

council

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conseil

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

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ACTAS TAQUIGRAFICAS DE LAS SESIONES PLENARIAS DEL CONSEJO

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DIX-SEPTIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
17ª SESION PLENARIA
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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 94/PV/1

Ninety-fourth Session

Quatre-vingt-quatorzième session

94º período de sesiones

FIRST PLENARY MEETING
PREMIERE SEANCE PLENIERE
PRIMERA SESION PLENARIA

(15 November 1988)

The First Plenary Meeting was opened at 10.15 hours

Lassaad Ben Osman, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La première seance plénière est ouverte à 10 h 15.

sous la présidence de Lassaad Ben Osman, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la primera sesión plenaria a las 10.15 horas.

bajo la presidencia de Lassaad Ben Osman, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

I. INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION

I. INTRODUCTION - QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE

I. INTRODUCCION - CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO

LE PRESIDENT: M. 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 94^{ème} Session du Conseil de la FAO, Je serai très heureux de souhaiter la bienvenue en votre nom et en mon nom personnel à l'Honorable Ministre Saikou Sabally, Ministre de l'agriculture de la Gambie, Son Excellence M. Douramane Moussa, Secrétaire d'Etat à l'agriculture et à l'environnement du Niger, ainsi que le Ministre du développement rural de la République Centrafricaine, son Excellence M. Théodore Bagua-Yambo, qui représente son pays comme observateur à ce Conseil.

Je voudrais aussi souhaiter la bienvenue à notre nouveau Secrétaire Général, M. Mario Alessi, assis à ma gauche, qui depuis le mois de juillet occupe les fonctions de Sous-Directeur général du Département des affaires générales et de l'information. Je suis convaincu que nous pouvons compter sur sa collaboration et sa compétence dans l'accomplissement de sa tâche.

Honorables délégués, le Conseil n'accueille aucun nouveau membre à cette Session. Seize membres quitteront notre Conseil à la fin de l'année, mais parmi ceux-là dix membres ont été réélus à la dernière Session de la Conférence. Il s'agit de l'Allemagne, de l'Argentine, de la Chine, de l'Indonésie, de l'Iraq, du Japon, de la Malaisie, du Nicaragua, de la Thaïlande et du Venezuela. Nous aurons par conséquent le privilège de continuer à bénéficier de leur efficace contribution.

Les six membres dont le mandat se termine le 31 Décembre 1988 sont le Bangladesh, le Cameroun, le Niger, la Turquie, la Yougoslavie et la Zambie. D'ores et déjà, je voudrais les remercier en mon nom et au nom du Conseil pour leur contribution significative à nos travaux.

Honorables délégués, je suis convaincu que les débats de notre Conseil continueront comme par le passé à être inspirés avant tout par le souci de l'Intérêt général, qui est rattaché à notre mission et à celle de notre Organisation.

I. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable

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

I. Aprobación del programa y el calendario

Avant de passer la parole à Messieurs les Délégués, je voudrais indiquer que le Secrétariat signale que dans la version espagnole du document CL 94/1 11 y a une erreur matérielle. Le point 13 devrait se lire de la manière suivante: "Rapport de la 54^{ème} et 55^{ème} Session du Comité du Programme y compris le Rapport intérimaire sur l'examen de la FAO". Cette dernière partie de l'énoncé du Point 13 a été omise. Elle a été par erreur ajoutée au point 14.

Pour ce qui est de l'ordre du jour permettez-moi de vous faire part des considérations suivantes:

En ce qui concerne le Point 4: Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture 1988, un autre document CL 94/2-Sup.2 vient d'être distribué, qui nous donne le dernier aperçu de la situation en ce qui concerne les criquets pèlerins.

Quant au Point 6, Rapport de la 9^{ème} session du Comité des Forêts, je voudrais attirer l'attention du Conseil sur le fait que par souci de clarté l'énoncé du Point 6 a été élargi et se lit maintenant comme suit: " Rapport de la 9^{ème} Session du Comité des Forêts, y compris date et lieu du 19^{ème} Congrès Forestier mondial 1991". C'est du reste en conformité avec les documents distribués. Le Secrétaire Général a envoyé en date du 5 Octobre une note circulaire à ce sujet. Un document portant la référence CL 94/16 a été préparé par le Secrétariat pour aider le Conseil à prendre des décisions sur la date et le lieu du prochain Congrès Forestier mondial.

José Ramón LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (México): Como se lo hemos dicho en otras ocasiones, nos sentimos muy contentos de verle a Ud. presidiendo con la dignidad, eficiencia y paciencia de siempre, nuestros trabajos. Como es de todos conocido, México se honra en presidir, a través de la persona de nuestro Secretario de Agricultura y Recursos Hidráulicos, el Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación, y el señor Presidente del Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación me ha solicitado que pida a este honorable Consejo que admita que en el tema relativo a: "Novedades recientes en el Sistema de Naciones Unidas", se permita al Director Ejecutivo, Sr. Trant, presentar un breve resumen de un par de páginas que también serán repartidas, si así se acepta, como un documento no oficial, subrayo, no oficial para comunicar la constitución del Grupo de Trabajo y la reunión que se celebrará en París,

en la sede de la OCDE. La razón de esta petición obedece a la importancia y amplia aceptación que tuvo la iniciativa de Chipre y la buena acogida, repito, por parte de los Países Miembros del CMA, y por supuesto del fundamental apoyo que la FAO le ha otorgado a tal iniciativa.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie le représentant du Mexique de sa proposition.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Los representantes de Colombia apoyamos plenamente la propuesta que acaba de hacer nuestro colega y amigo López-Portillo de México.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous retenons la suggestion du délégué du Mexique appuyée par le représentant de la Colombie.

R.G. PETIIT (United Kingdom): Mr. Chairman, as usual we are delighted to see you again in the Chair.

I have two particular points to make on the adoption of the Agenda. One is a request for clarification; and one is a suggestion in respect of the timing of the discussion.

First, the clarification. We and other governing bodies of the UN system are required by General Assembly Resolution 42/196 - which is about Operational Activities for Development - to discuss and provide comments on the Report on Case Studies of Operational Activities, what we usually call the Jansson Report, mainly against the Triennial Review of ECOSOC next year. Documentation on this is provided in CL 94/12 for the Agenda, and also in CL 94/3, the Report of the 54th Session of the Programme Committee - Item 13. It would be helpful to have a decision or ruling on which Agenda Item members should use to discuss the Jansson Report and to provide material for our response.

Unless the Bureau has decided otherwise, I would suggest that we use for this purpose Item 10 which ought to be more lightly loaded and come earlier in our discussions.

The second point concerns Item 13, particularly the Progress Report on the Review of FAO. It is not totally clear in the documentation that this report is for discussion, though members would no doubt wish this to be the case. I think, therefore, that I should mention that my delegation has written to the Secretariat under Section 2.2 of the methods of work, notifying our intention to open the discussion of this item.

If, as I assume is the case, members will wish to discuss this report of the Special Joint Session and Progress of Reform, we should allow adequate time for this. The provisional timetable, CL 94/INF/1, gives part of the afternoon of 22 November and part of the morning of 23 November, to this. I would suggest that the greater part of the day is likely to be required. Looking at INF/1, may I suggest that Item 9.2 - that is, Election of Five Members of the Committee on Food Aid Policies could be advanced to the afternoon of 21 November, which is the same day as we discuss the report of the CFA; and then the Item 15 should be taken in the afternoon of 23 November, sharing this to some extent with Items 16 and 19.

Gerhard LIEBER (Germany, Federal Republic of): Mr. Chairman, let me first of all tell you how delighted my delegation is to see you in the Chair. We are looking forward to a very fruitful and constructive Council session under your guidance.

As to the proposal of the delegate of the United Kingdom to give us somewhat more flexibility as far as the discussion of Items 13 to 15 is concerned, I think my delegation feels that this is a reasonable proposal which we would like to support.

Ms. Joan DUDIK-GAYOSO (United States of America): Mr. Chairman, let me, like others, express my delegation's pleasure at seeing you in the Chair. We look forward to working with you, and I know from others that we have always enjoyed your wisdom as you have guided our work.

My delegation would like to propose a change under Agenda Item 13 in regard to the Progress Report on the Review of FAO. We understand that the Programme and Finance Committees have performed important work regarding the Review of FAO and Programme and Budget Reforms. These are matters of great interest to my government and the Council should play a significant role in them. For that reason they should be open for discussion by all Council members. We have written to the Secretariat with a copy to you, Mr. Chairman, to indicate that all parts of the Progress Report -including the section on Programme and Budget Reform - be open for discussion by the Council. We wish to confirm that this item is now scheduled for full discussion. In order to facilitate that discussion, and to ensure adequate time is available for it, we suggest that the timetable be readjusted in the way that the United Kingdom has already proposed by moving Item 9.2 from Tuesday morning, 22 November to Monday afternoon, 21 November. That will provide us additional time for the discussion of Item 13 on the Review of FAO.

We also support the suggestion of the United Kingdom that the Jansson Report on Case Studies, Operational Activities for Development, in UN GA Resolution 42/196 be covered under Agenda Item 10.

Joao Augusto de MEDICIS (Brazil): Mr. Chairman, let me first endorse what has been said about the pleasure of having you chairing our meetings.

With regard to the proposal just made by the delegations of the United Kingdom, the United States of America and the Federal Republic of Germany about bringing forward the discussions of Item 13 to the Monday afternoon, 21 November, if my understanding is correct. My delegation sees no problem in that suggestion. However, we have to look at the suggestion with some caution because the Finance and Programme Committees have a mandate from the Conference and it is only Conference which can discuss this mandate. We could have some kind of progress report here, have some information given to the Council by the Chairmen of the two Committees, regarding the progress report which has been presented to the Council, but it is not up to this Council to give guidance either to the Committees or to the experts nominated by the Committees. Therefore I think we should look at that very cautiously and get it into its proper perspective. That mandate is from the Conference to the Committees and not from this Council to the Committees.

Atif T. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of:) (original language Arabic): Mr. Chairman, allow me first of all to join all the previous speakers in expressing our pleasure at seeing you in the Chair once again, and congratulate you on your continued presence here. We are honoured and proud to see you there, presiding over us.

I have listened very carefully to the proposals that have just been made. I would like first of all to say that we have no objection to what has been proposed. However, as you know, the Chairmen of the Finance and Programme Committees have taken a very active part in the joint session of the two Committees and I think that the presence of these two chairmen would be very important for us here when we come to debate on that Report because to discuss that report in the absence of the Chairman of the Programme Committee would be inappropriate. The Review of FAO activities after all has taken up a lot of the time of both chairmen - the Chairman of the Programme Committee and the Chairman of the Finance Committee. It is quite clear that their presence here is indispensable when we discuss that issue so that we may have an exhaustive and meaningful discussion of the report.

I am speaking now in my capacity as Chairman of the Finance Committee. I would therefore express the wish that the Chairman of the Programme Committee should be contacted as speedily as possible in order to find out whether he can come here to attend that debate.

As regards the part of the Report of those sessions of the Programme Committee which relate to the Progress Report on the Review of FAO, the document shows quite clearly that that Report is a progress report for consideration and possibly even for decisions. That report is in two sections which are extremely important. The first section quite clearly defines and explains the measures already taken on the basis of the General Conference Resolution. This is, therefore, a descriptive part of the report which simply refers to the decision taken by the two Committees, but you all know that the two Committees include 20 member nations of the Organization. Speaking as Chairman of the Finance Committee, I would say that these measures do not require any debate. They are measures that have already been taken, the ones mentioned in these descriptive parts, and to discuss them now would be improper, unacceptable and quite illogical.

Therefore, I submit that we cannot discuss this first part of the report which concerns the selection of experts - the historical part if you like. If we are going to have a discussion on the report, does it mean that we are going to accept or reject what has been decided? Obviously, that would be logical. That refers to the first part of the report. As regards the second part of

the Report, this obviously is for discussion and/or decision and the Council has to discuss matters pertaining to the budget and to the measures taken. I repeat that in our view this is for decision.

If we refer to document CL 94/4 and more specifically to paragraphs 1.32 and 1.33 which are on page 5 of the English text, we see that these two paragraphs make it quite explicit that the report is intended essentially as an information document and to keep the Council aware of the manner in which the mandate is being discharged. I think that this should now carry on.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Muy sinceramente, cuando observamos esta mañana que tres distinguidos representantes de importantes países desarrollados, pertenecientes al Grupo de Camberley, hicieron uso de la palabra, alcanzamos a sentirnos ligeramente emocionados. Desgraciadamente, después, esa emoción resultó falsa. Pensamos que en este período de sesiones, que va a estar dominado por la sombra funesta de la crisis financiera (crisis creada porque los Estados Unidos han incumplido el compromiso legal y moral de pagar sus contribuciones), las intervenciones de esta primera reunión iban a estar dirigidas a señalar la gravedad de esa situación y a condenar de antemano al único país culpable. Sin embargo, debimos consolarnos con el hecho de que esos colegas no hicieron más que confirmar el entusiasmo, la manera desaforada y la profusión de presiones que vienen ejerciendo sobre los expertos para que la FAO sea reformada tal como ellos lo desean.

Ya el Embajador Bukhari de Arabia Saudita, Presidente del Comité de Finanzas, explicó muy bien la situación. En el documento INF/1, en el tema 13, aparecen las palabras "información", "debate" y "decisión", porque en el documento CL 94/4, una parte, la reforma del proceso de presupuestación por programas, párrafos 1.9 a 1.13, debe ser aprobada por el Consejo. Naturalmente, a esto se opondrá Colombia firmemente.

