 11.9 Other Matters Arising Out of the Reports (continued)
- 11.9 Autres questions découlant des rapports (suite)
- 11.9 Otras cuestiones derivadas de los informes (continuación)

José RAMON LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (Mexico): Agradecemos al Sr. Crowther y al Sr. Shah la presentación de estos temas. La delegación de Mexico desea felicitar a la Secretaría y en particular al Director

General, al Sr. Shah y a sus colaboradores por la preparación del documento que nos ocupa porque permiten penetrar más a fondo en las formas y mecanismos contables con que la Organización es manejada y por la que proporciona una prueba adicional de transparencia y de eficiencia.

Me voy a referir en primer lugar al tema 11.1 y posteriormente abordaré de manera general el resto.

Nuestra delegación es parte de la gran mayoría de países que hemos condenado la forma en que se ha presionado a los órganos rectores, así como a la Secretaría, para que se vean involucrados en ejercicios técnicos contables, reiterativos, innecesarios; mediante esas presiones se ha buscado demostrar una y otra vez ineficiencias y dudas sobre el manejo y gestión de la Organización con propósitos pocos claros.

No obstante que en las dos últimas sesiones del Consejo se hizo patente la satisfacción de la gran mayoría de países miembros por el análisis presentado por la Secretaría y el Comité de Finanzas, una delegación apoyada por pocas otras ha llegado a preparar el análisis que se presenta en este detallado documento del tema 11.1 que ha pasado de nuevo por el examen del Comité de Finanzas con parabienes para la gran mayoría.

Aquel país ha insistido por carta en la inclusión del tema, está en su derecho; sin embargo debemos subrayar que la mayoría, como se certifica en las actas de consejos anteriores, si bien se interesa por ese aspecto ha considerado correcto y conclusivo los cálculos y métodos que emplea la Organización y de los cuales los mantiene periódicamente y convenientemente informados.

La mencionada comunicación que se incluye como Anexo II deja ver, como se resume muy bien en el párrafo 9, que la validez de los cálculos depende mucho del grado en que se está familiarizado con los trabajos que lleva a cabo la Organización o entidad que se examine, y del íntimo convencimiento que se tenga de ellos.

Evidentemente, la aplicación indiscriminada de criterios tomados de otros conceptos es impropio y desvirtúa los resultados. Así, pues, el análisis de costos debe llevarse a cabo teniendo siempre presente la finalidad y el mandato de la Organización.

Coincidimos totalmente con las premisas básicas planteadas por el Director General en el párrafo 12 cuando establece que las cifras del Programa y del Presupuesto constituyen el conjunto de datos financieros más apropiados, más fácilmente disponibles y más ampliamente comprendidos para alcanzar ese objetivo.

En consecuencia aprobamos la metodología empleada en el detallado análisis que hace el documento y que se ilustra en los cuadros respectivos, en el enfoque, en el análisis comparativo y en los ilustrativos ejemplos que permiten emprender los razonamientos y aceptar y aprobar los resultados y conclusiones.

En este contexto apoyamos totalmente las conclusiones contenidas en los párrafos 74 y 75 del capítulo de conclusiones. Expresamos una vez más nuestro aprecio por el trabajo de la Secretaría en aras de lograr la concordia general para la cual ha tenido que adicionar una mayor carga de trabajo para satisfacer exigencias de pocos países.

Consideramos que el tratamiento de este tema ha ido mucho más allá de lo justificable, por lo cual esperamos y exigimos que aquí quede finiquitado.

Finalmente, ya que estamos tocando el tema de estudios financieros que interesan a algunos países, nuestra delegación y muchas otras, como ha quedado certificado, constatado en las actas de consejos anteriores, hemos planteado la necesidad de optimizar el uso de los recursos financieros y el aprovechamiento de técnicos y equipos de los propios países en desarrollo. Estamos, por tanto, muy interesados y pedimos al Director General que realice un estudio de rentabilidad de las contribuciones, es decir sobre cuánto les rinden sus contribuciones a los diversos tipos de países en términos de servicios, personal, equipo, etc., que usa la FAO en sus diferentes áreas. Ello nos ayudaría a todos a orientar y alentar nuestras participaciones en esas distintas secciones.

Respecto a los otros puntos del tema 11 haré comentarios breves en vista de que el documento 92/4 nos llegó tarde y mi gobierno no ha podido terminar de sopesarlo.

Nuestro reconocimiento al Director General por sus esfuerzos para presentar una propuesta de Programa de Labores y Presupuesto en busca del consenso. Nos unimos a lo dicho en el párrafo 3.17. Coincidimos con la preocupación expresada en el párrafo 3.8 del documento respecto a los aumentos resultantes de las contribuciones en dólares de aquellos países cuya moneda se devalúa en relación al dólar.

En cuanto a la propuesta de pocas delegaciones que pedían se formulase un programa de labores en dos partes, nos oponemos enfáticamente a ello: aceptarlo llevaría a dismantelar actividades que son prioritarias, que son eficaces, la FAO se destruiría quizá más allá de todo reconocimiento.

Además tales planteamientos parten de una premisa pesimista y que a la luz de la información a la mano no se justifica. Si aceptáramos un mecanismo como el que esas delegaciones proponen se formalizaría, se promoverían y por tanto se tolerarían las demoras en los pagos de las cuotas de los Estados Miembros; es decir, iríamos en contra de los propios textos básicos.

Coincidimos, por tanto, con los párrafos 3.13, 3.14 y 3.15 en oponernos a una fórmula que va en contra, repito, de la norma y que acepta el incumplimiento de obligaciones implícitamente.

Las cuotas corrientes reflejan principalmente la decisión unilateral del mayor contribuyente de retrasar sus contribuciones a todos los organismos de Naciones Unidas, tanto por razones económicas internas como también políticas, como lo han declarado públicamente diversos voceros de ese gobierno.

Por otra parte se hace patente que por razones diversas, no políticas, muchos países, en su gran parte en desarrollo, nos hemos visto obligados a retrasar el pago de nuestras contribuciones en vista de la permanencia, y peor aún, el agravamiento de la crisis financiera y económica por la que atravesamos.

Reiteramos, por tanto, aquí que la prioridad número 1 para resolver los problemas financieros es el exhorto a todos los países porque cubran a la brevedad los pagos pendientes.

Nos preocupa lo dicho en el párrafo 3.47 sobre el agotamiento del fondo de operaciones y coincidimos con el 3.50 en que los problemas actuales del flujo de fondos de la Organización han sido provocados fundamentalmente por atraso de los contribuyentes, particularmente del mayor de ellos.

Reconocemos la facultad del Director General de aplicar sucedáneos financieros tales como la contratación de crédito para enfrentar eventuales emergencias de liquidez. Es alarmante que la devaluación del dólar haya lastimado y agotado la fuente especial de reserva. Debemos evitar que esto ocurra en el próximo sexenio y fijar un tipo de cambio lo más realista posible.

Coincidimos con lo dicho en los párrafos 3.56 y 3.57.

En cuanto a las resoluciones de los párrafos 3.60, 3.71, 3.75, 3.76 y otras cuestiones financieras y de personal nos reservamos hacer nuestras observaciones hasta la próxima Conferencia.

Angus MACDONALD (Australia): My comments will be short and general in nature, but in so delivering I should like to reserve my delegation's right to provide more detailed comments when these items are discussed in the Conference Session.

Referring specifically to agenda item 11.1 On programme delivery costs, I should like to say that my delegation has considered that the information provided by the Secretariat to date on the costs of delivering FAO's programme in the field has been extremely useful and considered that some mechanism for regularly reviewing programme delivery costs -- for example regularly in the Finance Committee -- would be a useful mechanism. We are supportive of the UK proposal to have the Secretariat involved in speaking to the Joint Inspection Unit of the United Nations in preparing any future papers that might be delivered on this topic.

On agenda item 11.4 on the cash surplus, it is well known that Australia is a prompt and full contributor to FAO and therefore is not prepared to support measures at the Conference which will require further contributions to compensate for partial or non-payers. Accordingly, we would not support deferring the payment of cash surpluses, which is only another way of asking paid-up contributors to

subsidize non-payers. Neither do we support delegating to Council the authority to defer cash surpluses if needed. We oppose the concept of borrowing as an alternative to programme cuts. Borrowing against future contributions is not a sensible response to the budgetary problems facing FAO. What is required is a tailoring of the Regular Programme of Work and Budget to a realistic assessment of contributions that will be received.

On item 11.5, the Working Capital Fund, we oppose any increase in the fund unless such an increase is met by further reductions in the regular Programme of Work and Budget and not by further impost on contributors.

On 11.6, the Special Reserve Account, we believe that this item to replenish the Special Reserve Account cannot be considered in isolation of the overall budget proposals. We therefore urge the Secretariat to attempt to find offsets to enable the special Reserve Account to be replenished without imposing any additional burden on existing members.

KUMAR (India): I should like to intervene briefly on some of the issues. Most of the issues being debated have already been comprehensively discussed, in our opinion, earlier in the Council and to that extent what we are seeing and hearing is a replay of what we have seen and heard before.

As regards item 11.3, the proposal on which the resolution regarding measures to deal with problems of delayed payments of assessed contributions is based, already stands endorsed by the Council at its last session. We support the resolution and hope that the linking of the interest elements in the cash surplus with timeliness in payment of assessed contributions will encourage countries to pay on time and not allow arrears to accrue.

As regards item 11.4, again the Council has supported the proposed amendment of the procedure for application of cash surplus to alleviate the negative effects of budgetary and financial uncertainties. The proposal to delegate authority to the Council has our support.

The resolution for an increase in the level of the Working Capital Fund also stems from a Council decision earlier to protect the Organization against the adverse effects of delays in payment of assessed contributions, and this constitutes a proposal in favour of which the Council has expressed itself already.

On 11.6, as regards the proposed replenishment of the Special Reserve Account, we agree that the replenishment could reasonably be through a special assessment or payment of arrears. The proposal made is a compromise proposal and in our view reasonable and worthy of support.

On 11.1, regarding the programme delivery costs, this issue has been discussed and deliberated extensively and frequently. The Finance Committee has again looked at the matter and reiterated its previous views. It has agreed with the secretariat methodology and was satisfied with its analysis.

This is a complex, technical issue which is not easy to decide in a meeting of generalist non-experts. Any analysis of this cost requires agreement on various assumptions, such as the definition, terms, methodology, classification of expenditure of items, classification of activities of certain posts and divisions of FAO, etc. The Finance Committee has looked into the matter in depth, we see no difficulty in accepting their conclusions. However, if there are still any doubts in the minds of any distinguished members, they could perhaps discuss those issues bilaterally at a technical level with FAO's technical experts.

It has been stated that the Programme of Work and Budget does not reflect priorities. Unfortunately, in an integrated and organically Structured programme, such as the Programme of Work and Budget there are and perhaps cannot be any clear cut priorities between what is essential and what is non-essential. A more rational assumption, perhaps is that all programmes are valuable from one point of view or another. If we have to make clear choices between programmes, we get into complex relativities, and if programmes have to be sacrificed for want of money, it will not be flab and fat of our excessive programme which will be eliminated, but the muscle and bone of a lean programme involving both blood and pain.

Nga-ma MAPELA (Zaïre): Monsieur le Président, ma délégation voudrait appuyer fermement votre intervention de ce matin dans laquelle vous nous rappeliez la position que notre Conseil avait adoptée sur certaines des questions que nous sommes en train d'examiner et nous pensons que nous devons tenir pleinement compte de cette position, c'est-à-dire celle que nous avons adoptée à ce sujet.

A titre d'exemple, je prends la page 43 du document CL 92/4 où je lis, en ce qui concerne le projet de résolution de la Conférence concernant la modification des procédures d'allocation des excédents de trésorerie, ce qui suit:

"Le Comité" - c'est-à-dire le Comité financier - "a rappelé que dans le rapport de sa dernière session... il a proposé à l'examen du Conseil une modification des procédures d'allocation des excédents de trésorerie en vue d'amortir l'effet négatif des incertitudes budgétaires et financières actuelles et futures.

Le Comité a noté que le Conseil, à sa quatre-vingt-onzième session, a souscrit à cette proposition..."

Je m'arrête là. Je tiens à dire que ce que nous avons dit ne date pas d'il y a un an mais d'il y a quelques mois. Cela dit, ma délégation estime que le projet de résolution contenu dans le document CL 92/4 constitue une bonne base pour nos discussions et que nous devons le recommander à la Conférence pour approbation.

Pour terminer, je voudrais féliciter tous ceux des pays membres qui se sont acquittés de leurs obligations vis-à-vis de l'Organisation en versant les contributions dues, je dois vous dire qu'en ce qui concerne, par exemple, notre pays, si nous pouvions verser notre contribution dans notre monnaie, qui s'appelle aussi le zaïre, nous serions prêts à le faire le premier mois de la période pour laquelle le budget est voté. Mais comme il s'agit de ce que l'on appelle une monnaie "non convertible", nous souffrons, nous devons acheter des dollars et nous le faisons donc au prix de sacrifices.

Leopoldo ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): No pensábamos que este punto se repitiese otra vez, las mismas discusiones; es fácil recoger para nosotros los papelitos de las anteriores discusiones y repetirlo, por lo menos a ver si la repetición nos hace aprendernos algo.