El resto de lo que aparece en este documento 94/4 es simplemente informativo, esquemático, no hay elementos de juicio para una verdadera y profunda discusión. Naturalmente, sabemos que los colegas de los países desarrollados están muy preparados, y seguramente ellos podrán aportar elementos que contribuyan a esa discusión que están propiciando. Nosotros somos más humildes y menos competentes, pero nos prepararemos también para encontrarnos cuando lleguemos a la discusión del tema 13.

Nos oponemos a que haya cualquier cambio en este calendario propuesto. Todos sabemos que cuando el Consejo adopta un calendario no establece una camisa de fuerza ni un marco rígido inmodificables, sino que el calendario adoptado puede irse modificando a la luz de las circunstancias y en la medida en que avanzan nuestras deliberaciones. De manera que usted, señor Presidente, y la Secretaría han hecho lo mejor: el esfuerzo más sabio y adecuado para presentarnos un calendario que no debe ser modificado.

LE PRESIDENT: Je me permets de résumer un peu la discussion; nous sommes en effet devant deux propositions, l'une émanant du Royaume Uni appuyé par la République Fédérale d'Allemagne, et l'autre proposition venant des Etats-Unis d'Amérique.

La première concerne l'incorporation éventuelle, dans le point No 10, d'une discussion sur le rapport Jansson propos de l'organisation du système des Nations Unies.

Nous allons demander à Monsieur le Directeur général de bien vouloir nous donner quelques explications et quelques éclaircissements.

La seconde question se rapportant au point No 13 de notre document de travail soulevait le point de savoir si l'on pourrait avoir un peu plus de temps pour discuter de la question fondamentale des rapports du Comité Financier et du Comité du Programme sur les réformes de la FAO.

S'agissant du temps qui nous est imparti, 11 me semble possible de prendre toute la journée du mardi 22 novembre, comme l'a suggéré le délégué du Royaume Uni, sous réserve que le Président du Comité, le Professeur Mazoyer puisse être présent.

Quant au contenu de cette discussion, je souhaiterais que l'Honorable Délégué des Etats-Unis d'Amérique apporte quelques précisions: en effet 11 est écrit "information et décision". Est-ce que l'Honorable Délégué des Etats-Unis désire que l'ensemble du sujet, y compris la partie des procédures, vienne en discussion ou, comme 11 est indiqué dans le document, une partie - celle de la procédure - soit présentée pour Information, et l'autre pour décision.

J'aimerais que l'Honorable Délégué des Etats-Unis veuille bien éclairer le Président: s'agit-il d'une discussion sur l'ensemble ou seulement sur une partie, à savoir celle du Projet de Programme et de Budget.

Ms. Joan DUDIK-GAYOSO (United States of America): It is true that there are some historic items in this document, such as the selection of the experts. We agree with Mr. Bukhari that those would not need to be discussed. On the other hand, the matters concerning the programme and budget process, the review process itself, the work of the experts thus far, and the management review that the Director-General has undertaken, we believe would benefit from discussion. I would like to take this opportunity to point out that the Resolution taken by the Conference, Resolution 6/87 indicated that it was the responsibility of the Programme and Finance Committees to conduct the review with the help of the experts and that that study would be transmitted to the Council and it would be responsible for transmitting it along with the Council's views to the Twenty-fifth Session of the Conference next year. That means that we have a job to do, and an even bigger job in June, when the work is finished. However, I think that having some discussion now would certainly facilitate our work in June.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie l'Honorable Délégué des Etats-Unis, et je souhaiterais la permission de passer la parole á Monsieur le Directeur général.

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Je voudrais á mon tour poser une question aux Représentants des Etats-Unis, de l'Allemagne et de la Grande-Bretagne. Ils souhaitent discuter de l'ensemble du Rapport conjoint du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier. Il faudra bien sûr prendre une décision sur la procédure d'examen du programme de travail et de budget. Mais pour le reste, il est possible de discuter sans prendre de décision. Je veux être très clair. (continuer en anglais):

Is it your intention to have a discussion with a decision, or merely a discussion? According to FAO rules and regulations we can have a discussion for information or a discussion and decision. This will be important. As far as concerns the discussion of the Jansson Report with your permission I should like Mr. Shah to answer this question.

V.J. SHAH (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): Concerning the question of the Jansson Report and whether Council might wish to discuss the subject, I would make the following comments: it has been rightly pointed out that the subject is mentioned under two documents which are before you, namely the document CL 94/12 under item 10 of the agenda "Recent Developments in the UN System of Interest to FAO", and under document CL 94/3 under the Report of the 54th Session of the Programme Committee. I suggest that in the first document it was mentioned in a descriptive way in order to describe what the General Assembly had done concerning the subject of Operational Activities for development and what has transpired since that General Assembly Resolution. However, in the Programme Committee report you have the substantive views of the Programme Committee on its examination of the Jansson Report and its examination of the FAO rules which are before you. So, I would say from the substantive point of view it would be preferable to consider the subject when you take up the Report of the Programme Committee.

I would like to mention one other aspect which is relevant, namely, the General Assembly had requested that the views of the governing bodies of organizations in the UN system be drawn to the attention of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) during its summer session, in July 1988. Since the Council was not meeting during the year the matter was submitted to the Programme Committee and the views of the Programme Committee were drawn to the attention of the Economic and Social Council. I believe that this is a clarification which may help the Council. The matter is certainly before you and the views of the Programme Committee are before you and since the views of the Programme Committee are in its report I feel it would be more appropriate for the discussions to take place under that item. It would certainly allow for a full discussion on any aspect covered by the Jansson Report.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie le Professeur Shah de son intervention.

Trois orateurs sont inscrits mais s'agissant de la réponse du Professeur Shah, si j'ai bien compris,

I propose qu'il y ait une discussion complète sur le rapport Jansson; et au niveau de la discussion du point relatif à la Commission du Programme: toute la discussion aura bien lieu? Merci.

Joao Augusto de MEDICIS (Brazil): I think the honourable delegee from the United States rightly pointed out that this Council should, in the June session or on another occasion, transmit to the Conference the Report of the Finance and Programme Committees. We do not have a Report from the Finance and Programme Committees. We have a Progress Report first concerning the choice of the experts and then from the beginning of the discussions by the experts and the problems before them. I would not be against some general debate on the matter but I would caution once again that this occasion should not be used to try to change the mandate clearly given by the Conference to the Committees nor to use these occasions to try to influence the experts or the Committees to some kind of alterations that are only to the benefit of the developed countries.

Premananda TRIPATHY (India): India expresses full faith in your leadership, Mr. Chairman, and in the FAO. Now, on this occasion I will only mention a brief point relating to the Agenda. The suggestion is that we should have some items, particularly Item 13, to be brought on for discussion today along with Items 12.1 and 12.2.

As we have all seen, items on the Agenda are related to each other and we cannot specifically exclude any item from discussion, as all items are of relevance. But this particular item, Item 13, relates to the Progress Report of the FAO and there is nothing specific in that item which should hold us up from first discussing Items 12.1 and 12.2 which are on the Agenda today.

We would therefore feel that the timetable as listed by you and kept before us should be adopted and Item 13, as also other items, taken up for discussion when their turn comes.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Es evidente, Sr. Presidente, que los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas son los dos órganos asesores mas importantes del Consejo. Tradicionalmente, normalmente, ha sido siempre el Consejo el que se ha dirigido a esos Comités para pedirles que se ocupen de algún asunto concreto. En esta ocasión, excepcionalmente y por primera vez en la historia de la FAO, ha sido la propia Conferencia la que ha pedido a esos Comités que se ocupen de este examen.

A nuestro juicio aparece claro que los Comités están actuando y cumpliendo un mandato de la Conferencia que es el órgano supremo de nuestra Organización. Por lo tanto, el Consejo no debe y no puede condicionar la labor de los expertos tratando de indicarles pautas, guías u orientaciones a los expertos. Es cierto que la Resolución 6/87, como apenas es normal, establece que el Consejo conozca el resultado de la labor de los expertos, el informe de los expertos; eso naturalmente se hará en el momento oportuno, cuando ese informe esté disponible, pero no ahora.

Tampoco creemos que sea procedente hablar desde ahora de que el Consejo de junio se va a ocupar de estos asuntos. Todo esto hace patente el ansia exagerada de reformar la FAO. Nosotros tendremos que pensar en el tiempo que necesitarán los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas en su reunión de mayo para estudiar el informe de los expertos y si, como está previsto el Consejo de junio va a reunirse a partir del 15 de este mes, no vemos realmente qué milagro pudiera realizar la tecnología para que el Consejo de junio se ocupe de este asunto.

De manera muy cordial, casi paternal, quisiera aconsejar a los colegas que están demostrando esta ansia exagerada, que tengan un poco de paciencia, que todo se va a desarrollar normalmente, ya que esto puede traer consecuencias desfavorables para toda la Organización. Si cuando llegue el tema 13 los Representantes de Estados Unidos nos van a decir por ejemplo que van a pagar sus cuotas, y que las reformas de la FAO podrían tener una repercusión positiva en la vida de esta Organización, entonces podremos discutir de todo, pero a condición de que no conste en el informe del Consejo nada que pueda condicionar, que pueda limitar la labor de los expertos.

R.G. PETTIT (United Kingdom): To clarify a point raised by the Director-General, the United Kingdom did formally ask for this matter - that is, the Progress Report on the Review - to be included for discussion, we did not ask for decision, and we certainly envisaged that discussion would be a discussion on progress in the spirit of the resolution.

On the other point, Operation Activities, I would wish to comment on the comment made by Mr. Shah. I am afraid I do not totally interpret the General Assembly Resolution in precisely the way that Mr. Shah has done. I agree it is arguable, but other governing bodies have taken a different view.

General Assembly Resolution 42/196 invites various actions by governing bodies or secretariats. Some are specified as being in connection with the ECOSOC that has just passed the summer one. Others are unspecific. Some are even related to the triennial review next year but the main activity is related to the triennial review of ECOSOC next year.

The relevant paragraph concerned with the Jansson Report is paragraph 2 and our interpretation is that it is not something that is needed to be done for this ECOSOC, the one that has just passed, but needed to be done when the next meeting of the governing body took place.

I will read out what it says. It says: "invite the governing bodies of the organizations of the UN development system to discuss in detail at their next sessions" - that is, the next after the passage of the resolution - "the conclusions and recommendations of the report of the findings of the Case Studies and submit their report to ECOSOC."

Very helpfully and very correctly the comments of the Programme Committee have been transmitted to ECOSOC to help in the discussion that took place this year. But there is still a job to do by this Council. I suppose technically one could say it is a matter for the Conference, but that does not make sense, because what is required is a definitive view of Member States of the FAO to be put into the discussion of the triennial review, and particularly as a contribution to the paper which the Director-General for International Development and Cooperation will be preparing for this. So we actually have a job to do. I do not especially mind under which Agenda item it is taken provided there is adequate time for this. It should be taken, I suggest, under 1 and not 2 because it would be quite difficult for anybody, whoever it is, whether it is the Council or the first drafters of the report of the Council, to prepare responses on these 16 points, or the 12 of them that affect us, if we divide our comments between two different agenda items. So I would strongly suggest that we did it under one agenda item. I prefer it as the more natural item, Item 10, which comes first. The only difference is that we would need to take account of the documentation reserved for item 15 - that is, the comments of the Programme Committee - as an input to that discussion.

LE PRESIDENT: Je voudrais donner la parole au Directeur Général Adjoint, M. Shah, au sujet de ce point de l'ordre du jour.

V.J. SHAH (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): I believe the problem seems to be resolved. It has been accepted that the views of the Programme Committee are pertinent when the Council discusses this matter. As the views of the Programme Committee are covered in the report of the Programme Committee, it would seem to me to be perfectly natural and appropriate that the substantive discussion should take place then.

I would also point out to bear in mind when you discuss this matter that the Programme Committee did not review the subject in a vacuum, that the Programme Committee had before it the full General Assembly Resolution, the full report of the Jansson Case Studies, the full comments of FAO which were submitted to the United Nations, and the Programme Committee was reminded that this subject has been discussed before in the Conference and Council and those views had to be taken into account, and it would be discussed again in the context of the results of the review of FAO. So the matter is not closed. The views of Member Nations will be developed, will be taken into account in all these various stages and various fora.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie M. Shah. Je crois que ses explications sont claires.

Bashir EL MABROUK SAID (Libya)(Original language Arabic): Mr. Chairman, at the outset allow me to welcome you on behalf of my delegation. It is a pleasure to see you once more chairing our Council Session and we look forward also to considering all the items on the agenda with open hearts and with a clear objective in view.

As regards the proposal submitted by some countries pertaining to amending the Agenda I agree fully with what has been said by His Excellency the Ambassador of Brazil and His Excellency the Ambassador of Colombia, and I do not see any need to repeat them. The Ambassador of Saudi Arabia has given the logical explanations for not amending the Agenda as proposed. Therefore, Mr. Chairman, my delegation would hope that we keep the Agenda as proposed by you and we are sure that the opportunity will be given to all delegations to express their views while considering the various

items inscribed on the agenda. The anxiety which was expressed by some of these delegations is not justifiable. Therefore I propose that we move to the next item on the agenda.