Para nosotros, la documentación presentada es una documentación suficiente para dar respuesta a las inquietudes y a las discusiones de este tema durante ya un año y medio. Para nosotros el CL 92/4 podemos apoyarlo en todas sus partes. De paso, decimos que felicitamos nuevamente a los miembros del Comité del Programa y Comité de Finanzas por el esfuerzo y los resultados obtenidos en la presentación de estos documentos. Nosotros creemos que para ahorrarle tiempo al Consejo, como dijo la distinguida representación de la India, de no seguir viendo otra vez la misma película aunque en estas películas hay tantos actores que, a veces, nos cambian los actores y nos parece que es una película distinta; pero es el mismo tema el que estamos discutiendo con diferentes actores; hay muchos, la Metro Goldwyn Mayer es muy grande, tiene muchos actores.

Nosotros podíamos totalmente apoyar las intervenciones de muchos delegados que esta mañana hicieran aquí planteando su apoyo a la documentación presentada. Específicamente, podíamos hacer nuestra totalmente la intervención de la distinguida representación de Italia que consideramos fue muy clara y precisa.

Y en esto y por la tarde, apoyamos totalmente la declaración de la distinguida representación de México. Podemos apoyar la metodología, apoyamos las conclusiones, apoyamos el nivel de operaciones. No podemos apoyar el pesimismo, el pesimismo que está implícito, por no decir de otro modo, de proponer dos presupuestos. Creemos que esto sería antirreglamentario. Creemos que debe mantenerse el presupuesto como está previsto en nuestros mecanismos. Esto realmente es producto de que también pudimos oír esta mañana algunos colegas que mantienen una posición de adivinos, un poco con premoniciones agoreras de que no va a haber nunca un presupuesto mayor para la FAO. No sabemos de dónde salen esas premoniciones. ¿O será acaso que los adivinos saben que el dólar no va a restablecer su credibilidad más nunca? ¿Será acaso que su descenso es definitivo?

Si ellos lo saben, Sr. Presidente, por favor, en familia podrían decírnoslo y dedicarnos a buscar otras soluciones; porque hay soluciones; el mundo nunca se queda sin soluciones. Repito que nos parece que hay un poco de crisis de fe; una crisis de fe en los que manejan el dólar, y podemos jurar por todos los dioses que nosotros ni tenemos dólar ni hemos manejado el dólar. Por lo tanto, la crisis de fe está en aquellos que manejan el dólar, porque sabemos que lo manejan, tienen cartera muy alta para manejar en todo el territorio del globo.

De otra forma, no se justifica el bloqueo que se está presentando, porque para nosotros, en la forma, en que se está discutiendo familiarmente, por qué no, pero se está discutiendo ya reiteradamente, esto prácticamente es un bloqueo a las soluciones propuestas por la Secretaría de la FAO, con espíritu de optimismo, de vida, de mantener la FAO no su muerte.

En esto, nosotros un poco en familia como estamos, pudiéramos decir que en cierta ocasión le pedí dinero a mi abuelo para ir al cine. Mi abuelo me dijo que estaba lloviendo; que no podía ir al cine. Me asomé a la puerta; no estaba lloviendo. "Abuelo: no está lloviendo, me das dinero para ir al cine". "No, pero no te han preparado ropa, no tienes ropa". Fui a ver a mi abuela y le pregunté y me dijo: "Shijo, sí tienes los calcitos ahí preparados", "Abuelo, tengo preparada ropa y no está lloviendo; me puedes dar dinero para ir al cine". "No, no te voy a dar dinero; no puedes ir al cine". O sea que no son razones las que tenía mi abuelo para no dejarme ir al cine. Era que no quería darme dinero sencillamente. Y en estos momentos, creemos que está ocurriendo esto de que mi abuelo lo que realmente no quería era darme dinero.

Qué vamos a hacer, y más cuando realmente, honestamente, podemos escuchar que no tienen, que tienen dificultades; las aceptamos aquí; en un marco ya serio, creemos que todos aquí honestamente decimos realmente nuestras dificultades. Sin embargo, queremos recordar también para estimular un poco al futuro, para eliminar un poco el pesimismo, que en algunas delegaciones ya se están dando pequeños pasos, pequeños pasos hasta ahora, pero se están dando pasos por países desarrollados para utilizar los gastos en armamento en atender los problemas de desarrollo en el mundo. Cuando se elimine la deuda externa y el mundo marche para garantizar la vida y no la muerte, todos los valores se van a elevar, con dólar o sin dólar.

Bernard LEDUN (France): Je limiterai volontairement mon intervention car, sur ce point comme sur d'autres qui sont soumis à l'examen du Conseil, les intervenants qui m'ont précédé ont déjà largement contribué à éclairer le débat aussi bien, d'ailleurs, au Conseil du mois de juin qu'à ce présent Conseil et parce que, d'autre part, cette question fera l'objet de longs développements au moment de la Conférence.

Je me bornerai donc à dire que certaines propositions du Secrétariat visant à compenser le défaut de paiement du principal bailleur de fonds de l'Organisation reviennent à faire payer par les bons payeurs, tels que la France, les Pays-Bas ou l'Italie, qui ont d'ailleurs différé le reversement du montant de leurs excédents de trésorerie, les conséquences de l'attitude des pays qui ne s'acquittent pas de leurs obligations. Ceci est, bien entendu, difficilement acceptable et pourrait constituer un encouragement à ce que se généralisent les attitudes négatives de certains Etats.

Nous sommes donc d'avis que l'effort financier supplémentaire tel qu'il est demandé aux Etats Membres en raison de la situation de trésorerie de l'Organisation n'affecte que marginalement les pays qui s'acquittent correctement de leurs obligations.

Sur les points 11.5 et 11.6, "Augmentation du fonds de roulement" et "Reconstitution du Compte de réserve spéciale pour 1988-89", nous réservons donc pour le moment notre position et nous nous proposons de faire connaître plus précisément notre avis à l'occasion du débat qui portera sur la situation financière de la FAO, au moment de la Conférence, et au cours duquel nous ferons état de propositions spécifiques.

Avant de conclure, notre délégation renouvelle sa proposition de diversification de l'unité monétaire utilisée par l'Organisation, soit en employant l'ECU européen, soit en utilisant parallèlement le dollar et la lire italienne. Je note d'ailleurs que l'ONUDI, à Vienne, utilise comme monnaie de référence le dollar et le schilling autrichien.

MARINCEK (Suisse): J'aimerais seulement souligner que, du point de vue de mon pays, la question des réformes n'est pas et ne doit pas être liée à la situation financière actuelle de l'Organisation. Ce sont là deux questions différentes. Il est évident que, pour pouvoir travailler solidement, la FAO a besoin d'une base financière saine et prévisible et la faute de la situation difficile des contributions n'incombe pas à l'Organisation.

Nos propositions de réforme visent l'orientation à long terme des activités de la FAO. Il s'agit donc d'un exercice de longue haleine. Nous voulons faire de notre Organisation un meilleur outil dans la lutte contre la faim. Pour nous il ne s'agit pas d'aider moins mais d'aider mieux. C'est aussi pour cette raison que la hauteur du budget proposé ne nous pose pas de problème.

A notre avis, la situation financière doit donc être assainie par le paiement des contributions dues par tous les pays concernés. Il est clair, cependant, que l'Organisation doit adapter au mieux ses dépenses aux recettes. En ce qui concerne les quatre résolutions proposées, ma délégation aimerait encore réserver sa position. J'aimerais soutenir les propositions de la délégation du Royaume-Uni concernant le traitement futur de la question des coûts d'exécution des programmes au Conseil.

Almir F. de Sa BARBUDA (Brazil): We wish first to congratulate the Secretariat on the preparation of document CL 92/8 on Programme Delivery Cost and to reiterate our support for the conclusions of the Finance Committee that the overheads for FAO's Regular Programme Deliveries seem commendable.

We learnt with appreciation that the Finance Committee re-confirmed last September its views on the matter and concluded that no further action was needed for the time being. We fully agree with this remark and with what has been said about it by the Ambassador of Mexico. We hope that these discussions on the issue will now be closed.

On the other hand, we deeply regret the persistence of FAO's financial insecurity and also agree with the Finance Committee that the current cash flow problems are precipitated mainly by delays in the receipt of assessed contributions from the largest contributor. Apart from the shortfall which represents almost 70% of the total outstanding amount, the present rate of receipts of contributions is actually the most favourable rate for this period in many years.

As has been pointed out by the Ambassador of Mexico, a clear distinction must be made in this regard between the countries which do not pay for political reasons and the ones which cannot pay as promptly as they would like for financial and economic problems caused mainly, as you well know, by a very unjust international economic order aggravated by a huge service of our external debt.

We also regret, therefore, that the measures proposed to deal with problems of delayed payment of assessed contributions will add to the already very severe economic and financial difficulties of developing countries. Shortfalls have previously occurred but were confined to the rules of international organizations and justified by the currency situation of developing countries. These countries should not, to our point of view, be penalized by a new situation to which they have not contributed. We cannot therefore support these measures.

Similarly, my delegation has some reservations in relation to other measures that will result in a direct additional increase in our contribution which is already too high and, in fact, the eleventh of this Organization.

However, taking into account that the proposed measures are directly linked to the budget and to the level of contributions of Member Nations, we should prefer to defer our decision and to disclose it during the next Conference.

DONG QING SONG (China) (original language Chinese): The Chinese delegation has taken note of the draft resolutions concerning financial issues submitted by the Finance Committee in the report of its 61st Session. In order to ensure the availability of adequate cash flow for the implementation of FAO's Programme of Work and Budget we urge Member Nations to pay their assessed contributions on time.

The draft resolutions concerning the amendment of procedures for application of cash surpluses and measures to deal with problems of delayed payments of assessed contributions are necessary positive steps. The Chinese delegation accepts and supports these ideas. At the same time, the Chinese delegation is ready to accept the consensus on these issues.

Concerning the increase in the level of the Working Capital Fund, the Chinese delegation agrees with the views expressed by some delegations that we should increase the 1988 level to US\$ 20 million.

As for the replenishment of the Special Reserve Account and the three draft resolutions, the Chinese delegation will elaborate its position on the financial issues at the Conference.

Rainer PRESTIEN (Germany, Federal Republic of): Allow me to thank Mr. Bukhari and Mr. Crowther for their informative statements on the document before us.

Let me first comment on the financial position of our Organization. With a shortfall in income to the amount of US\$ 122 million, of which almost US\$ 72 million is for the current year alone, the financial situation cannot be described as favourable. We all know the factors which have led to the present financial crisis. You know that the present situation cannot be explained by one single reason. All Member Nations are called upon to meet their obligations towards our Organization, in particular their obligation to pay their contributions.

Mr Chairman, you will find us open to the measures designed to deal with the problems of delayed payments of assessed contributions. We do not oppose improved regulations in the hope that these will increase the incentive for a punctual payment of annual compulsory contributions. First and foremost, I should like to recall that we must first restore the financial situation of our own Organization so that it can realize a Cash Surplus at the end of the biennium before talking about the modalities for a possible Cash Surplus distribution.

I agree with the delegate of Japan that the Council still needs some clarification of the details of the envisaged resolution.

With regard to the envisaged measures to partly or fully retain a possible Cash Surplus, we cannot see any possibility of a Cash Surplus arising in the short or medium term. Even though a similar regulation was approved by the 22nd Conference Session of FAO in November 1983 with regard to the surplus of the 1982-83 biennium we see no need to amend the existing regulations of the Constitution in the present situation.

The proposal for an increase in the Working Capital Fund in two stages, from US\$ 13 250 000 to US\$ 26 million did not receive our support at the 91st FAO Council Session. In our view, such an increase could only be financed from special payments of the Member States. Thus those Member States providing special funds would make payments for those who have not fully or partly paid their contribution. The present level of the Working Capital Fund suffices for short term shortfalls in payments to bridge the gap. For longer term shortfalls it is an unsuitable instrument to provide security. For this reason we cannot adopt the resolution suggested.

The same applies to the replenishment of the Special Reserve Account, It is our view that a replenishment on the basis of special payments is not justified as long as the Member States in arrears do not pay their delayed contributions. As soon as the outstanding contributions are paid, the Special Reserve Account would replenish automatically, also without special payments from Member Nations. We cannot adopt the resolution proposed. We hope that all Member States will soon meet their financial crisis.

Let me come to the question of programme delivery costs now. My delegation would like to thank the Secretariat for the presentation of document CL 92/8 dealing with programme delivery costs. We also share the opinion of the Finance Committee reflected in the introduction to the document that the analysis undertaken contributes to a greater transparency of FAO's activities and facilitates the dialogue with member governments. Furthermore, we think that this kind of analytical work should continue on a regular basis in future years.

We are also in agreement with the Finance Committee that the overheads of 18.8 percent for Regular Programme deliveries is a reasonable figure in view of the characteristics of the Organization. We endorse the statements in the document to the effect that it is very difficult to make comparisons with other Organizations in the UN system. Efforts were repeatedly made in this respect by the Joint Inspection Unit but the JIU had to come to the conclusion that the structures of United Nations organizations are so different that the data it had collected during its investigations on programme delivery overheads were not comparable.

The figure of 18.8 percent programme delivery costs in the Regular Programme gives rise to an examination of whether the support costs at the present basic rate of 13 percent should be raised. This idea, which may be gathered from page 2 of the document, is expected to cause difficulties in realizing it because decisions of other UN bodies also have to be taken into account which were taken over by the FAO. Nevertheless, we feel that these questions should be discussed, for example, in the UNDP Governing Council and the UN General Assembly.

The mathematical approach to calculating costs can be chosen in different ways depending on the respective definition. My delegation, therefore, particularly welcomes the fact that a joint document could be adopted in cooperation between the Secretariat and one delegation. We likewise welcome that alternative mathematical approaches are outlined on page 3 of the document.

The Member States could observe in the last few years the efforts made by the Secretariat to save overhead costs, in particular also staff costs and thus to lighten the overall cost burden. These activities led to favourable results, in particular in the staff sector. This does, however, not mean that the Secretariat should now discontinue its efforts towards a permanent reduction of costs. On the contrary, the Organization is being faced with a financial situation which does not allow major increases in expenditure. All possibilities for savings must rather be seen and exploited. To achieve reductions in costs in big organizations is a difficult task. My delegation would therefore like to encourage the Secretariat not only to continue but to strengthen its efforts for additional savings. We are of the opinion that the Secretariat and the Member States must be open to all realistic proposals for cost-reducing measures. In this regard we agree with the distinguished delegate of the UK that some guidance by the Joint Inspection Unit would be useful on the question of how to calculate such costs.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I should like to start by thanking the distinguished Representative of Japan for his announcement, which results in an immediate injection of cash into the FAO economy, which will then become an advance for the next biennium.

When we look at the series of four important financial issues which are before the Council and which are heading towards the Conference, I would draw a distinction between the three which went to the Council at its last session and the other one, the Special Reserve Account, which has landed here for the first time in this particular cycle.

I would first recall item 11.3 Measures to Deal with the Problem of Delayed Payment of Assessed Contributions. I would recall that at the last session the Council had a debate in which disagreements were expressed and recorded. At the end of that debate the report reads: "In conclusion, the Council endorsed the Finance Committee proposal and requested the Committee at its next session" - that is the Finance Committee - "to prepare a draft resolution for consideration by CCLM, the Council and the Conference".

The Council's request to prepare a resolution for the Conference has been carried out and today's debate has brought over areas of agreement and disagreement. It does not appear possible, in the very short time available for this Council session, to attempt to negotiate any form of consensus that might emerge in Conference, so I venture to suggest that the Council again record in its report the views which have emerged today, and send the draft resolution forward for final decision under somewhat less pressure of time in the Conference.

I am going to make an identical suggestion in respect of Item 11.4, Amending Present Procedures for Application of Cash Surplus. Here again, the Report of the last Session reads: "The Council by majority therefore supported the adoption of this proposal and requested the Finance Committee to prepare, at its next Session, a draft resolution for consideration by CCLM, Council and Conference along the lines of Resolution 14/83 adopted by the Council in 1983 on this subject."

So here again the practical way forward, I suggest - although of course the Council can take any decision that it wishes - but as a practical suggestion, perhaps again the Resolution could go forward to the Conference with the Council Report carefully recording the different views which must, in one way or another, be reconciled in the Conference.

On the Increase in the Level of the Working Capital Fund, the Council's last Report reads: "The Council therefore requested the Finance Committee to prepare a Draft Resolution for consideration by CCLM and the Council at its next Session and submission to the Conference for adoption." Here again, the Council Report can record the contrary views from the debate.

So these three issues clearly can only be resolved in Commission III of the Conference.

Replenishment of the Special Reserve Account: It is true that the Report of the Finance Committee does quote two options for filling up the Special Reserve Account - that is, through the payment of arrears, or through a special assessment. It sounds very good to fill it up with the payment of arrears, but unless and until there is a very serious assurance that arrears will be forthcoming on a very large scale, I am afraid it becomes indispensable, for the health of the Organization, to get fresh funds into the Special Reserve Account, otherwise we are going to be starting the next biennium entirely at the mercy of a very violently fluctuating dollar.

Other proposals which have been mentioned in the course of the debate have been looked at by the Finance Committee, such as the use of split currencies. However, there is no specific proposal before the Conference on this matter, and the Finance Committee felt that more experience needed to be gained on how the split currency contribution system worked out with UNIDO in Vienna before any final decision was adopted for FAO. This becomes a possible option for future biennia beyond 1988/89. As of now, there is no worked-out proposal before the Conference, and the traditional rules and the present system must inevitably apply.

Of all the issues which are listed in this section of the Finance Committee's Report, I would say that the replenishment of the Special Reserve Account is the one that is most important - and indeed, quite vital if the Organization is to hope to sail, if not unharmed, at least without serious damage through the probably troubled waters of the next two years.

Yet again, I may add, in the course of the debate, we have had suggestions that the Budget should contain clear provisions distinguishing what were called, I think, at one stage, "essential" and "non-essential" activities, so that non-essential activities could be cut out in the event of a serious income shortfall. There are many arguments that I could put forward against this, but I would now like to advance just one:

I would like anyone to explain to me how we can hope to retain competent, qualified staff in any area that is designated as non-essential, and is therefore subject to being axed if the income falls short

I would like to conclude this section of my remarks with an appeal to all concerned, all Members of Delegations who have been involved in this discussion and who will therefore enter the Conference with considerably more advance knowledge of the issues which are rather technical and quite complicated --- I would plead with Members of Delegations here in Council to help, in the Conference, in attempting to work out agreed solutions which can be adopted by unanimity in the course of the Conference itself.

I would now like to say a few words about Programme Delivery Costs. This discussion started with the distinguished representative of the United Kingdom telling us an anecdote about the first night of a much-wedded couple, and after this lead-in I reflected that in a way I was his partner in this matter. I waited with mounting excitement for the Consummation of this relationship. I am sure you will understand if I draw a veil of discretion over my assessment of his performance! - but I do hope that my present statement is pregnant with significance, and will enable the Council to give birth to an immediate decision on this matter.

We feel that the suggestion that the matter be looked at again by the Finance Committee in the next biennium is a very reasonable one, in view of the widespread interest shown in the matter; but we would suggest that there be no decision a priori at this stage on the periodicity with which such reviews should be carried out in future. This could be left to the Finance Committee to consider and the Council to decide perhaps in the next biennium, in the light of the situation which emerges according to the extent to which there are actually changes in the analysis which has been put forward.

The issue of whether our Programme Delivery Costs are low or high can only be decided - as we have repeatedly insisted - through a comparison with other organisations. On the one hand, we have no desire to precipitate our fellow agencies into what could be troubling internal examinations of this matter: it is up to them to decide whether they want to go into it or not. But at the same time we recognise the value of a common methodology, in so far as this matter is pursued across the UN system. We would therefore propose to take up, in one of the appropriate inter-agency bodies of UN system, the desirability and feasibility of a joint approach on an inter-agency basis to the JIU, to suggest a methodology for identifying and measuring Programme Delivery Costs, and I trust that this, which seems to us the most rational way of handling it system-wise, will also be acceptable to those Delegations which have brought the matter up again here.

Mr Crowther will have some additional answers.

Dean K. CROWTHER (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department):

Only a few specific questions were raised, and a couple of comments. As at least four Delegations raised the question of the meaning of the formula for distribution of cash surplus under the proposal and under the Resolution that has been included, I would ask Delegations to turn, please, to paragraph 3.76 on page 42 of the English text, and more importantly to the Resolution which follows.

There, in the operative paragraph of the Resolution which begins with the words "Decides that ...", under (a), "the interest income element of any cash surplus shall be allocated", and therefore the most important section of this is "i) only among those Member Nations that have paid their assessed contributions in full by the end of the financial period; ii) on a weighted basis, in accordance with the amount and the timing of payment of their contributions during the financial period."

Perhaps we have over-simplified the Resolution. It is purely a linear formula; it is based on two criteria - the timing and amount of payment, solely and completely. There are no other curves that would be involved; we have studied the other curves which have been considered as a basis for weighting, and this seems like both the simplest and most straightforward and equitable.

My only point in turning to this is that some delegations have reserved their positions on this point pending further clarification; and, while the words themselves are reasonably clear, what was probably not clear is that it is not intended to have any further weighting basis that is not included in this description.

Secondly, mention has been made by a number of delegations of alternative currencies, some with consideration to the Lire and the Dollar as currencies, others to various baskets of currencies. In the Finance Committee's Report, it has been made clear that the Finance Committee will continue to study this problem, and try to come up with an equitable solution. We must say that the Finance Committee has reviewed this matter on several occasions already, and has been unable to find a proper solution which seems equitable, and does not have an inordinate risk about it. Obviously, if you have at least two currencies - and even more so if you have a basket of currencies - there is an element of conversion that would be involved: whatever currency is acceptable for receipt of contributions may be required to be converted between all the other currencies. There is an inherent risk in that conversion, obviously, as the market fluctuates and changes; nonetheless the Finance Committee in its deliberations has thought that there are some good ideas which may be very useful to the Organization, and will continue to study this, and ferret out the possibilities that can be presented to the Council.

Reference has been made to cash forecasts for this and the next biennium, by programme and sub-programme, and while those types of cash forecast have been provided to the Finance Committee and discussed in a great deal of detail, they are rather complicated and technical - nonetheless, it is a question for the Council to decide whether or not they wish to have cash forecasts provided to them. Obviously they can, and if that is the case, then perhaps consideration can be given to providing this information, even during Commission III - but that is something which the Council will have to decide upon.

A question was raised on interest income and whether or not it can be separately accounted for and the amount that was attributable specifically to interest income in the 1984/85 biennium cash surplus. The answer certainly is, yes, the interest income element can be and is separately accounted for, as interest on deposit accounts resulting from contributions received is very carefully recorded and reviewed periodically. The amount related to the 1984/85 cash surplus was approximately 80 percent of that cash surplus, or just over \$ 28 million. Now we should like to be in that position again, but interest rates, as all of you know, have dropped consistently. At the time of the Conference in 1985 interest rates on dollar accounts were running at about ten and a half percent and currently they are running at seven to seven and a half percent. The fluctuation in the interest rate makes it difficult, therefore, to say that the predominant factor in miscellaneous income or in future cash surpluses that we would hope to see some day may continue to be interest income. It depends so much on the interest rates prevailing at that particular time.

Finally, the question of unrealistic income projects was raised, and here we submit that it is difficult to project precisely what each country will pay. As we have heard in the debate today, a number of countries have pointed to the economic problems that they face in their own countries. The problem of telling the precision of the timing and the amount of payment is difficult, no question.

We have a concern over attempting to project cash flows on a monthly basis to reflect the amounts that are likely to be shown. The Organization certainly is aware of the desires and actions of each of the Member Nations with regard to contributions, and we would hope that as the call letters go out for next year's contributions, early on each Member Nation could make it known to the Organization just when and how much they can pay at the specific time. That would help projections of cash flow and at a time when cash will be extremely short, it would help us in understanding precisely what expenses must be incurred or cannot be incurred. The timing of those contributions is inevitably going to be very important to us.

Nonetheless the projections that you have seen here in the Finance Committee document and that are constantly being studied by the Organization, do reflect the trends that have been existent even during this past year and prior years. We try to take into account the best information that is possible. The accuracy of that depends, obviously, upon the final results of each contributing country.

I think that concludes the things that I need to say. I hope that I have dealt with each of the questions that have been raised. If not I shall certainly be willing to go further.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie Monsieur Dean K. Crowther pour ses explications. Je crois que nous avons eu un débat très intéressant, une discussion très approfondie sur l'un des sujets les plus intéressants que nous avons à l'ordre du jour, à savoir la situation financière de l'Organisation, et ce à la veille de la Conférence générale.

Je crois pouvoir dire que le Conseil souhaite qu'on lance un appel pour que les Etats Membres fassent un effort pour régler leurs contributions dans les délais prévus par l'Organisation, et que, en tout état de cause, tous les Etats Membres sont soucieux de permettre à l'Organisation de continuer à disposer des moyens d'action dans un esprit d'équité et d'efficacité.

Je pense que les remarques qui ont été faites par Messieurs les délégués permettront à la Conférence lorsqu'elle aura examiné les différents projets de résolution sur les points relatifs au retard dans les versements des contributions, à l'allocation des excédents de trésorerie, à l'augmentation du Fonds de roulement ou à la reconstitution du fonds de réserves spéciales, toutes les remarques que

nous avons entendues ce matin permettront aux participants à la Conférence générale et aux responsables de disposer d'éléments d'appréciation précis. Ce qui est très important c'est que tous les Etats Membres et tous les délégués se présentent à la Conférence avec le souci d'aider l'Organisation et de lui permettre de disposer des moyens financiers nécessaires pour poursuivre sa mission dans la clarté et dans le respect des engagements pris vis-à-vis de l'Organisation.

Je pense que nous pouvons retenir la proposition de Monsieur Walton qui consiste à ce que l'on enregistre toutes les remarques qui ont été faites ce matin, qui sont très importantes, et que l'on puisse les joindre au matériel qui sera disponible pour la Conférence, afin de lui permettre d'être éclairée sur la position des Membres du Conseil.