Ms. Joan DUDIK-GAYOSO (United States of America): I think I have an outstanding question from the Director-General to respond to, to clarify what my delegation was seeking was a discussion, to clarify furthermore some of the other remarks that have been made around the room, that at least our delegation is not anxious, we are not even impatient, we are very interested and we would like to have a discussion.

There is an item for decision on the agenda and that has to do with programme budget reform. We would like to have a discussion prior to taking a decision on that particular item. So in one case we are looking for a discussion only and in the other a discussion and a decision and a discussion. But let me assure all my colleagues around the room that we like Rome very much and we are hardly impatient.

LE PRESIDENT: Je vous remercie. Je crois que les choses sont maintenant claires. Je voudrais assurer à tous les délégués que, comme l'a dit le délégué de la Colombie, notre ordre du jour est un ordre du jour provisoire.

Notre devoir consiste à aborder chaque sujet complètement même s'il faut prolonger les séances, même s'il faut décaler légèrement l'ordre du jour. Celui-ci existe à titre indicatif. L'essentiel, c'est que nos discussions soient complètes et que chaque délégué estime qu'il a pu remplir sa tâche au mieux de ses responsabilités. Nous aborderons donc toutes les questions. Si l'examen d'une question requiert plus de temps que prévu, ici, bien entendu, nous modifierons en conséquence notre calendrier.

La deuxième question, c'est l'opportunité offerte au Conseil lors de la discussion du point 13 de l'ordre du jour, d'aborder un sujet qui nous tient tous à cœur depuis environ deux ans, à savoir la réforme de l'Organisation et du travail de la FAO. Je pense qu'il est tout à fait normal que chaque délégué puisse exprimer son point de vue sur cette question sans que l'on influence directement pour autant le travail des experts; mais cela peut enrichir la réflexion des experts. D'ailleurs, je fais remarquer que, dans la Résolution 6/87, il était dit que le Comité prendrait en considération les avis émis et on avait même fixé 1988 comme date limite. Mais nous sommes les représentants des Etats Membres et la discussion est libre. L'essentiel, c'est de pouvoir enrichir notre réflexion sans pour autant considérer que les experts sont ipso facto liés par tout ce qui a été dit ici. Je crois qu'il faut aborder cette discussion avec le cœur ouvert et dans le seul souci d'améliorer nos conditions de travail.

Si vous en convenez, nous allons considérer que notre ordre du jour est retenu et que notre calendrier est indicatif.

Je voudrais toutefois demander au Directeur Général, s'il n'y voit pas d'objections, d'inviter le Président du Comité du Programme à assister à la discussion relative au point 13, à la date qui aura été prévue pour ce faire, de façon qu'il puisse également contribuer à la réflexion des membres du Conseil.

LE DIRECTEUR-GENERAL: Le point 13 de l'ordre du jour a trait au rapport des deux Comités: le Comité du Programme et le Comité Financier. Je crois que ces deux Comités avaient spécialement chargé les deux Présidents de présenter ce rapport.

Le Professeur Mazoyer, qui est le Président du Comité du Programme, a des cours; il est donc occupé. Il a fait savoir qu'il serait disponible pendant la seconde semaine. Je crois qu'il n'y a pas de proposition visant à changer la date, soit le 22 ou le 23. C'est à vous de le décider. Mais s'il s'agit du 22, il faudra se mettre en communication avec le Professeur Mazoyer pour voir s'il peut décaler ses cours et prendre les dispositions nécessaires afin d'être présent ce jour là, un jour à l'avance. Nous pouvons donc demander au Président du Comité du Programme s'il peut être présent.

Mon collègue, M. Shah, va ajouter quelque chose.

V.J. SHAH: (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): I ask the Director-General's permission to add, if I may, because I have been in touch with the Chairman of the Programme Committee. The item on the provisional timetable was put for the afternoon of Tuesday 22nd November, because he informed me that he could arrive during the morning of Tuesday 22nd November. In fact, his plane would get in at 10.45.

I believe it is clear that if the discussion is scheduled for the afternoon of Tuesday 22nd November, Professor Mazoyer is able to come and he would arrive at lunch time, so the discussion could be scheduled in the afternoon, sir, and to continue the next day during the morning as desired.

Ms Joan DUDIK-GATOSO (United States of America): I am seeking a clarification. Mr. Shah indicates, I guess almost insists, that we discuss the Jansson case studies in resolution 42/196 under the discussion of the report of the Programme Committee. As the outline is in the document CL 94/INF/1, we will not have time to discuss all twelve items related to the 42/196, and the Jansson case studies and the review and reform agenda item. I, again, would much prefer to have this under item 10 even if it means taking a piece of the Programme Committee Report and discussing that earlier, but the way it is now we are not going to have enough time, and you mentioned this would be flexible, but I do not know how flexible we can be, especially within the constraints mentioned by Mr. Shah about Mr. Mazoyer's availability.

My delegation certainly assumed both Committee Chairmen would be here during this discussion. Thank you.

Gonzalo BULA HOTOS (Colombia): Trato de entender la insistencia de nuestra colega y amiga la Representante de los Estados Unidos. A lo mejor se trata de que nuestra colega y amiga, la Sra. Joan Gayoso como está fresca, recién venida de Washington, va a aprovechar la intensificación de la discusión del tema 13 para mostrarnos el cheque de los 142 millones que deben los Estados Unidos hasta fines de este año, y luego pasar a hablar de la reforma de la FAO.

Los Representantes de Colombia tenemos un principio moral y democrático inmodificable: nunca aceptaremos que las reformas de la FAO se condicionen al pago de las contribuciones.

LE PRESIDENT: En ce qui concerne la première suggestion de Mme la déléguée des USA qui consiste à discuter le Rapport Jansson avec suffisamment de temps au Point 10 je donne la parole au Directeur Général.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: With regard to the first suggestion by the distinguished delegate of the United States that we might discuss the Jansson report if we have sufficient time under item 10, it is essential that the Programme Committee Chairman should be present, because this is a matter that is still with them. Concerning the timing, the chairman is very flexible. We have always amended and changed the timetable. It need not be very formal. So if you want the Chairman of the Programme Committee to be present he will miss it if we discuss it before, but of course you decide. We comply.

Roger PASQUIER: (Suisse): Il me semble que le Professeur Mazoyer, lorsqu'il a accepté cette charge importante de Président du Comité du Programme, a dû accepter également une certaine flexibilité. Ma proposition est que nous l'invitions à venir déjà le jour précédent pour qu'il soit là si le débat avance plus rapidement que prévu.

LE PRESIDENT: Je crois que la proposition de l'honorable Délégué de la Suisse est légitime. Le Secrétaire Général fera sa démarche mais on ne peut pas préjuger de la réponse du professeur. Ce sont des questions importantes et il faut laisser du temps au Conseil.

José Ramón LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMAIVO (México): Hemos escuchado con harta paciencia el debate que ha ocurrido en torno a mover unas cuantas horas una cuestión que, para nosotros, lo hemos dicho, tiene sin duda importancia pero la tiene en la medida en que fortalezca a la FAO, y eso implica que contenga todos los fundamentos, todas las condiciones, todos los argumentos, toda la información necesaria para que el debate sea legítimo, productivo y fructífero. Por eso, no tenemos ninguna ansia para debatir este asunto en particular y hemos escuchado aquí la opinión de algunos delegados, de cuatro delegados que opinan que se debe correr antes, pero estoy seguro de que hay una mayoría aquí que opina que no es necesario precipitarnos y quizás perder la oportunidad de contar con el Sr. Mazoyer. Si eso es posible, magnífico; si no es posible, nuestra opinión de todas maneras es que se discuta el día martes por la tarde.

En todo caso, Sr. Presidente, un debate como el que se está proponiendo no puede ser sino un debate preliminar que no puede condicionar en ninguna forma, como se ha dicho aquí ya reiteradamente, la opinión independiente de los expertos, su trabajo y por supuesto el que corre por parte de los dos Comités. Queremos que quede esto bien fincado y sobre estas bases, entendamos la forma en que se celebrará el debate del martes. Nuestra opinión es que para asegurar que el Sr. Mazoyer va a estar presente con nosotros, por lo pronto quede el calendario del programa como está en el documento CL 94/INF/1.

Juan NUIRY SANCHEZ (Cuba): Quiero que estas mis primeras palabras como Representante de Cuba ante la FAO que tiene como marco este 942 Período, sean para hacerle llegar a Ud., Sr. Presidente, cuánto la Delegación que presido le prestará cooperación para el cabal desempeño de sus funciones. Hemos escuchado con interés el debate en torno a la propuesta de tres países desarrollados en cuanto a modificar el calendario para este Período de Sesiones del Consejo. No vemos necesidad de debatir el informe parcial sobre el examen de la FAO dado que se está cumpliendo la resolución 6/87 sobre la cual los países en desarrollo hemos sido muy respetuosos.

Apoyamos las declaraciones de las delegaciones de Colombia, Brasil, Libia y México y estamos de acuerdo con el calendario tal como se nos presenta.

Sra. Mercedes FERMIN GOMEZ (Venezuela): Hemos hecho un buen ejercicio de nuestra paciencia escuchando hasta ahora no un debate sino una serie de aspiraciones que no han dado ningún beneficio a esta reunión. Creo que hemos perdido una hora y media en esto que los aficionados al boxeo llamarían el "finteo", para llegar a la conclusión de que este programa, como lo consideramos los países en desarrollo, ha sido meditado, bien pensado y preparado tomando en cuenta una información previa que solamente corresponde a quienes están encargados de esto. Ya nos lo demostró el Dr. Shah en relación con este Profesor que debe venir de lejos, que se ha ajustado este programa a las posibilidades de asistencia de este Profesor. Yo creo que cuando nuestros países se disponen a venir a un Consejo de esta naturaleza es porque hemos dispuesto nuestro tiempo para que sea dedicado por entero a esta tarea que es importante, y que debe ser, por supuesto, la más importante en nuestras tareas, como Embajadores, como Delegados, como cualquiera que seamos, en calidad de Representación ante este Consejo.

Por consiguiente, hemos trabajado en tratar de satisfacer las peticiones de algunos países superdesarrollados que aspiran a imponer su voluntad de modificar esta propuesta que trae la Secretaría de la FAO. Los países en desarrollo que hemos hablado ya, en un mayor número, estamos de acuerdo con que este programa es correctamente adecuado a las necesidades y al tiempo que tenemos. Si fuera necesario ampliar a un mayor espacio de tiempo las discusiones del programa, bueno, los delegados que aquí estamos podemos ampliar nuestro deseo y ampliar nuestras posibilidades de trabajo. Es cierto que Roma es una ciudad muy linda para disfrutar, pero cuando se viene a un Consejo, bueno, Roma queda atrás y lo importante es el trabajo del Consejo. Por consiguiente, Venezuela también se va a sumar a apoyar el programa tal como ha sido presentado ante la Secretaría.

Gracias y permítame que deje para lo último el felicitarle por verle aquí con nosotros.

LE PRESIDENT: Je crois que nous avons effectivement consacré beaucoup de temps à cette questions. Cela permettrait de répondre à la sensibilité des Etats Membres si le Conseil convenait d'adopter, avec la nuance de souplesse inhérente à tout calendrier, le calendrier qui nous est proposé. Je pense que si le professeur Mazoyer peut le faire, il se mettra sans réticence à la disposition du Conseil.

Gian Luigi VALENZA: (Italie): M. le Président, je voudrais m'associer aux autres délégués pour vous féliciter de votre présidence actuelle. Et nous souhaitons tous qu'elle continue. Je crois qu'on a perdu beaucoup de temps mais il me semble que le problème a été résolu. Evidemment, nous allons essayer de faire venir le Professeur Mazoyer le plus rapidement possible, lundi ou mardi. Si quelque délégué veut discuter ce problème au Point 10 nous avons toute la flexibilité voulue, et nous pourrions fixer le point 10 à mardi si le Professeur ne peut pas venir lundi.

LE PRÉSIDENT: Je crois que nous pouvons accepter l'ordre du jour avec la nuance de souplesse dont je me fais garant.

Nous passons au point suivant qui est le Point 9.2. Pour ce point, qui traite de l'élection de cinq membres du Comité des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire du Programme alimentaire mondial, le Secrétariat proposait de tenir les élections le matin du mardi 22 novembre afin de donner au Secrétariat le temps nécessaire. Je voudrais proposer comme date limite des dépôts des candidatures le vendredi 18 novembre à 12h30. Je vous signale que les formulaires, pour les dépôts de candidature, se trouvent en annexe du Document CL 94/11 qui est disponible au comptoir des documents. S'il n'y a pas d'objections pour cette procédure, je pense que nous pouvons accepter la date limite proposée.

En ce qui concerne l'horaire de nos réunions, cet horaire a été fixé de 09h30 à 12h30 le matin et de 14h30 à 17h30 l'après-midi. Nous avons un programme suffisamment chargé et je suis sûr que les délégués se feront un point d'honneur de respecter cet horaire.

Nous passons maintenant au Point 2 de l'Ordre du jour: Election de 3 Vice-Présidents et nomination du Président et des membres du Comité de rédaction.

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

V.K. SIBAL (India): I have great pleasure in presenting the candidature of Mr. Rudolf de Pourtales, the Deputy Permanent Representative of Switzerland to FAO as one of the Vice-Chairmen of the Council. Mr. Pourtales has long association with FAO dating from the year 1972. He has been the Secretary of the Swiss National FAO Committee. We are sure he has great experience; he will be a credit to the responsibilities we want to entrust to him and will assist you with his ability in the conduct of the affairs of this meeting.