Je note que pour le coût du Programme une proposition concrète a été présentée par M. Walton, à savoir que, dans un souci d'harmonisation des différentes institutions au sein des Nations Unies, il y aura un rapport avec le Corps commun d'inspection en vue d'un effort de méthodologie pour essayer de définir les frais annexes et les frais connexes aux investissements directs techniques de chaque institution afin de pouvoir apprécier le coût de chaque investissement direct.

Je crois également que certains délégués ont demandé, hier et aujourd'hui, que l'on puisse disposer d'un relevé des liquidités de l'Organisation pour les travaux de la Commission III, et je pense que si le Secrétariat était en mesure de préparer ce travail, il pourrait probablement aider grandement la discussion au sein de la Commission III.

Ceci étant, nous pourrions passer, avec votre permission, aux autres questions à l'ordre du jour de manière à permettre au Comité de rédaction de commencer à travailler dès que nous aurons fini la plénière, et nous donner un projet de rapport pour la discussion qui pourrait avoir lieu lors de la séance de demain matin.

Mais au préalable je crois que nous pouvons maintenant présenter à notre Conseil les noms des trois candidats pour les trois Commissions de la Conférence générale.

II. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WPP (continued)

II. ACTIVITES DE LA FAO ET DU PAM (suite)

II. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y EL PMA (continuación)

3. Preparation for the Twenty-fourth Session of the FAO Conference, including:
(continued)

3. Préparation de la vingt-quatrième session de la Conférence de la FAO,
notamment: (suite)

3. Preparativos para el 24 período de sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO, en
particular: (continuación)

3.1 Nomination of the Chairman of the Conference, and of the Chairmen of the
Commissions of the Conference (continued)

3.1 Proposition de candidatures aux fonctions de Président de la Conférence et de
Présidents des commissions de la Conférence (suite)

3.1 Elección del Comité de Candidaturas (continuación)

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Nous sommes enfin en mesure d'indiquer au Conseil le nom des personnes qu'il lui est proposé de présenter comme candidats aux postes de président des trois Commissions. Ce sont, pour la Commission I: M. Sastry, Secrétaire du Gouvernement au ministère de l'agriculture de l'Inde; pour la Commission II: Son Exe. Fred Eckert, Ambassadeur des Etats-Unis, et, pour la Commission III: Son Exe. Josef Wiejaez, Ambassadeur de Pologne.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

V. OTHER MATTERS
V. AUTRES QUESTIONS
V. OTROS ASUNTOS

15. Any other business
15. Questions diverses
15. Otros asuntos

LE PRESIDENT: Il s'agit d'un point traditionnel. Y a-t-il des délégués qui veulent prendre la parole sur Ce point?

Thomas YANGA (Cameroun): Je crois savoir que le Secrétariat nous a soumis un document concernant ce point 15, à savoir le choix du lieu du prochain Congrès forestier mondial. Je ne sais pas si le Conseil a fait son choix, sinon je voudrais en être informé.

LE PRESIDENT: Je m'excuse encore d'être passé assez vite sur ce point. Je donne la parole au Directeur général adjoint.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: The question of choosing the place for the next World Forestry Congress is not on the agenda of the Council. It was at one stage envisaged that it would be, but since there are numerous candidatures, it has been the general feeling that time should be left for informal consultations behind the scenes in the hope of finding agreement among the various candidates for the World Forestry Congress which is still several years away.

Bernard LEDUN (France): Comme le délégué du Cameroun venait de soulever la question, je pensais également, de mon côté, m'exprimer sur ce point. Mais comme le Directeur général adjoint vient d'indiquer qu'il n'est pas inscrit à l'ordre du jour du Conseil, je retire l'intervention que je me disposais à faire à ce Sujeté

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Con la propuesta para presidentes de las tres Comisiones, pensamos que se concluye el tema preparativo para la Conferencia. Sin embargo, no hemos podido seguir permanentemente esta reunión y quisiéramos saber si en relación con el párrafo 14 del documento C 87/12 i Disertación en Memoria de Mc Dougall, si la Secretaría tiene alguna información que transmitir o en fin si ya lo hizo.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: For the McDougall Memorial Lecture, the choice has fallen on Dr Jean Mayer, President of Tufts University, who is one of the world's leading nutritionists. He has been associated for many years with FAO and international organizations in the field of nutrition, and not only in the field of nutrition but in the general world of development, as one of the leading figures and writers. Perhaps I should not really anticipate what will be said in introducing Dr Jean Mayer in the Conference itself, but the choice of Dr Mayer has a certain, I would say, nostalgic significance because, although he has been chosen entirely on his own merits, he is the son of André Mayer who was the first chairman of the FAO Council, he who gives his name to the André Mayer Fellowships which are awarded by FAO every biennium. Earlier in his career he was briefly a FAO staff member, so it will

be the only time when a FAO staff member has given the McDougall Memorial Lecture, The choice of the McDougall Memorial Lecturer is made in consultation with the Chairman of the Council, the Chairman of the Programme Committee and the Ambassador of Australia, Australia being the country of origin of Frank McDougall.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie M. Walton de ces précisions et je donne la parole au délégué de l'Italie.

Elio PASCARELLI (Italie): Je demande la permission de faire une annonce concernant une invitation adressée par le Ministre des affaires étrangères de l'Italie à MM. les chefs de délégation et leurs épouses - et, bien entendu, aux dirigeants de la FAO ainsi qu'à vous-même, Monsieur le Président - pour le 14 novembre. Il s'agit d'une visite au Centre de nutrition de l'Université de Viterbe, avec le déjeuner sur place et une visite de la région. Le départ serait à 9 h 30. Nous nous excusons d'envoyer seulement aujourd'hui les invitations, mais je voulais prévenir tous les "fellow delegates" de cette invitation pour le samedi 14 novembre, en accord avec le Secrétariat de la FAO.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous remercions notre ami italien pour son aimable invitation. Nul doute qu'elle sera appréciée par l'ensemble des délégués.

Y a-t-il d'autres questions ?

Nous pouvons donc passer au point 16 et je donne la parole à M. Savary.

16. Date and Place of the Ninety-third Session of the Council

16. Date et lieu de la quatre-vingt-treizième session du Conseil

16. Fecha y lugar del 93º período de sesiones del Consejo

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: En fait, le Conseil s'est déjà prononcé sur cette question lors de sa session de juin. Je ne surprendrai donc personne en disant qu'il est prévu que le Conseil tienne sa quatre-vingt-treizième session ici même, dans cette salle, le 27 novembre ou, si d'aventure la Conférence terminait ses travaux avant le 26, un peu avant cette date, s'il n'y a pas d'objection de la part du Conseil.

LE PRESIDENT: Y a-t-il des objections à cette date ? Je crois que c'est traditionnel et nous sommes, bien entendu, à la disposition de la Conférence pour la date définitive.

Le Conseil se réunira demain matin, à 9 h 30, pour approuver le rapport du Comité de rédaction.

The meeting rose at 16.15 hours

La séance est levée à 16 h 15

Se levanta la sesión a las 16.15 horas

council

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

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

consejo

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 92/PV/7

Ninety-second Session

Quatre-vingt-douzième session

92º período de sesiones

SEVENTH PLENARY MEETING SEPTIEME SEANCE PLENIERE SEPTIMA SESION PLENARIA

(6 November 1987)

The Seventh Plenary Meeting was opened at 09.45 hours
Elio Pascarelli, Vice-chairman of the Council, presiding

La septième seance plentère est ouverte à 9 h 45, sous la présidence
d'Elio Pascarelli, Vice-President du Conseil

Se abre la séptima Sesión Plenaria a las 09.45 horas bajo la presidencia
de Elio Pascarelli, Vicepresidente del Consejo

CHAIRMAN: This meeting was quite unforeseen because the plan was for the Council to last from 3 to 5 November. That was our Chairman's wish expressed in his opening address. It was also in my mind and many others concurred with it because we have plenty to do for the forthcoming Conference. So I am sorry for the inconvenience caused to all of us, as was our Chairman. Everybody has enjoyed his democratic right to take the floor, but my personal impression is that not everybody exercised the self-restraint that was expected. My conscious is serene, and I cannot hide my personal satisfaction at being called quite unexpectedly to chair this meeting. In fact, this is the only and last occasion of my long career to exercise such a high function in any international organization before I pass the baton to my successor in the coming weeks. I crave your indulgence for my inexperience, and I count upon the invaluable assistance as usual of the Secretariat. I thank them and you all for your understanding and conclude by remarking that sitting only three steps higher than members and 'observer delegates imposes on me the respect of the code of behaviour that, as a delegate for Italy, did not limit my full freedom of speech enjoyed until last night in your midst.

Therefore, being now requested to act as Chairman of this last meeting I pass to my deputy sitting in my former seat in this hall all my rights as Italian delegate. In opening the discussion on our last item of the agenda I foresake, hopefully for a very short while, my freedom to speak up on behalf of my country.

ADOPTION OF REPORT
ADOPTION DU RAPPORT
APROBACION DEL INFORME

We have only one point on our agenda. I hope that we can dispose of it quite speedily, depending on your cooperation. I think it would be proper to ask the Chairman of the Drafting Committee if he wishes to express his ideas on the criteria that have preceded the completion on the Draft Report.

Temei ISKIT (Chairman, Drafting Committee): The Drafting Committee had three sessions over the past two days, and the result of our work is before the Council in the documents CL 92/REP/1, REP/2, REP/3 and REP/4.

Our group cannot claim to have had long and arduous discussions and to have struggled through long night meetings. The spirit of cooperation and harmony in the group was such that we were able to finish our work very smoothly and within reasonable time limits.

If I may add a personal comment here, I believe the fact that members of the Council will have ample opportunity to express their views at the Conference played a role in the smooth conduct of our business.

Of course, I am duty bound to thank again all the members of the drafting group, and my special thanks go to the Secretariat which prepared an excellent first draft which facilitated our task.

The report before you has no reservations and no square brackets. The report was unanimously agreed in our group. I stand at your disposal to answer any factual queries regarding the conduct of our work.

You will notice that in the reports before you the sequence of the items is not followed in order. Of course, the Secretariat had some time constraints, and because of some technical obstacles we had to present this report in this order.

CHAIRMAN: From the reading of this report of the four parts I gather the impression that you did an excellent job, and I am heartened to hear that there were no reservations and that it was unanimously passed. That will help all of us to go over it quickly. I thank you for standing by in case any delegate may wish for an explanation.

May I propose to delegates that we go through these paragraph by paragraph, because if we take the whole section it might lead to confusion; Is there any objection to that procedure? It is so decided. Let us take Part I.

DRAFT REPORT - PART I
PROJET DE RAPPPORT - PARTIE I
PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE I

PARAGRAPHS 1 to 14

PARAGRAPHERS 1 à 14

PARRAFOS 1 a 14

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Nos causa gran satisfacción, Sr. Presidente, intervenir bajo su presidencia. La comunidad internacional debe a usted los valiosos servicios que le ha prestado; le echaremos de menos, nos hará mucha falta.

Como lo ha dicho el Sr. Iskit, de Turquía, distinguido Presidente del Comité de Redacción, este informe es bastante satisfactorio, sin embargo tenemos algunos comentarios que espero no sean muy controvertidos.

Queremos referirnos al párrafo 4 que refleja muy bien las declaraciones de algunas delegaciones, entre ellas la de Colombia, sobre las iniciativas y declaraciones importantes que se habían formulado para mejorar la situación del comercio internacional. En nuestra declaración, y creo que en otras también, se hizo referencia al nuevo Reglamento de la Comunidad Económica Europea, nuevo reglamento que fue promulgado en diciembre de 1986, si no estamos equivocados, y siempre que el observador de la Comunidad, o los miembros que están presentes, no tengan inconveniente; tenemos esperanza de que también ese nuevo reglamento de la CEE pueda contribuir a mejorar la situación del comercio. Proponemos que hacia la mitad del párrafo, por ejemplo después de "La Cumbre de Venecia de los jefes de los principales países industrializados", se pueda agregar "el nuevo reglamento de la Comunidad Económica Europea" o el título exacto que el observador de la Comunidad cree corresponda; repito si esto no ofrece dificultades; está inspirado en el deseo de que la Comunidad contribuya a mejorar el comercio como parece es el deseo de esa importante organización.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished delegate, and in particular for his personal remarks. With his proposal, I open the discussion. Does anybody wish to take the floor?

I see no objection so it is so decided; the inclusion will be made, and we shall ask the distinguished representative of the Community to give us his assistance on this.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): El ambiente de armonía y cooperación en que ha trabajado este Consejo, al igual que el Comité de Redacción, nos anima a proponer que la última frase del párrafo 8 empiece por: "El Consejo subrayó que la FAO", esto da más fuerza al informe; no creo que nadie pueda oponerse a que la FAO asista a los países en desarrollo para que participen de manera más adecuada en la Ronda Uruguay.