Gerhard LIEBER (Germany, Federal Republic of): I just want to support what our colleague from India has to say. I have nothing to add. We all know Mr. Pourtales and we are looking forward to his action at your side.

Apolinaire ANDRIATSIAFAJATO (Madagascar): Je voudrais m'associer à mon collègue de l'Allemagne fédérale pour appuyer la candidature de M. Rudolf de Pourtalés que nous connaissons tous très bien au sein de la FAO, dont les actions ont été toujours très importantes et les contributions également très utiles. La délégation de Madagascar appuie cette proposition.

LE PRÉSIDENT: Nous pouvons féliciter M. Rudolf de Pourtalés qui a reçu l'agrément de notre Conseil pour le poste de Vice-Président de notre Conseil

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Sumiji NAXAZAWA (Japan): My delegation would like to propose as another Vice-Chairman His Excellency Bashir El Mabrouk Said, Minister and Permanent Representative of Libya to FAO.

Gian Luigi VALENZA (Italy): I would like to support the proposition of my colleague from Japan.

Michel MOMBOULI (Observateur du Congo): Nous voudrions profiter de cette occasion pour vous dire, M. le Président, combien nous sommes heureux de vous voir présider les travaux de notre session. Nous voudrions également féliciter le représentant de la Suisse, désigné par notre Assemblée comme l'un des Vice-Présidents pour cette Session.

A notre tour nous sommes heureux d'apporter notre appui à la proposition qui vient d'être faite concernant la candidature de M. Bashir El Mabrouk Said, Ministre Plénipotentiaire de la Libye et Représentant permanent auprès de la FAO. Nous espérons que notre Assemblée pourra profiter de son expérience car nous le connaissons et nous savons qu'il est imbu du sens de la responsabilité collective. Nous appuyons donc tout à fait la proposition qui a été faite.

LE PRESIDENT: Je crois que nous pouvons féliciter M. Bashir El Mabrouk Said pour la confiance que le Conseil lui manifeste.

Applause

Applaudissements Aplausos

Apolinaire ANDRIATSIJAJATO (Madagascar): Je voudrais m'associer aux félicitations qui viennent d'être exprimées pour l'élection de l'honorable Délégué de la Libye au poste de Vice-Président. Nous connaissons tous son assiduité, sa compétence, la haute valeur morale avec laquelle il appuie les activités de la FAO au sein de notre Conseil.

Je me permettrai de saisir cette occasion pour vous présenter la candidature de M. l'Ambassadeur Gerard Phirinyane Khojane pour le 3ème poste de Vice-Président. Le groupe africain s'est mis d'accord pour confier ce mandat de Vice-Président à M. L'Ambassadeur Khojane. Nous avons tenu, ce faisant, à respecter la votation et la répartition équitable des postes au sein de notre groupe. C'est pourquoi je souhaiterais que le Conseil appuie cette candidature étant donné que M. Khojane est une personnalité fort connue pour ses activités au sein de la FAO, non seulement au bénéfice de l'Afrique mais également au bénéfice de l'ensemble de l'Organisation.

Washington ZUNIGA-TRELLES (Perú): Mi Delegación tiene el agrado de manifestarle nuestra complacencia por verlo nuevamente dirigiendo este Consejo y le augura todo parabién. Permítame felicitar al señor Portales y al Embajador de Libia, cuyas elecciones son muy acertadas, y apoyar asimismo la candidatura del Excmo. señor Gerald Phirinyane Khojane, ex-Presidente del Grupo 77, quien, además de ser merecedor de este cargo, tiene amplia experiencia en la FAO.

Ms. Hoda EL MARASSY (Egypt) (Original language Arabic): I should also like to take this opportunity to say how happy we are at seeing you here in your customary chair presiding over our session because we have the greatest trust in you and your abilities and we know that thanks to you we shall achieve positive results in our work.

We are also very happy to support the nomination of Ambassador Khojane of Lesotho so that he would be the third, in the sense of the last remaining, Vice-Chairman to be elected to join the other two Vice-Chairmen of this Council for this Session and they all three together I am sure will help us to move forward in a positive manner at this session.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous sommes très heureux de rendre hommage à son Excellence Gerard Khojane, Ambassadeur du Lesotho pour la confiance mise en lui par le Conseil et avec votre permission nous pouvons le considérer comme notre troisième Vice-Président.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Nous passons à la nomination du Président et des membres du Comité de rédaction.

D'après les précisions données par le Secrétariat, il faut encore un temps de consultation entre les Etats Membres et les groupes pour qu'ils puissent présenter les membres du Comité et leur Président. Comme vous le savez, nous tenons à ce que les sept régions de la FAO soient représentées au Comité de rédaction et nous espérons en début d'après-midi, pouvoir demander au Conseil de bien vouloir prendre position sur la composition définitive du Comité de rédaction.

V. CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS

V. QUESTIONS CONSTITUTIONNELLES ET JURIDIQUES

V. ASUNTOS CONSTITUCIONALES Y JURIDICOS

20. Other Constitutional and Legal Matters including:

20. Autres questions constitutionnelles et juridiques en particulier:

20. Otros asuntos constitucionales y jurídicos, en particular:

20.3 Invitations to Non-Member Nations to attend FAO Sessions

20.3 Invitations d'Etats non membres à des réunions de la FAO

20.3 Invitaciones a Estados no miembros para que asistan a reuniones de la FAO

LE PRESIDENT: Ce point comprend d'une part une demande adressée au Directeur général, le 2 octobre 1988, par l'Union des Républiques socialistes soviétiques, d'assister à la présente session du Conseil, en qualité d'Observateur. Une information a été fournie par le Secrétariat sur les invitations déjà faites aux Etats non membres de participer à des réunions de la FAO; le document 94/INF/8 vous donne toutes les précisions utiles à cet égard.

S'il n'y a pas d'objections de la part de votre Conseil, nous pourrions considérer comme adoptée la participation de l'Union des Républiques socialistes soviétiques, que nous accueillons comme Observateur à cette quatre-vingt-quatorzième session du Conseil.

It was so decided

Je en est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): En nombre del Gobierno de Colombia, quiero presentar nuestra más cordial bienvenida al Representante de la Unión de Repúblicas Socialistas Soviéticas. Ojalá que éste sea el primer paso para que ese grande e importante país haga efectivo su derecho de pertenecer a nuestra Organización. Como lo dijo el Jefe de la Delegación de Colombia en la pasada Conferencia, el ingreso de ese grande e importante país no sólo conformará la universalidad de la FAO, sino que podría conducir a un necesario equilibrio; y particularmente ese equilibrio es importante y decisivo en estos momentos críticos.

Waliur RAHMAN (Bangladesh): The traditional welcome has very rightly been extended by Ambassador Bula Hoyos, but I would like to add the sense of satisfaction and felicitations of my government at the presence as observer delegation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the Council Session of the FAO.

As my good friend, Ambassador Bula Hoyos, has mused, it is important to the Charter of the United Nations - which is centered around the universality of the Organization - and the FAO is a fairly important and vital organ of the United Nations - that a great and important country like the Soviet Union is allowed to play its role in the FAO. My delegation hopes that the day is not far off when they will be participating with us and contributing to the activities of the FAO in promoting the greater cooperation and development of mankind.

Gian Luigi VALENZA (Italie): Je m'excuse de demander à nouveau la parole mais en tant que Représentant du pays hôte, je ne pouvais pas manquer l'occasion de m'associer à cette bonne nouvelle que l'Union soviétique allait participer en tant qu'Observateur, cette fois-ci.

Je ne peux que m'associer aux souhaits de Monsieur Bula Hoyos ainsi qu'à ceux de notre collègue du Bangladesh, pour que dans le futur cette organisation qui siège à Rome se joigne à l'universalité des membres.

LE PRESIDENT: Au nom du Conseil, je félicite chaleureusement le Représentant de l'Union des Républiques socialistes soviétiques, qui participe pour la première fois en qualité d'Observateur à notre Conseil; nous espérons que c'est un premier pas vers une participation active à nos travaux.

Michel-Akis PAPAGEORGIOU (Observer for Greece): Mr. Chairman, I would like to extend in the name of the Greek Delegation, and also in the name of the European Community of which Greece has the presidency, a very warm welcome to the Soviet Union. We see the participation of this great nation, a great agricultural power, as an observer as an important opportunity for further cooperation between the European Community and the Soviet Union. It will be a good start towards completing the international representation of this Organization in, let us hope, the near future.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous passons maintenant au point No 3 de notre Ordre du Jour: Déclaration du Directeur général de la FAO.

- I. INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION (continued)
- I. INTRODUCTION - QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE (suite)
- I. INTRODUCCION - CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO (continuación)
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- 3. Déclaration du Directeur général
- 3. Declaración del Director General

DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Monsieur le Président, Messieurs les Ministres, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs les délégués et observateurs,

Permettez-moi tout d'abord de vous souhaiter la bienvenue à cette 94ème session du Conseil de la FAO. Je voudrais donner à mes souhaits plus de chaleur encore qu'à l'ordinaire: une année entière s'est écoulée depuis votre dernière session; cette année a été marquée, pour le monde et pour la FAO, par beaucoup d'événements qui vont se répercuter sur vos débats. Depuis toujours, le Conseil affronte les tâches qui sont les siennes avec une sagesse et une énergie remarquables. Qui plus est, ses travaux se déroulent traditionnellement dans une atmosphère de dialogue amical, même lorsque les opinions divergent et que le débat prend un ton animé. Or, les circonstances demandent aujourd'hui que vous mettiez en oeuvre, outre les ressources de votre intelligence et de votre volonté, celles de votre coeur. La cohésion, la ferveur, l'amitié sont ici plus nécessaires que jamais. D'où la cordialité toute particulière avec laquelle je vous accueille aujourd'hui.

Votre ordre du jour prévoit l'examen de la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture. Je ne veux pas anticiper sur vos débats; c'est pourquoi je me bornerai à évoquer un seul problème, qui ne peut manquer d'exercer une influence déterminante sur le climat dans lequel s'ouvre la présente session. Il s'agit bien entendu de la baisse enregistrée pour la deuxième année de suite dans la récolte céréalière mondiale. Deux reculs successifs, cela ne s'était pas vu depuis 40 ans. Du coup, la consommation a dépassé la production. Il a donc fallu puiser dans les excédents, détenus principalement en Amérique du Nord et en Europe. Cette ponction a fait tomber les réserves au-dessous du niveau que nous considérons comme le minimum indispensable pour assurer la sécurité alimentaire mondiale. En même temps, les prix ont flambé: une hausse de 40 à 50 pour cent, c'est plus qu'il n'en faut pour freiner les importations des pays pauvres. L'an prochain, la production céréalière doit augmenter pour que l'équilibre se rétablisse, et en particulier pour que les réserves remontent au niveau de sécurité, qui se situe à 18 pour cent environ de la consommation annuelle.

L'année qui s'achève se caractérise également par une impressionnante série de catastrophes naturelles - sans songer à toutes les catastrophes causées par l'homme - que l'on songe au Bangladesh, aux inondations qui ont ravagé le Soudan, aux terribles ouragans qui se sont abattus sur les Caraïbes, l'Amérique centrale et les Philippines, au violent tremblement de terre qui a secoué la sud de la Chine, à l'énorme infestation de criquets qui pullulent du Maghreb à travers la zone sahélienne de l'Afrique jusqu'au Proche Orient, ils sont même arrivés jusqu'aux Caraïbes. Pour ce dernier fléau, on estime à 240 millions de dollars le coût de la campagne de lutte qu'il faut absolument mener à bien. La générosité des donateurs est digne de tous les éloges; la FAO joue pour sa part un rôle unique et tout à fait indispensable en tant que centre d'information, de concertation, d'organisation, de coordination et de mobilisation des ressources. Notre Centre d'intervention antiacridienne d'urgence déploie une activité intense. C'est à la FAO que les pays donateurs recourent pour harmoniser leurs politiques et leur action: nous avons organisé à cet effet pas moins de 17 réunions de groupes et d'organes divers. Le travail si bien entrepris doit se poursuivre vigoureusement car hélas le danger persiste.

Tout autant que la menace acridienne, les autres calamités dont je viens de parler appellent une action de notre Organisation dans les domaines de sa compétence. Or, cette situation survient au pire moment possible.

D'une part, en effet, les ressources de la Réserve alimentaire Internationale d'urgence - la RAIU, comme nous l'appelons - sont aujourd'hui presque épuisées. Il a fallu mener en 1988 de nombreuses opérations d'urgence, dont la plupart portaient sur les secours aux réfugiés. Il est essentiel de regarnir très rapidement la Réserve, et je fais ici appel aux donateurs pour qu'ils la remettent à même de remplir sa mission.

D'autre part, les services que la FAO fournit à ses Etats Membres se trouvent limités par le fait que sa trésorerie a été amputée de 20 millions de dollars en 1988. Elle avait déjà, vous vous en souviendrez, subi une réduction de 25 millions de dollars en 1987. Ce sont donc, en deux ans, 45 millions de dollars qui nous ont fait défaut pour l'exécution de nos programmes. Dès 1987, il avait fallu renoncer à pourvoir beaucoup de postes vacants, rogner sur les voyages, supprimer plus de 50 réunions et un quart des publications prévues, etc. Malgré cet effort, la réserve de 35 millions de dollars accumulée grâce à une gestion prudente a fondu, et nous avons commencé l'année 1988 avec un déficit de 47 millions de dollars. Nouvelles coupures, nouvelles économies, suppression ou blocage de postes, réductions supplémentaires sur les consultants, les voyages, etc., élimination de 50 autres réunions et de plus de 80 publications. En réalité, ce sont nos programmes de fond qui sont affectés par ces coupures: missions d'étude technique ou de consultation, programmes de formation, etc. La lutte antiacridienne elle-même se heurte à des problèmes d'effectifs. Les revues qui véhiculaient les connaissances techniques et le message de l'Organisation - entre autres *Cérès*, *Unasylva*, la *Revue mondiale de zootechnie* - disparaissent des ministères de l'agriculture, des universités, des entreprises, des centres de décision.

Oui, c'est une année pénible, une mauvaise année, ou il a fallu prendre des décisions cruelles dont certaines ont fatalement provoqué des remous dans notre personnel. C'est le cas de la suppression des cours de langues, qui affecte des centaines de nos collègues, ou encore de la réduction de moitié du nombre des lignes et appareils téléphoniques, mesure qui complique évidemment leur travail. Il faut constamment procéder à des arbitrages difficiles.

Tout cela tient à une seule et même cause, à savoir des retards dans le règlement des contributions - et essentiellement celles du principal pays contributeur. En septembre 1988, le montant des contributions non réglées atteignait 152 millions de dollars, dont 107 millions imputables à ce seul pays.

La situation serait d'ailleurs bien pire si bon nombre de nos Etats Membres n'avaient pris des mesures exceptionnelles pour nous aider. Certains ont renoncé à la part qui leur revenait dans la répartition de l'excédent de trésorerie de l'exercice 1984-85. Oui, nous avons eu un excédent de trésorerie en 1984-85 et nous sommes plongés dans une crise de trésorerie en 1987-88. Beaucoup ont réglé leur contribution rubis sur l'ongle. Je suis heureux de signaler qu'à une exception près les onze principaux contributeurs se sont tous acquittés de leurs obligations. Je tiens à les en remercier.

Notre gratitude va plus particulièrement à notre pays hôte, l'Italie, qui, en plus de tout cela, verse à notre Programme de coopération technique une contribution supplémentaire de 30 millions de dollars pour l'exercice en cours, dont 15 millions nous ont déjà été versés en 1988. Je suis sûr que les 15 autres millions seront versés en 1989, très bientôt. Nous venons d'ailleurs de recevoir plus de 2 millions de dollars du Gouvernement italien, qui sont la contrepartie du loyer que nous devons lui payer pour les bâtiments que nous occupons. Je voudrais également en remercier l'Ambassadeur d'Italie.

Ces efforts et cette générosité nous permettent de gérer la crise et de faire face tant bien que mal aux tâches qui nous incombent. Mais la situation demeure très grave et risque même de s'aggraver encore dans les prochains mois. A terme, c'est l'essentiel de nos activités qui risquerait de se trouver menacé. Je me permettrai de revenir sur cette question lors de l'examen du point 12 de votre ordre du jour.

A cette situation, un seul remède, et simple: pour tout assainir et nous rendre la possibilité d'accomplir pleinement notre mission, il faut et il suffit que les Etats Membres règlent leurs contributions sans retard et sans complications inutiles. Un peu de bonne volonté, et voilà tout. Je les y exhorte avec toute l'énergie dont je suis capable, au nom des centaines de millions de paysans et paysannes pauvres à qui notre aide est indispensable pour progresser vers le développement.

Nous sommes guidés par la conviction qu'en effet les pays en développement ont plus que jamais besoin de la FAO. Parmi les maux qui les accablent, le plus grave est sans aucun doute l'endettement. Aux assemblées du Fonds monétaire international et dans d'autres instances, beaucoup de pays développés ont exprimé leur préoccupation et multiplié les déclarations de bonne volonté. Certains d'entre eux ont poussé plus loin la recherche de solutions et ont déjà pris des mesures concrètes. Malgré cela, les pays en développement continuent de crouler sous le poids de la dette, qui affecte gravement le développement de l'agriculture.

Pour assurer le service de leur dette, ces pays ne peuvent compter que sur leurs recettes d'exportation. Or celles-ci proviennent essentiellement des produits primaires. Les prix des matières premières revêtent donc une importance capitale pour ces pays; on peut dire qu'ils vivent au rythme des cours de ces produits. A de très rares exceptions près, vous le savez, les prix réels accusent depuis trois décennies ou presque une tendance à la baisse: pour la plupart des produits de base, ils sont aujourd'hui moins élevés qu'en 1960. Ce recul est particulièrement marqué pour les produits agricoles, même si l'on observe çà et là une timide remontée temporaire, comme cela s'est, passé récemment pour les céréales, comme je le disais en commençant, pour le sucre, ou encore pour le soja en raison du fléchissement de la production des Etats-Unis, et aussi un peu pour les huiles végétales. Il est bien évident que des pays tributaires de leurs exportations d'un ou deux produits dont les cours sont très déprimés - le cacao, par exemple - ne peuvent plus faire face à leurs obligations. Songez qu'actuellement le seul service de la dette absorbe plus de 40 pour cent des recettes d'exportation de nombreux pays du Tiers monde.

Devant cette situation intenable, beaucoup de pays en détresse doivent s'efforcer d'obtenir un rééchelonnement de leur dette. D'autre part, ils ont besoin d'argent frais pour faire tourner leur économie. Alors, ils vont solliciter une aide auprès d'organismes comme la Banque mondiale ou le FMI. Bien entendu, ces organismes ne peuvent avancer de l'argent à fonds perdus, et ils tiennent à s'entourer de garanties bien précises. Ils exigent des pays demandeurs qu'ils réduisent leurs dépenses et pratiquent une politique d'austérité. On appelle cela des ajustements structurels. Dans un pays à économie essentiellement agricole - ce qui est le cas dans la quasi-totalité des pays du Tiers monde - cela veut dire que l'Etat se voit conduit, dans le cadre d'un effort général pour réduire son train de vie, à réorganiser, à réorienter toute sa politique en matière de développement agricole, de crédit, de prix, de services sociaux, etc. Un tel assainissement répond souvent à une nécessité véritable; mais trop souvent, on se lance dans cette opération sans avoir réfléchi suffisamment aux répercussions sociales qu'elle risque d'entraîner. C'est le cas lorsque le pays doit rogner sur les dépenses d'éducation et de santé, renoncer à subventionner les intrants, par exemple les engrais. En pareil cas, ce sont généralement les petits, les paysans pauvres qui font les frais de l'opération. Quoi qu'il en soit, on a vu surgir un phénomène tout à fait nouveau dans l'histoire du développement: dans les pays à économie essentiellement agricole, les ajustements structurels consistent en fait, sous l'influence des organismes de financement, en une redéfinition radicale de la politique agricole.

Pour accéder à plus d'efficacité tout en évitant les conséquences néfastes que j'évoquais à l'instant, le processus d'ajustement structurel doit respecter plusieurs impératifs: prise en compte des facteurs sociaux et des ressources humaines; répartition équitable des charges comme des avantages résultant de l'ajustement; action pédagogique en vue de faire comprendre et accepter par toute la communauté les enjeux et les options des programmes d'ajustement.

Nous pensons que les organisations du Système des Nations Unies, pour répondre aux sollicitations des pays intéressés, doivent mettre en commun la masse d'information et d'expérience dont elles disposent pour aider ces pays à formuler leurs politiques et à mener leur action en tenant compte des considérations ci-dessus.

Permettez-moi d'insister sur un aspect de cette concertation qui me paraît particulièrement important: il existe une institution qui a pour fonction spécifique de donner des avis aux gouvernements sur leur politique agricole; cette institution, c'est la FAO. Dans l'examen des activités que la Conférence a demandé l'an dernier, et sur lequel je reviendrai tout à l'heure, on insiste beaucoup sur la nécessité de renforcer ce rôle consultatif et de faire plus de place aux études portant sur les politiques agricoles. Il semblerait donc logique, lorsqu'on doit envisager des ajustements structurels de l'économie agricole, que la Banque mondiale et les gouvernements intéressés s'adressent systématiquement à la FAO pour qu'elle leur donne un avis indépendant et fondé sur sa longue expérience. Or il n'en est rien. Fait surprenant, la FAO n'est que rarement invitée à intervenir dans ce processus.

En ce moment, des études concrètes sur les politiques agricoles se font avec la Banque mondiale dans plus de 35 pays; si le travail de la FAO dans ce domaine se poursuit parallèlement à cette activité sans la recouper, il demeurera platonique, théorique et sans impact réel. Le bon sens demande que la Banque mondiale et les gouvernements intéressés fassent de la FAO un partenaire obligé de ces examens, fournissant des avis en vue des décisions à prendre. L'Organisation serait particulièrement qualifiée pour exécuter des études ponctuelles au niveau micro-économique, par exemple sur la commercialisation d'un produit donné, le crédit agricole, etc. Si l'on ne songe pas souvent à demander le concours de la FAO, cela tient peut-être au fait que ce sont d'ordinaire les Ministères des finances (et non les Ministères de l'agriculture) qui traitent avec la Banque mondiale. Il n'en reste pas moins que les gouvernements devraient insister pour que la FAO soit associée à l'élaboration des orientations nouvelles.

Ces problèmes, et beaucoup d'autres questions importantes, ont été évoqués lors des Conférences régionales de la FAO qui se sont tenues cette année et qui ont connu toutes les cinq un déroulement satisfaisant. Dans la préparation du Programme de travail et budget pour 1990-91, je tiendrai le plus grand compte des avis qu'elles ont émis.

L'année 1988 a également été marquée par d'autres réunions dont les rapports sont soumis au Conseil, en particulier celles du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale et du Comité des forêts. Vous allez donc pouvoir les examiner à loisir; Mais, si vous le permettez, je voudrais insister davantage sur les travaux du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier.

Parmi les tâches qui leur étaient confiées, la plus importante était sans nul doute la mise en chantier - je dis bien: la mise en chantier - d'une étude sur certains aspects des buts et activités de l'Organisation en vue de rendre celle-ci plus efficace, ainsi que la Conférence l'avait prescrit dans sa résolution 6/87. Les deux Comités, travaillant conjointement, étaient autorisés à se faire assister par des experts choisis en fonction de leur compétence professionnelle et de leur expérience, compte tenu d'une répartition géographique équilibrée. Je me permettrai ici d'ouvrir une parenthèse: la Conférence a chargé les deux Comités de faire l'examen des activités de la FAO; elle a autorisé les Comités à se faire assister des experts. La Conférence, par l'intermédiaire du Conseil, attend le rapport des deux Comités. La responsabilité en incombe aux membres des deux Comités. Vous entendrez au cours de la session un rapport détaillé sur l'avancement du travail; je suis heureux de pouvoir vous dire dès maintenant que les Comités, ayant pris leur tâche très à coeur, ont abouti sans aucune divergence de vues à des décisions unanimes sur les points primordiaux: choix des experts et définition de leur mandat, méthodes de travail et organisation de l'étude, etc.

Les experts se sont mis à l'oeuvre et sont venus ici dès le mois de juillet pour s'informer, parler avec mes collègues, observer notre travail, contacter les organisations avec lesquelles nous collaborons. Quelques-uns d'entre eux sont actuellement en visite à la FAO. Le Secrétariat, que j'avais mis à leur entière disposition, a été heureux de leur fournir des renseignements, de répondre à leurs questions, de leur ouvrir ses livres. Je dois dire qu'un certain nombre d'Etats Membres ont pris informellement des contacts avec les experts et les ont reçus lors de déjeuners, de réunions, etc. Cela est d'ailleurs tout à fait normal puisque les experts sont libres de leurs mouvements. Ils nous ont fait savoir qu'ils ont été contactés à plusieurs reprises par les délégués d'Etats Membres et que beaucoup d'entre eux ont reçu des documents. Nous ne pouvons donc pas dire que les experts aient eu quelque difficulté à recevoir des avis des délégués qui ont voulu les rencontrer. Cela pour vous dire que les experts ont pu prendre contact avec les délégués; ils n'en ont pas été empêchés. Les experts ne sont d'ailleurs pas du tout sous l'autorité du Secrétariat; ils sont sous l'autorité des membres du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier; ce sont eux qui les ont nommés et c'est à eux qu'il font rapport.

Ainsi donc, le travail avance bien. Pourtant, il me faut signaler au Conseil qu'en ce qui concerne la portée de l'étude on est allé quelque peu au-delà des décisions de la Conférence.

En effet, l'étude telle que la Conférence l'avait conçue ne devait porter que sur "certains aspects" des buts et activités de l'Organisation. Je l'ai souvent dit, notre FAO n'est pas une machine sans âme, c'est un organisme vivant où tout se tient. C'est pourquoi il m'est apparu qu'avec un champ ainsi limité l'étude serait forcément incomplète. J'ai donc pris sur moi de suggérer au Comité du Programme et au Comité financier qu'il serait bon d'élargir la portée de l'étude en y incluant nos activités opérationnelles sur le terrain, de même que la gestion administrative et financière. Les Comités ont vu dans cette proposition l'expression d'un désir sincère de se remettre en question, de revoir - et au besoin de réformer - toutes les activités de la FAO en vue de renforcer notre efficacité. Considérant que le but ainsi recherché était bien conforme à l'esprit, sinon à la lettre, de la résolution adoptée par la Conférence, les Comités ont acquiescé à cet élargissement de l'étude.