CHAIRMAN: Does any delegate wish to say anything on the subject? No one? - then it is so decided

Paragraphs 1 to 14, as amended, approved
Les paragraphes 1 à 14, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés
Los párrafos 1 a 14, así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 15 to 21

PARAGRAPHERS 15 à 21

PARRAFOS 15 a 21

Sra. Doña Grafila SOTO CARRERO (Cuba): muy brevemente quisiéramos referirnos al párrafo 17 en su penúltima oración, donde dice "En dichos estudios se observaban los mismos inconvenientes que ponían de manifiesto las respuestas enviadas al cuestionario de la FAO". Nos parece, Sr. Presidente, que en realidad esa frase no agrega nada de contenido al párrafo y nuestra propuesta concreta es suprimirla; en realidad no es que hacemos una cuestión de principio, pero nos parece que efectivamente el párrafo quedaría mucho mejor si le quitamos esa frase.

Ronald F.R. DEARE (United Kingdom): My delegation actually has no recollection that this point was made, so we can certainly support the proposal of the distinguished delegate of Cuba.

Temei ISKIT (Chairman, Drafting Committee): This was raised during our discussion, but the delegate who raised it did not insist upon the explanations given by the Secretariat, so we kept it.

CHAIRMAN: So it seems, after the intervention of the delegate of the United Kingdom, that there is no objection to dropping it so we accept the deletion of - in the English text - "These studies indicated the same type of shortcomings as those that emerged from the answers provided to the FAO questionnaire".

Paragraphs 15 to 21, as amended, approved
Les paragraphes 15 à 21, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés
Los párrafos 15 a 21, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraphs 22 to 26 approved
Les paragraphes 22 à 26 sont approuvés
Los párrafos 22 a 26 son aprobados

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

DRAFT REPORT-PART II

PROJET DE RAPPORT - PARTIE II

PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE II

Paragraphs 1 to 2 approved
Les paragraphes 1 à 2 sont approuvés
Los párrafos 1 a 2 son aprobados

Paragraphs 3 to 4 approved
Les paragraphes 3 à 4 sont approuvés
Los párrafos 3 a 4 son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 5 to 6
PARAGRAPHE 5 à 6
PARRAFOS 5 a 6

Ronald F.R. DEARE (United Kingdom): My delegation now submits to the Secretariat the following footnote to paragraph 5 of this document: "The delegation of the United Kingdom wishes to record its regret that the vote in the Council on the nomination of Chairman of the Conference resulted in the abrogation by FAO of the long-established United Nations principle of rotation". We wish that footnote to be added to the report under paragraph 5.

José Ramón LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (México): La forma en que está redactado el párrafo 5 no permite ver qué es lo que ocurrió, y que lleva extrañamente a unas reservas de parte de ciertas delegaciones que, de no explicarse, parecería que se violó aquí en nuestra Organización alguno de los principios o de las reglas básicas.

Los Estados Miembros del Consejo, tras examinar los resultados de las múltiples reuniones sostenidas para buscar un consenso mediante un grupo de contacto que constituyó el Sr. Presidente de este Consejo en junio de este año revisaron, analizaron los reclamos de cada una de las dos Regiones interesadas en la postulación de su candidato para la Presidencia de la Conferencia de la FAO, en cuanto a que el principio de rotación le favorecía a una o a otra Región.

Esos Estados Miembros, libre y soberanamente determinaron su apreciación de los hechos, de los resultados de esos múltiples contactos en busca del consenso. Lamentaron el que no se hubiera llegado a un consenso, y también libre y soberanamente manifestaron su apreciación de los reclamos respectivos de cada una de las Regiones, y manifestaron sus decisión a través del voto democrático que es el sistema legítimamente constituido en nuestra Organización para resolver las controversias.

Ese voto le dio por mayoría el favor al Sr. candidato por Kuwait, Faisal Abdel-Razik Al-Khalid. Nos sorprende profundamente que países que han constituido hacia dentro un sistema democrático y lo han legitimado con su voto y aprobación plena en esta Organización, ahora pretendan rechazar no sólo el contenido de tal sistema sino el resultado de un voto democrático.

Parecería que habrían estado de acuerdo en el caso de que tal voto hubiera favorecido a su candidato, pero ahora parecen estar en contra porque no lo favoreció. Y eso, Sr. Presidente, no lo podemos aceptar, y quiero que quede en actas esa declaración que estoy haciendo porque creo que al aceptarse estas reservas se está, de hecho, poniendo un veto a un sistema democrático que ha sido constituido en esta Organización y que prevalece antes, ahora y en el futuro.

John COOK (United States of America): The United States would like to associate itself with the reservation expressed by the delegate of the United Kingdom concerning the regretful abrogation of the principle of rotation in the election of the Chairman of the Conference. The issue here is that abrogation of the principle of rotation: the issue is not whether the Chairman was democratically elected, as the delegate of Mexico has just mentioned. The suggested footnote concerns itself simply with the abrogation of the principle of rotation. It makes no mention of whether or not the Chairman was democratically elected, and that is the footnote with which the United States would like to associate itself.

CHAIRMAN: May I call the attention of honourable delegates to the fact that we are approving a Draft Report on the meeting of three days of this Council. Whatever was not done or said during this Council, in the opinion of the Chair, has nothing to do with this Report, and I believe that this must be kept in mind. We are not reopening a debate.

Seni DABO (Gambia): The Gambian delegation would wish to associate itself also with the reservation of the distinguished delegate of the United Kingdom. It is a question of departure from the traditional form of nomination on an Independent Chairman. We therefore strongly associate ourselves with the statement of the delegate of the United Kingdom.

Horacio CARANDANG (Philippines): First of all, I should like to support what you have just mentioned. We are now adopting the Report of the Council. We are now trying to record what transpired during the last three days of the meeting of the Council. No reservations have been made during the Council, except that which is now written as a footnote. Therefore, I do not believe that at this stage those reservations could be made, as you stated.

Secondly, the reservation claims that the election is an abrogation, a violation of the principle of rotation. I beg to disagree on this point. I have been a member of the Contact Group that negotiated and tried amicably to settle the claims of the two candidates and of the two regions. If my recollection is not mistaken, both candidates claim that the rotation was in their favour. According to the delegate of the South West Pacific, since it last held the Chairmanship of the Conference in 1972, whereas the candidate of the Near East Group held the post in 1975, it was their turn by the principle of rotation.

On the other hand, the spokesman for the Near East Group said that it was its turn to hold the Chair since the South West Pacific had held the position three times whereas the Near East Group had held it twice.

It is not the point now to reopen this debate, but the question is who has the monopoly of truth. It is really whether the principle has been abrogated or not.

If such reservations were allowed, first of all I think it would be a violation of the procedure that we have adopted until now, since this reservation has not been made during the Plenary. If there had been any reservation in Plenary we should record it now as has been recorded here.

Secondly, we cannot admit at this stage that reservations of this sort could be made since we do not believe that such reservations are unjustified. If such reservations were allowed by you, Mr Chairman, then other reservations would have to be entered in the name of those who believe that such reservations are not justified.

CHAIRMAN: May I call the Council to order? We are trying to approve or comment on or change a report which is in front of us. We stopped at paragraph 5 and its footnote. The discussion and interventions should now concern that paragraph which we have in front of us and its footnote. First of all the Secretariat will fill the empty space, and then I will give the floor to other speakers, but remember we are discussing what we have before us and if we need any clarification we have the Chairman of the Drafting Committee who will tell us why he introduced this and not other words spoken on the subject. This is his competence to tell us. First, let us fill in the names.

Temei ISKIT (Chairman, Drafting Committee): In paragraph 5 in the sub-paragraph concerning the chairmen, we shall of course fill the Chairman of Commission I. The name is Mr C.S. Sastry (India). The Chairman of Commission II will be His Excellency Fred Eckert (United States of America). There is a middle initial J.

For the Chairman of Commission III we shall put His Excellency Jozef Wiejacz (Poland).

J. LYNCH (Canada): On the footnote which I understand is not a reservation, the way I understand it, it is merely a statement of regret which is to be recorded as a footnote; no way is it an attempt to reserve on the question of the vote the fact that the delegate from Kuwait, Mr Al-Khalid, was chosen as Chairman of the Conference. I think that has been agreed and everyone is in favour of it. This is merely to indicate that on the footnote there is a question as to whether the principle of rotation was implemented with respect to the election of Chairman. My delegation would like to join the delegations of the United Kingdom, the United States and Gambia in expressing our regret that there appears to have been a violation of the principle of rotation.

CHAIRMAN: Delegate from Canada, we take note of these regrets. May I ask the permission of the delegates of the Republic of Germany, Switzerland and Saudi Arabia kindly to concede to my Deputy who is representing Italy to take the floor because she has to rush back to the embassy.

Mme Anna Teresa FRITIELLI ANNIBALDI (Italie): Je voudrais tout simplement faire deux petites observations au sujet du paragraphe 5. Tout d'abord, je suis entièrement convaincue - et je crois que c'est dans les règles - que le rapport doit refléter ce qui a été dit au cours du débat. Je me demande donc s'il est possible d'émettre ici des réserves quand on ne l'a pas fait au cours du débat. C'est la première chose.

En lisant ce rapport, on a l'impression que l'on est arrivé au vote sans que rien n'ait été fait auparavant pour l'éviter. Et puisque je suis sûre qu'il n'y ait une personne, ici, qui veut ou même pense remettre en discussion ce qu'une procédure démocratique a conclu, mais tout simplement ce qui est en discussion est la ligne de rotation à suivre, je me demande plutôt s'il ne serait pas possible d'ajouter au paragraphe 5 une phrase - le Secrétariat pourrait, le cas échéant, la rédiger - faisant état de la situation qui nous a amenés au vote. Il faut expliquer pourquoi on est arrivé, au Conseil, à une solution qui, en un certain sens, est traumatique au lieu d'avoir un consensus et de trouver une solution qui réponde aux désirs de tout le monde. Il faut expliquer qu'on en est arrivé à la procédure de vote parce qu'on n'avait pas trouvé de solution satisfaisante en ce qui concerne la rotation car il y avait des avis différents sur la façon dont nous devions considérer la rotation et le principe de rotation qui devait être appliqué.

Ainsi, les points de vue de tout le monde figureraient et nous pourrions peut-être éviter d'exprimer des réserves, ce qui, en effet, ne résout pas le problème mais risque de l'aggraver davantage. Je me demande si nous ne pourrions nous mettre d'accord sur une telle solution.

CHAIRMAN: I now give the floor to the distinguished delegate of the Federal Republic of Germany thank him, as well as Switzerland and Saudi Arabia for conceding to the lady and allowing her to speak first.

Joachim WINKEL (Germany, Federal Republic of): Even if equal rights are claimed everywhere for women, I always regard them as a cavalier.

Returning to our subject, I fully agree with you, Mr Chairman, that we will not reopen discussions here. I also agree with the opinion of the distinguished delegate of the Philippines that in this report nothing should be mentioned which was not mentioned in previous discussions. However, since there is nothing written about the discussions which we had before voting, we have a real reason to fill this gap. I understand this was the reason why the distinguished delegate of the United Kingdom made this reservation. Only by regarding this gap do we associate with his reservation and I assure Mr Al-Khalid our full support as Chairman of the Conference, as a democratically elected chairman. Nevertheless we regret that, in our view, the principle of rotation has been abrogated. We join with this reservation for these reasons.

Igor MARINCEK (Switzerland): And this is just to say that Switzerland would also like to join with the United Kingdom footnote which has been supported by other countries. In our opinion, both the majority rule and rotation principle are important and dear to the running of our Organization. The majority principle is a democratic principle. The rotation principle is a protection of minorities. This has not been upheld, has not been respected in the case of a country of the OECD. It can also go to the disadvantage of another country. I think it would be a pity if we did not respect these two bases of our Organization.

Atif Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (Original language Arabic): In fact I was going to put up an objection. I was ready for this objection to be included in the record when I received the document this morning and found the footnote in part II of the report which covers the reservations of Denmark I wanted, in the name of my country, also to introduce an objection, a reservation, on our part, but, because of the respect that is due to our Council, its work and its prestige, I was also ready to withdraw this objection or reservation in order not to disrupt its smooth running. Out of respect to the Council, the Chairmen, the members, we have decided not to express this objection, reservation, because the report was drawn up and we simply have to endorse it.

I fully agree with his Excellency the Ambassador of Mexico and the distinguished representative of the Philippines. I believe, as they do, that there are certain matters which have to be understood by all, matters which are obvious, such as the misinterpretation of the principle of rotation. Today there are allegations and claims to cause a disturbance. Everybody knows that the Secretariat of our Organization are in no way involved in this matter and that it was simply a dispute between two regions, each region defending its own position, each region interpreting in its own fashion the principle of rotation. The matter in the last resort led to a vote because everyone knows that the region of the Near East has shown great flexibility in this matter and has always sought a solution which would be acceptable to all and that this region was ready to accept any solution which would have enabled a vote to be avoided. Unfortunately, the persistence of the other party has meant that we have had to resort to a vote. The vote is a logical democratic procedure and is certainly not something which should lead to any doubts or upset any sensibilities.

Mr Chairman, if you agree to take into account reservations other than the Danish one which has already been introduced, then in that case, in the name of the entire Near East region, we reserve the right to put in a vigorous objection expressing very strong reservations on our part, which would have also to be contained in this report, and as a separate paragraph.