1988, c'est l'année des experts. L'an prochain, ce sera, pour le Conseil et pour la Conférence, le temps des débats et des décisions. Vous le savez, notre Organisation n'est pas autre chose qu'une coopérative d'Etats Membres. Il est donc de première importance que les grandes décisions qui vont modeler son avenir soient prises par consensus et sans division, comme l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies en a si bien donné l'exemple. Le bien de l'Organisation exige de tous un véritable esprit de tolérance; aucun groupe donné ne doit chercher à imposer son point de vue à d'autres. Dans une entreprise de ce genre, les qualités les plus nécessaires sont la souplesse et le pragmatisme. Le mieux est donc d'attendre patiemment que les experts et les deux Comités aient mené leur mission à son terme: c'est alors que les Etats Membres disposeront de propositions concrètes qu'ils pourront examiner, évaluer, discuter, adopter, rejeter ou modifier. Du reste, il n'y a pas péril en la demeure; l'Organisation n'est pas un malade qu'il faut opérer à chaud.

A ce stade, les autres points inscrits à l'ordre du jour du Conseil n'appellent guère d'observations de ma part. Comme il vous en sera rendu compte par ailleurs, la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation a été marquée par d'importantes manifestations. Au Siège de la FAO, nous avons eu le privilège de recevoir et d'entendre deux invités de marque, le Président de la République portugaise et le Président du Conseil des Ministres de la République italienne.

Vous savez - j'en ai parlé tout à l'heure - avec quelle générosité notre pays hôte nous aide à faire face aux difficultés du moment. Et voici que, dans son discours, le chef du Gouvernement italien nous a donné une autre nouvelle excellente en nous annonçant que le Sénat venait de ratifier la loi autorisant la construction de bâtiments qui vont permettre de regrouper tout le Secrétariat dans un seul et même ensemble. Notre pays hôte s'est ainsi acquis un nouveau titre à notre gratitude. Entre autres avantages, les nouveaux aménagements du Siège vont faciliter grandement les contacts avec les représentants des Etats Membres.

Monsieur le Président, Je vous ai parlé assez longuement, parce que c'était nécessaire, de certains problèmes internes de l'Organisation. Avant de conclure, je voudrais reprendre un peu de hauteur pour situer dans une perspective plus large les graves questions dont je vous parlais en commençant: situation alimentaire mondiale, endettement des pays en développement, ajustements structurels.

Divers événements qui sont intervenus dans les pays développés au cours de cette année vont sans aucun doute marquer profondément l'avenir du monde en général et le nôtre en particulier.

Voici quelques jours à peine, le peuple des Etats-Unis d'Amérique s'est choisi un nouveau Président. Chacun sait que son action et celle de l'équipe gouvernementale dont il va s'entourer ne manquera pas d'exercer une influence déterminante sur le cours des choses dans l'univers entier - sans en excepter notre Organisation.

Nous assistons tous avec un intérêt passionné à l'évolution que connaît en ce moment l'autre supergrand, à savoir l'URSS, où les maîtres mots sont aujourd'hui transparence et renouvellement - glasnost et perestroïka. Si l'on songe que ce grand pays est le seul des fondateurs de la FAO qui n'ait pas encore fait valoir son droit à devenir Membre de l'Organisation, on peut nourrir l'espoir que notre vocation à l'universalité ne tardera peut-être plus à se réaliser pleinement.

A l'évolution intérieure que connaissent chacun de son côté les deux colosses du monde contemporain s'ajoute une profonde transformation des rapports qui existent entre eux. On en voit déjà les premiers signes et les premiers fruits. Une heureuse poursuite de cette détente pourrait libérer des forces immenses de régénération et de renouveau dans les relations internationales et la coopération multilatérale, pour le plus grand bien de l'humanité tout entière.

De son côté, l'Europe s'avance avec un élan de plus en plus dynamique vers les objectifs qu'elle s'est fixés pour 1992, et ainsi vers une unité plus étroite encore entre ses membres, compte tenu de

la diversité des approches et de quelques différences d'opinion. Là encore, on peut attendre de cette évolution des retombées bénéfiques à l'échelle mondiale.

En face, dans les pays pauvres, les perspectives apparaissent bien sombres. Tout récemment, un ancien chef d'Etat africain allait jusqu'à dire que l'Afrique, au fond de sa misère, est en train de régresser alors que le reste du monde progresse. Vous verrez peut-être dans cette déclaration un pessimisme excessif; mais ce que je veux en retenir, c'est que le destin des pays d'Afrique, comme celui des autres pays pauvres du monde entier, se trouve entre les mains de leurs peuples et de leurs gouvernants.

Si, à leurs efforts pour surmonter leurs difficultés en se dépassant eux-mêmes, viennent se joindre l'esprit d'ouverture et la solidarité du monde développé, alors tous les espoirs nous seront permis. Il n'en faut pas moins pour arracher notre humanité aux périls de la faim, de la misère, du sous-développement et de l'Inexorable destruction de l'environnement.

Heureusement, les derniers progrès des biotechnologies et la volonté manifestée dans les pays au plus haut niveau de concilier le développement avec la protection du patrimoine naturel de l'humanité nous permettent un certain optimisme. La FAO est prête à jouer pleinement son rôle dans ce domaine.

Monsieur le Président, j'en ai terminé. Comme je le disais en commençant, les problèmes de l'heure appellent une action menée dans la cohésion et l'amitié, avec le coeur comme avec la tête. Mon souhait le plus ardent est que les travaux de la présente session du Conseil se déroulent dans une atmosphère de concorde, de bonne volonté et de volonté tout court, afin de faire avancer la cause des populations immenses que nous avons pour mission de servir.

Applause

Applaudissement s

Aplausos

LE PRESIDENT: M. Le directeur général, permettez-moi, au nom des Etats Membres présents au Conseil, de vous adresser mes vives et chaleureuses félicitations pour votre déclaration, votre appel à une cohésion, une amitié, un consensus général pour permettre à votre Organisation, qui est la nôtre, de remplir sa tâche dans les conditions les meilleures pour l'humanité.

Je crois pouvoir traduire la volonté de tous les Etats Membres ici présents de ne ménager aucun effort pour que le Conseil apporte sa contribution à l'amélioration de la place de la FAO dans les stratégies agricoles mondiales et dans l'ordre économique mondial.

J'ai écouté avec beaucoup d'intérêt votre suggestion relative à faire de la FAO un partenaire obligé dans la réflexion sur les programmes d'ajustement structurel que développent beaucoup d'Etats membres dans le cadre de leur assainissement économique. Nous avons écouté avec beaucoup d'intérêt également ce que vous avez dit pour faire de votre Organisation une Organisation encore plus efficiente en relation avec la demande de la Conférence générale de 1987. Je ne doute pas que tous les Etats Membres ici présents s'emploieront à vous aider dans votre tâche pour que notre Organisation continue sa noble mission.

Je donne maintenant la parole à l'honorable Délégué de la Colombie.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Es la ultima vez que intervendremos esta mañana. La declaración del Director General es un hecho importante. A la dolorosa situación descrita no puede seguir el silencio de esta Sala si en verdad somos Representantes de países soberanos e independientes con un mínimo de dignidad.

Naturalmente, al final de una mañana agitada como la de hoy, no vamos ahora a procurar otra controversia y por ello, vamos a hacer una propuesta concreta, general y flexible que pueda merecer la aprobación unánime del Consejo. Asumimos esta actitud, Sr. Presidente, porque nos han conmovido las referencias a las supresiones de puestos, reuniones y publicaciones; 45 millones de dólares menos en dos años. Todo lo cual, ciertamente, no ha afectado a los ricos granjeros de la California.

Proponemos que en nuestro Informe, en la parte referente al tema 3, después de que se diga como de costumbre: "El discurso del Director General se adjunta como anexo a este Informe", se agregue lo siguiente: "Después de oír la declaración del Director General y a la luz de la grave situación descrita, el Consejo decidió condenar al país culpable de la crisis económica exigiéndole que pague todas sus contribuciones atrasadas". Hemos propuesto la redacción más flexible posible sin nombrar a ese país para que esta propuesta pueda ser acogida unánimemente por el Consejo.

Juan NUIRY SANCHEZ (CUBA): En nombre de nuestra Delegación queremos agradecer, tanto por su presentación como por su contenido, la declaración del Director General de la FAO. Para nadie es un secreto la atención y augurios para esta sesión de noviembre, y este documento ha sabido precisar cuestiones que hemos escuchado y tomamos nota con toda atención.

La humanidad vive acosada por catástrofes de la naturaleza y del hombre. La crisis financiera de la FAO atenta contra sus nobles fines (supresión de cursos, reducción de recursos, reducción de información) e impide su trabajo en general, augurando que esto se agrava; y como bien decía el Director General, hacía un llamado en nombre de millones de campesinos pobres del hambre y del subdesarrollo, señalando con firmeza que la deuda externa perjudica el desarrollo.

Decía el Director General que la FAO no es una máquina sin alma y que el año 1989 era el año de debates y decisiones. Y como nosotros agregamos, no suplicamos, acusamos. Nuestra Delegación que habla en nombre de un país en vías de desarrollo que dentro de unos días cumplirá 30 años del triunfo de su revolución y con sólo la honda de David ha sabido enfrentar todos los embates enarbolando principios invariables e irrenunciables, cuestión que velamos por la pureza de esos principios, vemos con agrado y satisfacción esta firme declaración presentada hoy por nuestro Director General.

Ms. Joan DUDIK-GAYOSO (United States of America): Thank you. Mr. Chairman, I would also like to note that the United States delegation appreciates very much the statement that the Director-General made. He has called our attention to the number of serious problems that the world is facing, especially the developing countries, including those caused by natural disasters and tragedies, those caused by the International economic situation; those caused also by policies adopted by member governments of this body, both developed and developing countries. There are various aspects of his statement to which many of us would like to respond. The delegate of Colombia has addressed himself to one of them. I would say my delegation intended to respond to various aspects of the Director-General's speech. Under the individual agenda items, as they come up, including the financial organization, the strong emphasis that the Director-General has placed on the role of FAO, for example, in relationship to structural adjustment programmes of developing countries. I would therefore think that it is quite inappropriate to decide at this moment what exactly should be attached to or decided on the basis of the Director-General's statement itself, unless we are going to have a long debate on the Director-General's statement, which I think would probably distract us from our work.

There are other comments that I might make, given the strong references that have been made this morning about payments to the Organization. I would just note here that there are 54 members of FAO that have met no payment in 1988, and I would prefer to leave it at that.

I do not want this meeting to become contentious, and I think the United States has been quite patient this morning. Thank you.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie Mme la Représentante des Etats-Unis d'Amérique. En effet ce n'est pas la tradition d'ouvrir un débat sur l'exposé du Directeur général. C'est au moment où l'on discutera les différents points de l'Ordre du jour que nous pourrions aborder quant au fond les différentes questions et faire part de nos réactions.

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 94/PV/2

Ninety-fourth Session

Quatre-vingt-quatorzième session

94º período de sesiones

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

(15 November 1988)

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

- 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) •

LE PRESIDENT: Honorables délégués, Monsieur le Directeur général, reprenons nos travaux.

Il nous faut régler un point que nous avons laissé en suspens ce matin, à savoir la composition du Comité de rédaction et sa présidence. Nous avons reçu, de la part du Secrétariat les propositions suivantes:

Pour la présidence du Comité de rédaction, le Docteur Yousef Ali Mahmoud Hamdi, Représentant permanent adjoint auprès de la FAO, de la République d'Egypte.

Les membres suivants sont proposés: Argentine, Australie, Egypte, Inde, République islamique d'Iran, Japon, Kenya, Madagascar, Mexique, Pakistan, Espagne, Etats-Unis d'Amérique.

Avez-vous des observations ou des remarques à faire ?

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Je voudrais me permettre, à ce stade, de faire une remarque aux éminents membres du Conseil. J'ai donné des instructions au Secrétariat et aux responsables de la préparation des projets de rédaction portant sur les différents points du jour, d'être "très sobres" et d'essayer d'écrire le moins possible. En effet, je crains, si l'on propose un projet très long, que le Comité de rédaction risque de passer des heures dessus; il y a un nombre impressionnant de pays membres, je dirais presque le quart du Conseil. Dans le passé, ces réunions ont été très longues, chaque mot, chaque virgule, ont été l'objet de discussions: je lance un appel à tous les délégués pour que, tout en faisant bien le travail et en reflétant les opinions, bien évidemment, nous essayions d'être brefs.

L'adoption du rapport, elle aussi, prend beaucoup de temps. Mais, j'espère, comme je l'ai dit dans mon discours ce matin, que les discussions seront amicales. On peut ne pas être d'accord, sans qu'il y ait d'affrontement, sachant que les débats au Comité de rédaction se répercutent ensuite en plénière.

Pour notre part, nous sommes à la disposition des délégués.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie Monsieur le Directeur général de ses remarques et suggestions dont je pense que les membres du Comité de rédaction tiendront le plus grand compte.

Ms. Joan DUDIK-GAYOSO (United States of America): I wanted to thank the Director-General through you for his kind remarks and just point out that we also would hope that the debates in the drafting group would be as amicable as possible and it would certainly help us if the drafts provided by the Secretariat reflected a balance in the debate. It would save a lot of time in the drafting group and I think brevity is important and I think balance is another quality that we would request.

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: On ne peut pas nous faire de procès d'intention; comme d'habitude le Secrétariat sera impartial.

LE PRESIDENT: En tout état de cause, les membres eux-mêmes du Comité de rédaction ont la responsabilité de cette rédaction et il leur appartient de veiller à ce qu'elle soit la plus fidèle possible.

José Ramón LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (México): La Delegación de México confía, como siempre lo ha hecho, en la capacidad de la Secretaría para presentar un proyecto de informe imparcial y balanceado. La función de los miembros del Comité de Redacción todos la conocemos, y los debates, sin duda, serán tranquilos, positivos y fructíferos, en la medida en que haya cooperación por parte de todos. Pero quiero solamente subrayar algo respecto del equilibrio. Puede haber equilibrio cuando las dos partes de la balanza pesan equitativamente. Cuando no es así y hay una inclinación hacia un lado, debe destacarse tal peso mayoritario. En ese sentido entendemos nosotros el equilibrio, que deberá recoger, sin duda, este informe. Y le aseguro, como futuro miembro del Comité de Redacción, que participaremos con el mejor espíritu y la más amplia voluntad de cooperación.

LE PRESIDENT: Je suis convaincu que les membres du Comité de rédaction et du Secrétariat feront tout pour préserver un climat d'entente et de compréhension constructives. Je suis persuadé qu'avec l'expérience que nous avons des réunions, nous aboutirons à une rédaction fidèle.

Avec votre permission, je considérerai que le Comité de rédaction est constitué comme je viens de l'indiquer.

It Was so decided.

Il en est ainsi décidé.

Así se acuerda.

IV. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

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

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

12. Financial Position of the Organization

12. Situation financière de l'Organisation

12. Situación financiera de la Organización

12.1 Financial Situation and Future Prospects

12.1 Situation financière et perspectives

12.1 Situación financiera y perspectivas futuras

12.2 Consequences of the Financial Situation and Possible Measures to Ensure Implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget 1988-89

12.2 Incidences de la situation financière et mesures éventuelles à prendre pour assurer l'exécution du Programme de travail et budget pour 1988-89

12.2 Consecuencias de la situación financiera y posibles medidas para asegurar la ejecución del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1988-89

LE PRESIDENT: Nous passons maintenant au point 12. Comme je l'ai dit, ce point est divisé en deux: le point 12.1 - situation financière et perspectives - et le point 12.2 - incidences de la situation financière et mesures éventuelles à prendre pour assurer l'exécution du Programme de travail et budget pour 1988-1989.

Ces deux parties sont pour examen et éventuellement décision. Les documents qui se réfèrent au point 12 sont les documents suivants: CL 94/4 et CL 94/LIM/1.

Je voudrais, comme il est d'usage, passer la parole à l'Organisation et, avec la permission de M. Saouma, je vais donner la parole à M. Crowther, Directeur Général-Adjoint du Département des Finances et de l'Administration, qui va nous présenter ce dossier.

Dean K. CROWTHER (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department): Mr. Chairman, with your permission I shall introduce both Items and handle them together, in that they are both very closely related.

As the Council will recall, the Finance Committee and the Programme Committee have met twice this year - once in the spring, in May, and again in September. During those sessions, both Committees

have met together in a regular joint session at which time on both occasions the Director-General has' presented the financial situation and the consequences of the actions that have been taken.

I shall refer to the Finance Committee's report and more specifically to the Joint Session reports, for both the spring and the September sessions, as well as the LIM document that you have in front of you, and make some reference also to the quarterly report for the third quarter showing the nine months' activity for 1988 that was just recently distributed. In the LIM document, you will note that at the beginning of the year the assessments were made for 1988 in the amount of \$ 240 million. At that point the Organization had contributions in arrears from member governments in the amount of \$ 93 876 000. The Organization was owed a total on January 1, 1988 of an amount of \$334 796 000. During the year and through 11 November, we had received - and I will put these again in the same order - for the 1988 assessments \$157 168 000. Of the outstanding contributions in arrears, we have received up through 11 November \$37 561 000. To put that in round terms, we have received just over 65% of the 1988 assessments, and we have received approximately 40% of the contributions that were in arrears at the beginning of the year. That still leaves as of 11 November \$83 751 000 outstanding for 1988 assessments. That is 34.8% of our entire 1988 assessments are still due and owing.

The arrears picture is even more bleak. At 11 November the Organization was still owed \$56 315 000 in arrears, representing about 60% of the arrears that were owed at the beginning of the year. Whilst 65% of the 1988 assessments have been paid, if you will turn to page 4 of the LIM document you will see that for 1988 73 countries have paid in full, 31 countries have made partial payments and 54 countries have made no payments.

To relate that to the percentages on the amounts paid, you will recall that 65% of the money has been collected for 1988, whereas 46% of the countries have paid in full. That leaves about 20% who have made part payments and 34% who have made no payments at all. There still remain 43 countries who have arrears outstanding. This by far is the most serious situation the Organization has ever had to endure.

To put that into the perspective of the expenditures, again if you will bear with me I will refer to the quarterly report that was just distributed wherein we have made projections of our cash flow through the end of 1988. In it we expected to have cumulative disbursements for 1988 of \$ 231 million which would leave a cash balance at the end of year of \$ 10 million. That sounds as though we would be in pretty good shape, if we had \$ 10 million at the end, but bear in mind that we are holding fiduciary funds for a number of payments that must be made; fiduciary funds require a cash balance minimum of \$ 12 million, and we will not have enough money to cover the fiduciary funds. In effect, we will be in the red by the end of year.

I would like to put that in perspective for Council members. If you recall, we ended up the last biennium with the first deficit in the history of the Organization, some \$ 47.8 million. At that moment we had \$28 million in cash carry-over but there was no money in the Special Reserve Account nor in the Working Capital Fund. During the year we have received amounts for the Working Capital Fund which now totals some \$ 2.3 million and the Special Reserve Account of \$7.7 million. There have been a small number of advances for 1989 already.

In addition, I must refer to the generous contribution of the Italian Government because we have received \$ 15 million as a Special Fund for which we have been authorized to fund certain TCP projects. With the help of the Italian Government, and with the payments that have been received from other member governments, particularly those who paid as early as they could, we are in a position that by the end of the year we shall survive. How were we able to do that? It was necessary for the Director-General to take a decision early on this year because it was recognized that we would not have sufficient funds to pay for the operations that would be required. There was no way that the Organization could fund the full level of the Programme of Work and Budget for this year. He took the decision to reduce expenditure by slowing down expenditures in 1988 in the amount of \$ 20 million. Had he not taken that position, we would be out of cash today. There were several instances during the year, because of a change in pattern of receipt of contributions by a number of member nations this year, that caused us to run short of cash on several occasions, and in one case we were absolutely and completely out of cash.

Recognizing that fact, and recognizing the positions that have been taken by a number of member governments in changing their pattern of receipts this year, it has been very difficult for the Director-General to be able to manage the cash flow under the circumstances.

Nevertheless we will still end the year with a very small cash balance. Projecting that into 1989 it becomes very clear that even beginning in January we will have a very difficult situation. The expenditures will cost the Organization enough that it will be almost impossible to get through

January with the current balances that are projected. It is extremely important for the

Organization to understand when the individual Member Countries can pay. As you will recall from the basic text the amounts due and owing are payable on 1 January or 30 days after receipt of the billing letter from the Director-General, which, in this case is going to be 1 January and therefore all payments will be due on 1 January 1989. We are aware that we will not receive all the members payments on 1 January 1989. At the same time, in order for us to plan for the cash flow that will be required in 1989 it is essential that we obtain from the Member Governments their plan so that we will know precisely when we can expect such payments. In the call letter we will ask for you to designate when this money might be forthcoming. Without such an indication it is necessary for a number of other decisions to be taken. I may add that during 1988 while there have been some increases in the working capital fund it has not been possible for the Organization to absorb the original US\$13 million that must be paid back to the Working Capital Fund before the end of the biennium. We could not do that in 1988, but it must be done in 1989.

Secondly, there have been a number of cost increases which were not anticipated. There is a General Service Salary increase which was not anticipated earlier on, and the post-adjustment has increased to some degree. As a consequence there have been a number of costs that the Organization has had to incur while at the same time reducing the amount of expenditure. If those same costs continue on in 1989, which we expect fully that they will, it means that it is also even more important that we receive the contributions as early as possible and as a minimum, to be advised on specifically when we can expect to receive those contributions.

With regard to the Special Reserve Account, the Organization was following the Resolution of the Conference in which assessments were made at the level of 50 percent of the normal assessment to replenish the Special Reserve Account. The amount assessed was US\$12.3 million. Of that assessment we have so far collected over US\$ 7 million. The remainder of that, of course, must be collected during 1989. In order to avoid the use of the Special Reserve Account in 1988 the Director-General took a number of decisions in which he entered into contracts for forward cover of lire to avoid the currency exchange. You will recall that the Special Reserve Account has, among its other purposes, to receive charges - both profits and losses - on currency exchange resulting from staff costs. During 1988, we expect to avoid any charges. Therefore, it may be possible by the end of the year to have some small credit because of the actions taken to enter into forward contracts for lire and avoid the currency exchange losses which we endured when the dollar weakened dramatically in 1986 and 1987. In every case the contracts were in an amount substantially better than the budget rate which was adopted in November 1987. The dollar has been very erratic and is now dropping again which is a clear indication that the forward contract was a wise decision and it will protect the Organization (and therefore the governing body) from those continued losses.

The Special Reserve Account can be used to substitute and augment the Working Capital Fund pending receipt of contributions. However, with the amount of arrears that is outstanding at this point, and projected to be at the end of the year, the Working Capital Fund as well as the amounts that will be remaining in the Special Reserve Account are obviously not nearly enough to cover the amount of arrears that are there. Therefore, we expect to end the year pretty much as was shown in the quarterly report. We will increase the deficit that arose at the last biennium. There was a US\$ 47 million deficit which arose at the last biennium. We will increase that by US\$ 10 to 12 million caused completely by the delay in receipt of contributions. This fact alone has caused the cash flow problems, and the erratic receipts which have been very difficult to manage. It has caused the decision to be taken by the Director-General to reduce programme expenditure by US\$ 20 million. Obviously the Organization is totally dependent upon the receipt of those contributions on a timely basis. As I have mentioned before, this matter was discussed by the Programme and Finance Committees jointly in the spring and in the fall. In both cases there was an encouragement which was included in the report to all Member Nations to pay contributions as early as possible. We shall issue the call letters for 1989 on the 1 December so that clearly in the 30 days following the amounts will be due, and requests that every effort be made to pay the contributions as early as possible.

I conclude by saying that the situation has not significantly improved. While we have been able to get through this year without reference to credit facilities or borrowing, we have contacted a number of commercial banks and such facilities are available but the Director-General has refrained from using such an arrangement. The financial crisis remains with the outstanding arrears being as high as they are and I think that the amounts shown in the quarterly report properly reflect the amounts that the Organization must receive in the reasonably near future in order to be able to carry out the Programme of Work and Budget.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie M. Crowther de cette communication et je vais demander à M. le Directeur Général s'il désire ajouter quelque chose pour éclairer le débat.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I had not intended to make a statement at this stage but I think that in view of the situation which we face at this moment, I should like to share a few thoughts.

You have heard a factual statement from Mr. Crowther. Mr. Crowther stands ready to answer any questions you may have on the detailed figures, but as you can see from what he has said, the situation is grave.

At this moment, I want to stress the wider issues of the contributions situation. First, I want to thank all those Member Governments that have paid their contributions for past years and for 1988 in full or in large part, and above all I want to thank the Government of our Host Country for its generous voluntary contribution to FAO.

These payments, together with the "slowdown" of expenditure amounting to US\$ 25 million in 1987 and a further US\$ 20 million this year, have meant that we have been able to pay our staff and keep vital programmes going. So far we have avoided cash flow problems. These slowdowns, savings or cuts - whatever you want to call them - are not without cost. They are not easy to effect and they damage not only the number of activities but also the range and effectiveness of our programmes in a period when FAO is called upon, more than ever, to respond to acute needs and conditions in poor countries.

This is not a situation which can continue indefinitely or indeed any longer.

We are living a somewhat hand-to-mouth existence, compared to the security of the past, when in accordance with the Constitution, most Governments, especially the richest, paid their contributions in full and, what is more, on a predictable regular schedule and without conditions.

Nowadays, we do not know well in advance, as Mr. Crowther said, nor with any security, if and when large or small amounts are coming in. I have tried hard to obtain schedules of future payments but so far without success. We have to keep close watch on recent patterns of payment and gauge our own operations on virtually a monthly basis.

Now, there are many countries in arrears - 54 have not paid this year - and I am constantly urging them to settle these. I take this opportunity to appeal once again for the earliest and fullest payment of all arrears and dues.

However, it is an inescapable and indeed obvious fact that the largest amount of arrears, by far outweighing all others, are those of the largest contributor.

We all know that this is a special case in view of domestic legislation, but I must confess to puzzlement and disappointment that FAO appears so far to have been singled out for especially unfavourable treatment. For 1987, against an assessed contribution of US\$ 50 million, we received only US\$ 25 million, in July 1988. This represented only 50 percent of the amount due. All other organizations in the United Nations system received from 75 to 100 percent of the amounts due to them. For 1988, we are informed of an allocation of only US\$ 25 million, whereas the total amount due is US\$ 64 million, therefore the allocation represents only 38 percent.

I find it hard to believe that the Member Nations of this Organization could accept any reason for the world Organization charged with fighting hunger and malnutrition being treated in a less favourable fashion than others.