We are in a very difficult situation here. We are facing very serious problems which are at the very heart of the work of our Council and the forthcoming General Conference. All developing countries are looking to us in the hope that we shall be able to meet their aspirations.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished delegate for Saudi Arabia and give the floor to the representative of Egypt. Before he takes the floor, may I again stress that we are not reopening the debate. I have not accepted any other footnote. We are discussing whether to say "yes" or "no" to this footnote. We may ask the Chairman of the Drafting Committee whether all the discussion which took place before the vote was mentioned and why it was not mentioned here, but not add documents to this. What was said on that occasion should be there but not what was said before.

POINT OF ORDER
POINT D'ORDRE
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Ronald F.R. DEARE (United Kingdom): I thought I heard you say that we are discussing whether or not to accept the footnote I have proposed. Let me say again that I am not proposing a reservation. It is a footnote to the report. It is my understanding that any delegation has the right to add a footnote to the report of the Council. I should be grateful if the Legal Counsel could be asked to confirm that. I do not think there is any profit here discussing whether or not our footnote can be added. I believe we have an inalienable right to have that added and I would ask that the Legal Counsel be asked to give an opinion on this.

CHAIRMAN: As you know, according to the regulations, we have first to take a decision on the point of order that has just been made by the distinguished representative of the United Kingdom. We would hardly need help, but I request help because it is my duty, as Chairman, to improve my knowledge of the existing regulations, and I give the floor to Mr Roche, Legal Counsel, to tell me whether it is true or not that we have to make a volume of footnotes here.

LEGAL COUNSEL: The Council's choice whether to put the reflection of its discussions in the form of paragraphs in the body of its report or alternatively in footnotes is, in a way, totally immaterial. It is reflecting its discussion. The Danish footnote could just as well be in the body of the text, but the delegate of Denmark preferred, presumably, because the delegation is identified, to have a footnote. The Council can reflect its work either in the body of the report or in footnotes. It is purely a practice, and footnotes tend to be reserved to minority views where a particular delegation is not in agreement with the text. It is a practice and not an established principle. It is not provided for anywhere in the Basic Texts. It is simply, I repeat, a drafting practice.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the Legal Counsel. Before making my ruling, I should like to ask Mr Iskit whether any reservations were made during the debate that appear from the verbatim. If not, there is nothing that we can add now. Of the contrary, we could amplify the part preceding the vote. I expected no commentary to be made but now I have to take facts as they are. There was only one country after the vote and it is reflected in this footnote, but before the vote plenty happened. Would the Chairman of the Drafting Committee tell us why everything has been dropped and unanimously approved as such?

Temei ISKIT (Chairman, Drafting Committee): There was no discussion on paragraph 5 besides the Danish proposal to include the footnote and, without discussion, this request was accepted and the footnote presented in the Draft Report.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr Iskit. Thank you, Mr Roche. I think at this stage I have to stick to my previous statement. We are not continuing the debate. The Council session is over. It was over last night when our Honourable independent Chairman left. I am here to chair the session that the reflection is correct and a precise reflection of what happened in the Council. Mr Iskit said that in the Drafting Committee meeting there was no request to add anything to what is written in the draft presented by the Secretariat. I am very embarrassed to say that I do not see how adding a footnote or paragraph now -- as Mr Roche said, a footnote and a paragraph is the same thing -- would reflect what happened. I must stick to my duty of passing on what is the reflection of the Council itself up to the night of the 5th, not the morning of the 6th.

The floor is given to the distinguished representative of Egypt.

Adel Helmy EL-SARKI (Egypt) (Original language Arabic): Mr Chairman, we have heard the various views on this subject and we feel that the report of the Council which is before us accurately reflects all the views expressed during the meeting.

Milutin TAPAVICKI (Yugoslavia): Mr Chairman, I should like to support your ruling. If we are going to accept that explanation of the votes can be added, then it has to be done at the Council session, because 27 countries have to explain why they voted for what they did. I am completely in agreement with your ruling that there be no explanation of the votes during the acceptance of the report.

Leopoldo ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Nosotros queremos, Señor Presidente, intervenir específicamente para lamentarnos de que se sigan utilizando mecanismos de bloqueo y de interferencia en el debate; quiero decir esto porque los que estamos sentados aquí sabemos muy bien que el principio de rotación no es una norma escrita en ningún lugar, es una práctica de la colaboración y que, por lo tanto, tiene interpretación. Esa fue la realidad. Hace cuatro meses que estamos discutiendo en grupos de contacto las dos interpretaciones; al no llegar a un consenso en cuanto a la interpretación hubo que ir a una práctica que si está escrita y que creo que eso no se puede interpretar y la están interpretando, que es la democracia. Si las democracias las quieren interpretar igual que el principio de rotación sería otra cuestión. El principio no está escrito en ningún lado, es una práctica, no es una norma escrita en ningún texto básico, sin embargo la democracia creo que si está escrita en muchos lugares y lo que se está tratando es de negar y de interpretar la democracia. Yo pregunto, si hubieran salido los números al revés ¿hubiera habido notas?; quisiera preguntar eso. No Señor, nos atenemos a la democracia aceptando la votación, discutiendo la votación, creando los mecanismos para que se votara, inclusive obteniendo el método que seleccionaron para la votación. Entonces creo que están interpretando la democracia, no el principio de rotación, que ese se puede interpretar libremente porque no está escrito.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, distinguished delegate of Cuba. May I ask delegates to exert self-restraint? We have already spent one hour on something which has already in my opinion been disposed of with a ruling. We have four more speakers, including a member of the Drafting Committee, and we hear that there was no objection, it was a unanimous approval of that report. I hesitate to give the floor to a member of the Drafting Committee, otherwise we shall be reopening the discussion. Why did he not object during the approval of the draft?

Amin ABDEL-MALEK (Liban) (Langue originale arabe): Je n'ai rien à ajouter à ce que vous venez de dire qui reflète entièrement nos points de vue.

Nous voulions simplement dire que nous sommes entièrement d'accord avec ce qu'ont dit le représentant du Mexique et le représentant des Philippines.

José Ramón LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (Mexico): Lamento mucho. Señor Presidente, tomar la palabra por segunda ocasión. Lo hago con el propósito de animar a este Consejo a que no pierda el tiempo con cuestiones que promueven la división de una Organización, de un Consejo que busca y está preparado para convocar la cooperación internacional.

Declaraciones como las que se pretenden adicionar en este informe no resuelven nada. Por ello, creemos que una decisión como la suya es perfectamente aceptable y debería ser aceptable para todos; o bien una descripción de los hechos de tal manera que se refleje la posición de los dos grupos contendientes que hicieron sus declaraciones aquí y que expresaron ambos su reclamo ante el

principio de rotación que sigue vigente de tener derecho a la candidatura. Los dos lo declararon y los dos, desde nuestro punto de vista, lo expresaron así durante los diversos contactos que hubo. No puede, por tanto esgrimir una parte que se viole el principio de rotación, porque la otra puede decir lo mismo.

El principio de rotación está sujeto a interpretación, en primer lugar y, en segundo lugar, - y queremos lo constate el Asesor Legal - no forma parte de los textos fundamentales. En tercer lugar, ha sido una cuestión que se ha respetado tradicionalmente, pero sobre la base de una negociación abierta, sincera, amistosa, cooperativa de todos los Estados Miembros. Por lo general ese principio de rotación se ha aplicado, en esta ocasión hubo reclamos de una y otra parte. El grupo del Cercano Oriente ofreció todas las alternativas y esas fueron rechazadas una y otra vez. Si no se acepta ni su dictamen ni la propuesta de Italia y se insiste en una declaración de éstas, entonces mi Delegación desea que se incluya otra declaración a ésta, que se ha adicionado aquí, después de que el párrafo quinto contenga una descripción de los hechos; es decir las declaraciones que hicieron Libia y Australia con las notas o reflexiones del Director General, y entonces se adicionaría un texto como el siguiente: la mayoría del Consejo rechazó las observaciones anteriores sobre la base de que la decisión del Consejo no abrogó o violó en forma alguna el principio de rotación geográfica que, si bien no forma parte de los textos básicos ha sido tradición respetable.

Señor Presidente, le proponemos las tres alternativas: primero su dictamen y la propuesta de Italia que lo viene a completar muy bien, y en segundo lugar si no se aceptan, e insisten en una declaración así, nosotros adicionaríamos una como la que he dictado y que me permito transmitir a la Secretaría.

CHAIRMAN: May I say that we also regret that a consensus was not reached in six months. My country also participated in the negotiations to prevent this regrettable vote. But I stick to my previous point and I would not like to be forced to close the discussions because we have spent one hour on this point when we have spent much less time on more important points which have been submitted to us. This is a question of changing what has been said or adding extra material. The door is open to the Nordic countries to re-open this, as with so many issues. We have plenty of time, why should we prolong the discussion this morning? It is useless. Does the delegate of the Philippines wish to speak?

Horacio CARANDANG (Philippines): I do not think I have to speak at this stage, after the ruling which you made, which we fully support. I think you should close the discussion at that.

CHAIRMAN: I have the delegate of the United States on my list, I think he personally participated in the unanimity.

A. Daniel WEYGANDT (United States of America): So did Lebanon, Lebanon was in the Drafting Committee.

CHAIRMAN: Yes, and supported what was written.

A. Daniel WEYGANDT (United States of America): Are you not going to give me the floor?

CHAIRMAN: I am giving you the floor, but I would remind you that you approved this because Lebanon did not dissent from what is stated here.

A. Daniel WEYGANDT (United States of America): I have to say that I do approve of what is written in the report. I was a participant in the Drafting Committee discussions. I can perhaps complement what Mr Iskit has said by giving a little more description of the discussion we had which was that we wanted to be very careful to have a text which would not re-open the debate. We drafted this in a "minimalist" way, if you will.

So I would say I have no problem with what is in the report. I or my colleague have associated our delegation with the footnote put by another delegation; okay?

Now I would like to raise one final matter which is that a question was put to the Legal Adviser: not whether it is a practice or anything in writing, whether or not a delegation can put a footnote in, but whether a delegation has the right to put a footnote in. It seems to me that based on what we have been hearing for years and years in the FAO Council it is indeed the right of any delegation to put a footnote into the report, just as it would be any delegation's right to have its views reflected in the body of the report. The Council is still in session, it has not closed, we are approving the report of the Council. Therefore, while I understand that it is not correct to re-open an issue, it seems to me it is perfectly within the bounds of our Council for delegates to put their views on record as we approve the report.

Therefore, I fail to understand how anyone can object to this footnote being put into the report. Certainly, if other delegations wish to have footnotes put in, I would be willing to accept them, sight unseen. It is the right of any delegate to put a footnote reflecting the views of his Government into the report. I would stand by that position and I would like very much to close the debate at this time myself.

CHAIRMAN: I dissent from the view the delegate of the United States expressed that countries may put a footnote on any subject. The subject is there, the draft is before us. You are asked to approve or make reservations on the draft, not add any lines to it. If you want to put footnotes, you can send them to the Secretariat, as many as you want. You can have 49 footnotes and have a special volume for them. That is a joke.

So I stand by my ruling and if need be I will put it to the vote.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Si usted, Sr. Presidente, clausura el debate ¿cómo puedo yo intervenir?

CHAIRMAN: Before I do that, do you want to take the floor? I have two names here, I do not want to prevent them from speaking. They are Colombia and Brazil. If you wish, I will close the debate.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Sr. Presidente, había estado tratando de ayudar al Consejo mediante contactos con algunos colegas que, desgraciadamente, han resultado infructuosos. Ahora quiero ayudarle en otro sentido: no hablando.

CHAIRMAN: I appreciate that very much.

João Augusto de MEDICIS (Brazil): I would just say that my delegation regrets very much that no reservations to the elections were made here before the elections, only after the results of the elections. Some of the delegates were asking for that before the election, so the only thing is that the reservations are not being made to the elections, but I believe to the result of the elections. On the other hand, no reservations were made during the Drafting Committee either, only by the Danish Delegation of course. So I do not see any reason for having any footnotes or reservations now as they do not reflect what happened in the debate.

CHAIRMAN: The debate is closed and my ruling stands.

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

Ronald F.R. DEARE (United Kingdom): I have put a proposal, or not a proposal, I have insisted on my right to have a footnote. You have ruled that I may not have a footnote. I wish that to be put to the vote, a roll call vote.

CHAIRMAN: I said that if I accept a footnote from one country I have to accept the Mexican footnote and 49 footnotes, if need be. All right, I do not want to accept that and I am ready to put my ruling to the vote that we have to stop the discussion now. Do you want me to make it clear? If I accept your footnote, I accept all footnotes. But I am not inclined to do so because they do not reflect what we have to put in the report. The report concerned a debate. The debate is closed. I stand by my ruling that the debate is closed.

Ronald F.R. DEARE (United Kingdom): I have made a formal proposal that your ruling that my footnote is not admissible be put to a vote of this Council by roll call vote.

CHAIRMAN: Nobody has anything to add on the subject? All right, we will put it to a roll call vote on the subject.

Atif Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (original language Arabic): I do not think it is appropriate now for us to engage in any process of voting. We accept the fact which was mentioned by the Legal Counsel that any country has the right to include what has been said on this report. As mentioned in our previous intervention, if the delegate of the United Kingdom insists on including a footnote to this report, we in turn will be protesting formally in this report and will be sending this objection to the Secretariat.

CHAIRMAN: I am sorry, I cannot give the floor any more because I read in the Basic Texts: "A delegate represented may appeal against the ruling of the Chairman, in which event the appeal shall immediately be put to the vote." So I cannot give the floor, but I have to ask for an explanation from the British delegate. My ruling concerned the contents of the report. I wished no footnote to be added because it had nothing to do with what was said during the debate because you could put a footnote on anything that is not pertinent to what we are talking about.

I then added it was not the ruling. The first ruling was general. This is not the re-opening of the debate. Whatever was said in the session is to be reflected here, and the footnote was not presented then. It is presented now, so in my opinion the ruling was to exclude any footnote. Then you came in with this footnote and said "I have the right to put it". The Legal Counsel did not say that you all have the right to put footnotes, or as many as you like, in a report of the proceedings of the Council. I think you have misinterpreted. What I should like to do is prevent another unpleasant vote. I said I am disposed to accept your footnote if I accept all. Would you object to that?

Ronald F.R. DEARE (United Kingdom): Mr Chairman, maybe I can help you. I am perfectly content for the delegate on behalf of the Near East Region to add a footnote. Like my American colleague, I am happy for him to put that in. I do not want to see it. But I am under instructions to insist that my footnote be added to the report. It is the view of my Government. It has been the practice in this Organization over innumerable years that although we cannot insist on having our views included in the main body of the Report - that is a matter for the Council as a whole - it has been the practice in the past on innumerable occasions that delegations have been able, provided the Council has not concluded its proceedings, has not finished its considerations of the report, to add the views of a delegation on a particular issue in a footnote. That actually identifies the delegations concerned; it does not commit the Council in any way; it is not in the body of the Report.

So, Mr Chairman, once again I have to insist that my footnote be added to the Report. If you are going to rule against that, then I maintain my request that it be put to a roll call vote.

CHAIRMAN: I think I have your point. We are in the presence of two more footnotes proposed by Mexico and by Saudi Arabia. In order to be balanced, I already have one footnote, another from you, then one from Mexico and one from Saudi Arabia. This is quite fair. You agree?

The Deputy Director-General would like to say something.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: From the Secretariat side I should probably try to be an angel and fear to tread. However, there are some things that I should like to say at this stage.

On the practice regarding footnotes, I should like to be quite clear what is not in the written rule book but the rules of the game. The rules of the game are that any delegation may propose a footnote to be added to the Report, but this must be added in the open Council session or whatever it may be; or there should be an agreement on the contents of the footnote. There have been other cases of a similar nature.

The contents of one footnote can then attract the generation of another footnote. Frankly, to the outside world this looks extremely inelegant and gives an impression of very deep divergencies and even confusion.

Secondly, the delegations that started putting in the footnotes made it clear that they were not trying to enter a reservation on the choice of the Chairman of the Conference. I must say frankly that that is not clear. It does look as if they were entering a reservation. Just picking up the Report, that is how I interpreted it.

Would it not be better in the interest of everybody to reflect the two different points of view in an additional paragraph in the text? I am ready to propose a text if the Council wishes.

CHAIRMAN: Mr Deputy Director-General, I thank you very much, but the only immediate reaction is that we have to keep the balance. We put two paragraphs and we have a footnote. The footnote is already in; it is already an imbalance.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Mr Chairman, can I just try this paragraph out, and if it makes life more complicated for the Council I withdraw it.

This would come after the existing paragraph 5 and would be a new paragraph 6, therefore, consisting of two sentences, each sentence representing a different view. I will read it quickly:

"A number of members felt that the decision reached by vote had abrogated the long-established principle of rotation. Many members pointed out that the disagreement had not been over the principle of rotation but over the way in which it should be applied, and that this divergence of views had been resolved by democratic process."

CHAIRMAN: May I ask whether the British delegate and the other proposers of footnotes, the delegate from Mexico and the delegate from Saudi Arabia, would be satisfied with the proposal just made by Mr Walton for the sake of peace?

Ronald F.R. DEARE (United Kingdom): I think we may have a solution here, but could I ask the Deputy Director-General to read it again rather more slowly so that we can get the exact wording? Then I would be quite happy to comment.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I would like to repeat that the two sentences each represent one point of view. The essential, then, would be to reach agreement with the two groups on the formulation of their point of view.

Sentence one: "A number of members felt that the decision reached by vote had abrogated the long-established principle of rotation".

Sentence two: "Many members pointed out that the disagreement had not been over the principle of rotation but over the way in which it should be applied, and that this divergence of views had been resolved by democratic process".

CHAIRMAN: May I have the opinions of the proposers of the footnotes as to whether they agree to this compromise solution?

Atif Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of): First, I should like to thank the Deputy Director-General for his help. Secondly I have no objection in fact to what is said in this proposal.

José Ramón LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (México): Le agradezco también Sr. Walton esta propuesta que creemos refleja perfectamente lo que sucedió y nos atenemos a ella.

Ronald F.R. DEARE (United Kingdom): I would be content to accept this except that I would propose the deletion of three words in the first sentence. "A number of members felt that the decision reached by vote had abrogated the long-established principle". That perhaps suggests that we are challenging the vote. Of course, that is not the purpose of the footnote that I added, so I would propose saying "A number of members felt that the decision had abrogated"

While I have the floor, could I make it absolutely clear beyond any measure of doubt that in agreeing to this compromise, for which I thank the Deputy Director-General, I do not in any way abandon my claim that any delegation has the right to insist on a footnote. Of course, the Deputy Director-General was not in his present seat in the June Council in 1985. Had he been, I am sure it would be scarred on his memory that we had, I think, at least thirteen reservations added to that report at the report stage, not during the session, the discussions in the Council. So I do insist, and I wish it to be recorded in the record of this meeting, that I maintain that right.

CHAIRMAN: I thank delegates for accepting this proposal and for the help given to us all by the Deputy Director-General. I would tell you that I join your request that it be recorded that all footnotes pertaining to the subject may be added but it would cause a list of appendices as Mr Walton said. We have no objection to writing it down once they pertain to the subject and are approved by everybody, because if the subject is not pertinent it would not be in.

Ronald F.R. DEARE: Mr Chairman, I am sorry, but you have said "once they are approved by everybody". I cannot accept that proposal. I maintain the right of my delegation, or of any delegation, to have a footnote which does not require the approval of other delegations. I am sorry, I do not want to debate it now, but I want my view recorded very clearly.

CHAIRMAN: Mr Deare, you did not understand me. Let me make it plain that I am not so silly as to say they have to approve the wording. I said if the subject is pertinent. If you tell me that apples in Italy are too expensive you will find nobody will say you are right, but if you say what you just said, this is pertaining to the subject. Do not try to change my words, will you?

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: It has been remarked that all of Western philosophy is a series of footnotes to Plato. I think that what I said was not correctly interpreted by the United Kingdom delegate. I would just like to be clear: there is no disagreement between us at all. The point I want to make is that at the report stage the body concerned, whether it is the Council or another one, must agree on the insertion of a footnote and the content. It is not allowed that after the meeting is over a delegation comes and asks for a footnote to be inserted. That has happened also, and that is what I was talking about. It has to happen within the body itself. That is my only point.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr Walton, that is a useful clarification. Otherwise we accept the whole ruling of the Council.

May we pass to the next point?

Paragraph 5 has been approved, but you propose it as paragraph number 6.

It is paragraph 6, as proposed by Mr Walton and amended by the correction suggested. The footnote is also approved.

Paragraphs 5 to 6, as amended, approved
Les paragraphes 5 à 6, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés
Los párrafos 5 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

Paragraph 11 approved
Le paragraphe 11 est approuvé
El párrafo 11 es aprobado

Paragraphs 12 to 19 approved
Les paragraphes 12 à 19 sont approuvés
Los párrafos 12 a 19 son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary, Part II, as amended, was adopted
Projet de rapport de la plénière, partie II, ainsi amendée, est adoptée
El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte II, así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT - PART III PROJET DE RAPPORT -PARTIE III PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE III

Paragraphs 1 to 8 approved
Les paragraphes 1 à 8 sont approuvés
Los párrafos 1 a 8 son aprobados

Paragraphs 9 to 18 approved
Les paragraphes 9 à 18 sont approuvés
Los párrafos 9 a 18 son aprobados

Paragraphs 19 to 20 approved
Les paragraphes 19 à 20 sont approuvés
Los párrafos 19 a 20 son aprobados

Paragraphs 20 to 21 approved
Les paragraphes 20 à 21 sont approuvés
Los párrafos 20 a 21 son aprobados

Paragraphs 21 to 27 approved
Les paragraphes 21 à 27 sont approuvés
Los párrafos 21 a 27 son aprobados

Paragraphs 28 to 31 approved
Les paragraphes 28 à 31 sont approuvés
Los párrafos 28 a 31 son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 32 to 38 PARAGRAPHES 32 à 38 PARRAFOS 32 a 38

José Ramón LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (Mexico): En los párrafos 32 a 38 mi delegación reconoció la importancia de la creación de una Comisión de Desarrollo Ganadera para América Latina y el Caribe. Sin embargo, en el texto no aparece el exhorto al Consejo a adoptar la Recomendación de la 19ª Conferencia de la FAO para América Latina y el Caribe en el sentido de que basándose en el artículo VI inciso 2 de la Constitución de la FAO, se estudiara el establecimiento de un Comité

de Ganadería. Ese Comité sería un órgano asesor del Consejo de la FAO. En tal recomendación también se pidió a la Secretaría que tomara las medidas para poner en práctica esa Recomendación. Tampoco aparece en el nuevo proyecto de Resolución la creación de una Comisión Regional,

A estas cuestiones no se opuso ninguna delegación. Nos parece que hubo consenso y desearíamos que esto se reflejara en el texto del tema 13.

CHAIRMAN: Has the distinguished delegate any wording to suggest, and does anybody else want to take the floor on this subject? - No. So, unless there is any objection, the Ambassador of Mexico will now give you this addition to the text. Is there any objection? - No.

José Ramón LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (México): El otro podría estar incluido en el REP/3 antes del párrafo 34 y diría así: "Asimismo se aceptó considerar la Recomendación de la 19 Conferencia de la FAO para América Latina y el Caribe sobre el establecimiento de un Comité de Ganadería como Órgano Asesor del Consejo de la FAO. Ello en base al Artículo VI-2 de la Constitución de la FAO. Se pidió a la Secretaría que tomara las medidas para poner en práctica dicha Recomendación".

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr Ambassador. Does any delegate have comment or objection?

John COOK (United States of America): The United States would like to request that the last change suggested by the delegate from Mexico be clarified. Could that be read to us once again please?

José Ramón LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (México): ¿Es la última oración la que me pide el Delegado de Estados Unidos?: "Asimismo se aceptó considerar la recomendación de la 19 Conferencia de la FAO para América Latina y el Caribe sobre el establecimiento de un Comité de Ganadería como Órgano Asesor del Consejo de la FAO. Ello en base al Art. VI-2 de la Constitución de la FAO. Se pidió a la Secretaría que tomara las medidas para poner en práctica dicha Recomendación".

CHAIRMAN: The floor is given to the Legal Counsel who has a clarification to make.

LEGAL COUNSEL: I think there may be a slight confusion here. The distinguished delegate of Mexico is perfectly correct. The Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean did recommend the establishment of a committee under paragraph 2 of Article VI of the Constitution. However, for reasons which are in fact explained in document CL 92/7, the proposal was converted to the establishment of a commission under Article VI.1 which is broader and has more general responsibilities. Therefore, in a way, the original recommendation to create a VI. 2 committee was superseded by the VI.1 Commission which you have already established at this Council session. I believe that the proposal that is now being made is, in fact, overtaken by the events which have just occurred.

CHAIRMAN: Is there any other comment on this? I give the floor to the Ambassador of Mexico again.

José Ramon LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (México): Le agradezco al Asesor Legal su explicación, pero a lo que nosotros nos referimos no es a la Comisión creada, era a un Comité Ganadero para la FAO no de carácter regional. Es a eso a lo que nos referimos durante el Consejo.

James D. AITKEN (United Kingdom): I am afraid I have some difficulty here because I now appreciate that perhaps we have misunderstood the Mexican proposal. We certainly spoke in favour of the establishment of the Commission for Latin America. I would like to make that quite clear. What we now seem to have is another proposal to establish a separate committee, is that correct? Perhaps somebody could advise me on this? If that is the case, then I should like some indication from the Secretariat of the financial implications of this particular proposal.

José Ramón LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (Mexico): Desde la 19ª Conferencia Regional y posteriormente en la Conferencia de FAO de 1985, la Delegación de México propuso que en vista de la diversidad de foros en los que se trataban las cuestiones ganaderas, se estudiara la creación de un Comité de Ganadería para la FAO. Nosotros declaramos en esta ocasión durante este Consejo que nos complacía mucho la creación de una comisión regional de ganadería para América Latina y el Caribe, y que considerábamos en consecuencia un paso útil, positivo, en la dirección de concentrar los esfuerzos en esta materia en un Comité de Ganadería de la FAO. No quiero abrir el debate aquí, simplemente marcar lo que hemos propuesto de que se estudie y se den los pasos necesarios para la creación de un Comité de Ganadería. Reconocemos lo que ha dicho el Asesor Legal respecto de que la Comisión ha sido ya creada; ése no es el punto que nosotros declaramos apoyados por otras delegaciones. Decíamos que se debían tomar los pasos para la creación de un Comité de Ganadería. Todo esto, Señor Presidente, con base al artículo VI-2 de la Conferencia.

C.H. BONTE-FRIEDHEIM (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): On a number of occasions during COAG and in other sessions the proposal has been made that FAO should not only have a Committee on Agriculture, but should also have a committee on livestock. This is the proposal that the Ambassador of Mexico refers to, but this is the proposal which has not been further developed and we cannot say anything about it because at the moment what the Council has done is to establish a commission for Latin America only, while a committee would be worldwide. In a way it is only slightly related because the original request was, and may be still is, for a committee, but a commission has now been established.

José Ramón LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (México): No deseo abrir el debate, sólo que se refleje la posición de la Delegación que insistimos en este Consejo de que se tomaran las medidas y se dieran los pasos necesarios para tal Comité de Ganadería. Con base, como digo, en el artículo VI-2.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): En la última Conferencia Regional de la FAO la Delegación de Colombia apoyó la iniciativa de México, Cuba y otros países en este sentido. Atribuimos gran importancia a la consideración de este asunto. Somos concientes de que a la luz del debate que se ha producido no podemos avanzar demasiado, pero si queremos quede constancia de esa intención y, con la venia del colega de México, nosotros propondríamos que al menos hubiera en el Informe un nuevo párrafo que dijera: "El Consejo tomó nota de que en la 19ª Conferencia Regional de la FAO para América Latina y el Caribe se había propuesto la creación de un Comité de Ganadería como órgano asesor del Consejo, a la luz del artículo VI-2." Al menos que nos deje que se refleje en el Informe esta iniciativa que corresponde al deseo de los gobiernos de América Latina y el Caribe.

José Ramón LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (Mexico): Yo, Señor Presidente, no había escuchado una reacción muy negativa respecto de esta propuesta, es decir que se estudiara. No veo, portanto, por que debemos limitarnos tanto. Podemos ir más allá. Es decir, el Consejo tomó nota de que la 19ª Conferencia de la FAO para América Latina y el Caribe propuso la creación de un Comité de Ganadería como órgano asesor del Consejo, con base al artículo VI-2, y coincidió en que se tomaran los pasos necesarios para estudiar su eventual creación, o algo parecido, ya que hemos visto que ha sido bien recibido no creemos que haya necesidad de incluir un párrafo opositorio, en vista de que los debates reflejan tal oposición.

J. LYNCH (Canada): I think I am losing things in the translation, because the first time I took down the notes I had "requested that the Council was requesting that the necessary steps should be taken to put it into implementation" and the next time I had it as "to study possible implementation". I am sure the interpreters are doing their job very well but I am a bit confused. I am not sure whether we are agreeing to do something. I think that given the variances, at least as far as my delegation is concerned, the wording expressed by the delegate of Colombia came out clearest as to what we think we agreed to.

CHAIRMAN: Before the floor is taken by the United Kingdom and the United States of America, I will ask the Secretary-General what he took in his note so we know what we are talking about. What kind of expression did you take in your notes? Did you take notes? "The Council took note" or "The Council encouraged?" "Took note." Is that all right with you? I have two other speakers. Do you want me first to clarify so that you agree on which kind of proposal it is?

John COOK (United States of America): The United States has the same problem that Canada has just mentioned. In the last translation, as I have taken my notes, it is that the Council agreed that necessary steps be taken. That is not our understanding of what the Council agreed. I think we need to clarify exactly what has been proposed.

Janes D. AITKEN (United Kingdom): We share confusion about the proposal which has been referred to by the distinguished delegates of Canada and the United States. Certainly I took part in that debate and made the UK statement on it, and I must say that, without the verbatims in front of me, I do not recall that in the Chairman's summing up there was this proposal that Council had endorsed. Therefore, in these circumstances it seems to me that the formula which has been proposed by the distinguished delegate of Colombia is perhaps a most helpful one for the Council to adopt.

I would also make the point here that I believe there are over 122 specialist standing committees of FAO in existence at present and obviously if there is any proposal to introduce another one, it will have to be looked at very carefully.

José Ramon LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (México): Debo advertir que en la formulación que propuse, de ninguna manera hablo del Consejo, se dice de manera impersonal: se pidió a la Secretaría. No se dice el Consejo pidió a la Secretaría. Se pidió a la Secretaría, y esto es un reconocimiento a un hecho de que nadie se opuso a tal recomendación. Estamos aquí no abriendo un debate ni preguntando si tenían la intención de oponerse o no, sino recoger lo que se dijo. Y por eso en atención a que efectivamente el Consejo no se pronunció completa y unánimemente en relación a esto, la fórmula que he propuesto es: se pidió a la Secretaría que tomara las medidas para poner en práctica dicha recomendación. Ahora, si llegamos a un acuerdo en base a mi propuesta, la que me permití leer, que se diga: "asimismo, se tomó nota", en lugar de "se aceptó considerar". Se tomó nota de la recomendación de la 19 Conferencia de FAO para América Latina y el Caribe sobre el establecimiento de un Comité de Ganadería como órgano asesor del Consejo de la FAO, y luego se pidió a la Secretaría que tomara las medidas necesarias para estudiar y eventualmente poner en práctica la recomendación.

Vuelvo a repetir: "se pidió a la Secretaría que tomara nota de las medidas necesarias para estudiar y eventualmente poner en práctica tal recomendación".

CHAIRMAN: Is everybody happy with that?

James D. AITKEN (United Kingdom): I am very grateful to the distinguished delegate of Mexico for clarifying the text here. This has been a very useful clarification. I think perhaps it might make it clearer, certainly for English language users, if in the second sentence, which I understand read, as proposed by Mexico, "The Secretariat were requested to take the necessary steps..." etc., we add to that, "The Secretariat were requested by some Member States to take the necessary steps..." I mention this purely to remind ourselves in later days when we come to read this, that it was by some Member States and avoid any confusion that this might have been a request by the whole Council.

José Ramón LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (Mexico): En ese caso si insiste en esa entrada nosotros dejaríamos el resto del texto como estaba porque entonces ya no es nuestra propuesta; es decir, varios miembros pidieron a la Secretaría que tomara las medidas necesarias para poner en práctica dicha recomendación, pues lo que nosotros pedimos fue una fórmula de transacción y si no se acepta volvemos a nuestra fórmula con el encabezamiento que propone el Reino Unido.

John COOK (United States of America): If the wording is now that several members requested the Secretariat to take the necessary steps, then we have no problem with that wording.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Apoyamos la última propuesta de México. Creo que es consecuente que debe adoptarse la redacción final propuesta por Mexico.

Paragraphs 32 to 38, including draft resolution, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 32 à 38, y compris le projet de résolution, ainsi amendé, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 32 a 38, incluido el proyecto de resolución, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraph 39 approved

Le paragraphe 39 est approuvé

El párrafo 39 es aprobado

Draft Report of Plenary, Part III, as amended, was adopted

Projet de rapport de la plénière, III 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 - PARTIE IV

PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE IV

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Je voulais présenter les excuses du Secrétariat pour quelques accidents de fabrication qui ont marqué la préparation du document CL 92/REP/4.

D'une part, on me signale que, dans la version espagnole, les pages 10 et 11 sont identiques. Cette page a été répétée par erreur. Il suffit donc de barrer la page 11 et, lors de la discussion, de passer de la page 10 à la page 12.

Dans la version française, après le paragraphe 18, par suite d'un autre accident de fabrication, le projet de résolution a été omis; il a toutefois été distribué depuis sous la cote CL 92/REP/4 - sup 1. Les membres de langue française n'auront qu'à insérer cette page à l'endroit voulu dans le document CL 92/REP/4.

PARAGRAPHS 1 to 3

PARAGRAPHES 1 à 3

PARRAFOS 1 a 3

CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments on paragraphs 1-3?

José Ramón LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (Mexico): Sólo para indicar que hubo una propuesta de parte de varias delegaciones en relación a que se llevara a cabo un estudio en cuanto a la rentabilidad o rentabilidad de las contribuciones a FAO.

El 11.1 leía así. Es un párrafo cuarto y se lo he extendido ya a la Secretaría y reza: "Algunas delegaciones solicitaron que se preparara un estudio sobre la rentabilidad de las contribuciones a la FAO para varios tipos de países en términos de los técnicos, servicios de consultoría, uso de maquinaria, equipo e insumos agrícolas y otros servicios que aprovecha la Organización.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments or objections? There are none, so it is approved.

Paragraphs 3 to 5, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 3 à 5, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 3 a 5, así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 4 to 9

PARAGRAPHES 4 à 9

PARRAFOS 4 a 9

Dean K. CROWTHER (Assistant Director-General, Department of Administration and Finance): The Government of Japan has very kindly offered to defer a portion of their Cash Surplus. The Cash Surplus distribution for the Government of Japan was just over \$4.3 million. The Government of Japan is prepared to send a contribution in the amount of \$3.3 million, which is the major cause of their Cash Surplus Distribution, but, as the distinguished delegate has said, it is not in its totality, so it is referred to as "partial" only.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you. I now give the floor to the distinguished delegate of Japan after renewing my gratitude for this generous gesture.

Sumiji NAKAZAWA (Japan): I see that this morning my Government has paid that amount.

CHAIRMAN: So the amount is correct. I have only one question for the Chairman of the Drafting Committee, and I put it as Chairman, not as delegate of Italy. Was there any reason not to single it out? - because it came so suddenly, that substantial increase of the cash available for one year to the Organization. We have this figure of 21 deferrals - unless I am mistaken this should be the 22nd. But was it singled out? I know that Japan was warmly thanked by many of us including the Chairman, and I am wondering why there is a reason to single it out.

Temel ISKIT (Chairman, Drafting Committee): There was no reason to single it out, but there was no discussion on this paragraph - nobody thought to propose a new formula. But the Council is of course sovereign - a change can be made here if necessary.

CHAIRMAN: I think perhaps that members of this Council had not completely understood that it was not a deferral - it was a paying-back to the Organization, may I say for at least a year? So, as the money has already been paid, and is an important relief for the Organization, if you have no objection, I would like to single it out, because this list probably escaped in the hurry. It was singled out during the debate. As delegate from Italy, I was one of those who explicitly thanked Japan, as did President Ben Osman. So, if we have no objection, we can ask the Secretariat to single it out, because it came after the twenty-two, and was the most substantial deferral of all. Is there any objection? No.

Paragraphs 4 to 9, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 4 à 9, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 4 a 9, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraphs 10 to 12 approved

Les paragraphes 10 à 12 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 10 a 12 son aprobados

Paragraphs 13 to 14, including draft resolution, approved

Les paragraphes 13 à 14, y compris le projet de résolution, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 13 a 14, incluido el proyecto de resolución, son aprobados

Paragraphs 15 to 16, including draft resolution, approved

Les paragraphes 15 à 16, y compris le projet de résolution, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 15 a 16, incluido el proyecto de resolución, son aprobados

Paragraphs 17 to 18, including draft resolution, approved

Les paragraphes 17 à 18, y compris le projet de résolution, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 17 a 18, incluido el proyecto de resolución, son aprobados

Paragraphs 19 to 20, including draft resolution, approved

Les paragraphes 19 à 20, y compris le projet de résolution, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 19 a 20, incluido el proyecto de resolución, son aprobados

Paragraphs 21 to 22 approved

Les paragraphes 21 à 22 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 21 a 22 son aprobados

Paragraphs 23 to 26 approved

Les paragraphes 23 à 26 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 23 a 26 son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary, Part IV, as amended, was adopted

Projet de rapport de la plénière, IV partie, ainsi amendée, est adoptée

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte IV, así enmendado, es aprobado

CHAIRMAN: I think we have finished our work in two hours. Our friend Declan Walton has a corrigendum.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Mr Chairman, in the course of this Council session, I have probably spoken too much, and I have asked for the floor now only to make a small adjustment, shall we say, to what I said yesterday. In my enthusiasm for our MacDougall Memorial Lecturer, I said that his father was the first Chairman of the FAO Council. He was, in fact, the first Chairman of the predecessor body of the FAO Council. In those days it was called the Executive Committee. He was also the Chairman of the Second Session of the FAO Conference. I do apologize for any traumatic impact I may have had on historians in the room.

CHAIRMAN: There will be a press reaction. Thank you, Declan. I want to thank everybody and especially those fellow delegates who took the floor on the thorny subject and agreed to prevent another vote, accepting the wisdom of Ireland to help us. This is the last time I shall sit here. It may be the last time I shall sit over there, though I shall probably be here on the 27th. One thing is sure in my heart. I shall not abandon FAO because I shall seek election in the Finance Committee as long as my energies allow me to do something good on behalf of my country for this great organization that we all love. Thank you very much.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

The meeting rose at 12.00 hours

La séance est levée à 12 heures

Le levanta la sesión a las 12.00 horas.