We are left speculating about the extent and rate of payments of arrears for previous biennia, plus the dues for this biennium, i.e. in this year and next, by several Member Nations but inevitably, in particular, by the largest contributor, who at this time owes the Organization some US\$ 107 million. As from next January, another US\$ 60 million will be due. Maybe a payment of US\$ 25 million this week or next week, or whenever this year, would be welcome but will still leave a substantial amount due.

However, all payments are most welcome since, as I said at the beginning, we are having to monitor our operations on a careful monthly basis, to ensure we can pay out monthly salaries and other bills for our programmes and services. Mr. Crowther has advised me that unless the pattern of payments is the same or better than it has been in the past, we could have a serious cash flow problem already in January.

The programme, even the visibility of FAO through its publications, has already been damaged enough by the slowdowns of 1987 and 1988. Suppliers have to be paid; staff commitments must be met.

I hope that we will now see an end to uncertainty and conditionality. I shall not fall in exercising my responsibilities to avoid further grave consequences for the programme and the staff, and to report these to the Finance Committee next year.

That is all I propose to say now.

LE PRESIDENT: Je vous remercie, M. Le Directeur général, des informations très importantes que vous venez de nous donner. Il n'y a aucun doute que cela est fondamental pour nous.

J'ouvre maintenant les débats. Quatre délégués se sont inscrits, ceux de la Colombie, de Madagascar, du Mexique et du Nicaragua.

La parole est à M. le Représentant de la Colombie.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Vacilo mucho en intervenir porque de las dos declaraciones que se han hecho para presentar este tema, se deduce claramente la responsabilidad de los Estados Unidos en la crisis financiera de la FAO. Por ello, tal vez el orden más lógico del debate hubiera sido el de que la distinguida y eminente Representante de ese país, por un mínimo de respeto a nosotros que somos Representantes de Estados soberanos, nos dijera cuándo y como van a pagar sus cuotas atrasadas. Si es o no cierto que hace apenas una semana que el gobierno de ese país decidió pagar a otras cinco Organizaciones, entre las cuales no está incluida la FAO. Exigimos esa explicación, Sr. Presidente, porque no podemos aceptar que una Organización como la nuestra siga al vaivén del capricho y de la arrogancia de un solo país.

Después de habérsenos presentado en la reunión de Representantes Permanentes de la primavera pasada, el último informe sobre el pago de las contribuciones y el estado financiero de la Organización, el silencio que siguió sin ningún otro contacto, nos había llenado de esperanzas en el sentido de que todos los Estados Miembros hubieren cumplido sus compromisos. Por ello, las informaciones que acabamos de escuchar nos desconciertan e indignan.

El Gobierno de Colombia desea reconocer la actitud positiva y eficaz de aquellos otros Estados desarrollados, todos menos uno, menos uno bien conocido, que durante 1988 han pagado oportunamente sus cuotas y han evitado así una crisis de mayores proporciones. Nuestro homenaje y reconocimiento a Italia, noble país hospedante y a todos los demás países desarrollados: Japón, República Federal de Alemania, Reino Unido, Bélgica, Francia, los Países Nórdicos, España, Portugal, todos los países que han pagado sus contribuciones, y respetuosamente pedimos a esos gobiernos que ojalá en 1989, al principio del año, consideren la posibilidad de asumir esa misma actitud positiva.

Al hacer este reconocimiento a esos países, Sr. Presidente, a esos estados industrializados con los cuales Colombia mantiene las mejores relaciones, no podemos ocultar cierto sentimiento, aunque sea frágil, de decepción porque jamás hemos oído en ninguna reunión, jamás hemos leído en ninguno de los resúmenes del Presidente del Grupo de Camberley, una sola referencia al hecho insatisfactorio para todos de que los Estados Unidos de América no pagan sus contribuciones.

Nosotros quisiéramos pedirles a los colegas de los países desarrollados que nos acompañen en la tarea de señalar la responsabilidad de este Estado y de exigirle que pague sus contribuciones. Reconocemos que la Administración procedió de buena fe al hacer reajustes en los programas; 25 millones en 1987 y 20 millones en 1988, porque así se aseguró la subsistencia de nuestra Organización. Pero seguramente el hecho de que se haya adoptado esa actitud, ha constituido un incentivo para que ese único país culpable de la crisis, persista en el no pago de sus contribuciones porque parece que aquí se ha demostrado que aun sin esos aportes, la FAO puede seguir subsistiendo.

La Delegación de Colombia pide a este Consejo que coincidamos todos, que declaremos en nuestro Informe que no será aceptable que se proponga ningún nuevo ni adicional recorte, ni reajuste en el Programa para 1989. Resultaría inaudito que un Programa de Labores y Presupuesto aprobado por 158 Estados soberanos en la Conferencia sea sometido a otros reajustes por presión justamente del Estado que no paga sus contribuciones. Pensamos que el Director General ha debido hacer uso de la autorización que la Conferencia le concedió para recurrir a préstamos en vez de haber cercenado el Programa. De todas maneras, queremos pedir al Director General que recurra a préstamos o a cualquier otra facilidad de crédito si fuera necesario, pero que, por favor, no nos proponga ningún reajuste más en el Programa para 1989.

Resulta realmente desconsolador para quien tiene cierta modesta y larga experiencia en esta Organización, ver el degrado a que se está sometiendo la existencia misma de la FAO. Durante 43 años, la Conferencia aprueba un nivel de presupuesto, adopta una escala de cuotas, y todos los ¡6!países, con retardo o cumplidos, pagan sus contribuciones. ¿Qué sucede ahora que el país mal llamado primer contribuyente se niega a cumplir ese compromiso legal y moral y nos tiene a todos arrodillados ante el templo del maná prodigioso para que cada vez que resuelva darnos 25 millones de dólares, debamos sonar las campanas a fiesta? Resulta por lo menos cínico, por lo menos cínico repito, la pretensión de que los Representantes de ese país quieran justificar sus retardos afirmando que 54 Estados tampoco han pagado sus contribuciones. Todos sabemos que los otros Estados no han pagado por circunstancias económicas y no por deliberados propósitos políticos. Todos sabemos también que el impacto que causa en la vida de la Organización la falta de pago de las cuotas de ese país, nunca puede compararse con ningún otro Estado.

Quiero referirme ahora a la actitud, realmente lamentable, del Comité de Finanzas. En el párrafo el Comité ya a fines del año, terminó su reunión el 20 de septiembre, reconocen sus miembros en ese párrafo 4.29, que eran optimistas en sus previsiones. Luego, en el apartado a) del párrafo los Comités se resignan y dicen que ya los Estados Unidos de América pagaron 25 millones en 16 julio y que no esperan que paguen más nada en todo el resto de 1988.

Pero, ¿cuál es la reacción del Comité de Finanzas frente a ese hecho? Veámoslo, Sr. Presidente; veamos los párrafos 4.33 y 4.21. En el párrafo 4.33 el Comité dice que: "Instó una vez más a los Estados Miembros que tengan cuotas pendientes a que pagaran lo antes posible sus atrasos, y las cuotas corrientes". En el párrafo 4.21, los Comités duplican esa dosis de ingenuidad y dicen que el Comité exhortó a todos los Estados Miembros que tenían contribuciones pendientes. Es decir, Sr. Presidente, que el Comité de Finanzas se resignó a esa situación. Hay informes del Comité de Finanzas que aun no estando frente a una situación tan grave y dramática como la actual, son mucho más fuertes e insisten ante los países para que paguen porque si no lo hacen, pierden el derecho de voto. En cambio, esta vez asumen este lenguaje angelical.

Los Representantes de Colombia hemos hecho ya reserva en un convento que se llama convento del candor y de la ingenuidad; hemos reservado veinte puestos para que los miembros de los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas vayan a hacer ejercicios espirituales, hagan acto de contrición y se arrepientan de estas malas acciones.

Señor Presidente, en el tema 13 nos vamos a referir a otras actitudes en que han incurrido los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas, como el párrafo 1.9 del documento 94/3. Han incurrido hasta en actos ilegales, en exabruptos jurídicos, financieros y administrativos. Como lo ha dicho el Director General y lo anticipó el señor Crowther, la situación es sumamente difícil a partir del año 89. Aunque los Estados Unidos nos hicieran la concesión enorme de pagar otros 25 millones, ni siquiera así habrían terminado de pagar los 67.4 millones que deben del año 87. De manera que, con toda franqueza, no sé de dónde la Secretaría saca el porcentaje del 38 por ciento sobre la cuota correspondiente al 88, cuando ni siquiera han terminado de pagar el año 87.

Señor Presidente, distinguidos colegas, soy profundamente religioso, soy un hombre de gran fe. Hace una semana, el pasado 8 de noviembre, no fui a trabajar. Me encerré en la iglesia de mi humilde parroquia, recé intensamente ese martes 8 de noviembre hasta las 6 de la mañana del miércoles 9, cuando empezaron a conocerse los primeros resultados. Pasé horas de angustia, de inquietud, de tristeza, porque, ingenuo yo también, había concebido la esperanza ilusa de que se produjera algún cambio. Desgraciadamente, señor Presidente y distinguidos colegas, todo parece indicar que se va a prolongar ese período del más ingrato recuerdo para el mundo en desarrollo: 20 de enero de 1980 - 20 de enero de 1989. Como lo ha declarado uno de los eminentes e ilustres protagonistas, el antecesor montará a caballo al "tramonto", linda palabra italiana ("al atardecer", decimos en castellano), y el sucesor va a capitalizar la herencia de esa era injusta: víctimas inocentes, la cooperación internacional, el multilateralismo, los países en desarrollo.

Apolinaire ANDRIATSIKAFATO (Madagascar): Comme c'est la première fois que la délégation malgache intervient de façon formelle, je voudrais avant tout me féliciter de vous voir présider de nouveau nos travaux, étant assurés que grâce à votre haute compétence et votre grande expérience, nous attendons de ce débat toute la sérénité que nous sommes en droit d'espérer.

Notre délégation souhaiterait profiter également de l'occasion pour se réjouir de la participation à nos assises des représentants de l'URSS. Comme cela a été dit ce matin, votre présence parmi nous ne fera que rendre plus forte l'Organisation, et nous osons espérer que ce sera le prélude à d'autres démarches plus conséquentes pour l'avenir.

Nous sommes d'autant plus à l'aise pour le croire compte tenu des relations qui unissent nos pays, et je profite de l'occasion pour saluer à nouveau la profonde entente qui a toujours existé entre nos pays dès lors qu'il s'agit de traiter de problèmes d'intérêt commun.

Je voudrais également remercier Monsieur Crowther pour la concision et la clarté de sa présentation.

Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Directeur général, Excellence, Mesdames, Messieurs, c'est devenu un laxisme que de dire que malgré les efforts des pays pauvres pour réorienter leurs politiques économiques et accorder la priorité des priorités à l'agriculture, les moyens dont ils disposent pour y parvenir sont malheureusement dérisoires. La pauvreté est aggravée par des conjonctures défavorables qui font qu'il est pratiquement difficile de mettre en place les infrastructures adéquates de production. Cette situation amène les intéressés à recourir constamment aux apports extérieurs et, au bout du compte, depuis des siècles, ces pays n'ont jamais été maîtres de leur destin.

Voilà l'état d'âme qui nous étreint lorsque nous examinons le document 94/4 et 94/LIM/1 sur la situation financière de l'Organisation. Ayant fondé notre espoir sur les aides si précieuses de la FAO pour nous sortir de ces difficultés, voilà que cette Organisation continue, à son corps défendant, d'éprouver de graves difficultés financières qui ne manqueront pas de compromettre l'exécution de son Programme de travail et budget 1988-1989.

En effet, au lieu de redoubler d'efforts pour répondre efficacement aux nombreuses et pressantes sollicitations des pays en développement dont les besoins d'aide et d'assistance se font de plus en plus intenses, l'Organisation se voit contrainte de réduire ses activités, de consacrer son temps à des exercices de funambulisme intelligents pour rechercher des solutions de survie.

Ma délégation à ce stade ne saurait omettre de féliciter et d'encourager le personnel de la FAO ainsi que son Directeur général qui ont fait preuve de la plus totale abnégation et d'un dévouement exemplaire pour faire face à la présente situation, pour rechercher les solutions de survie et je dis que le Comité de Programme et le Comité financier, conformément aux mandats qui leur ont été édictés par la Conférence dans sa Résolution 6/87, ont fait un travail dont il y a lieu de se féliciter, par sa hauteur de vue et son réalisme.

Ma délégation appuiera toutes les propositions pertinentes et les mesures qui pourraient porter remède à la situation qui nous préoccupe à présent.

Aussi, joint-elle sa voix à celles des délégations qui se sont déjà exprimées pour exhorter tous les pays membres à s'acquitter de leur contribution. C'est là, nous semble-t-il, la tâche qui devrait dominer toutes les autres. Elle consisterait à recouvrer les contributions dues au titre des exercices antérieurs, et celles de 1988.

Comment omettre également de remercier tous ceux qui ont rempli leurs obligations! Je ne voudrais pas les citer tous, au risque d'en oublier. Mais la disponibilité des ressources pour obtenir un soutien accru qui puisse répondre aux besoins d'un développement rural satisfaisant et aux aspirations des pays en développement dépend maintenant et singulièrement des plus gros contributeurs.

Sauf à ruiner le crédit de l'Organisation, ils devraient rapidement s'acquitter de leurs obligations. Le respect des obligations nous paraît tout à fait conciliable avec la prise en compte des souhaits particuliers de chacun. Et il n'y a pas lieu de détourner l'attention sur les arriérés des contributions en essayant d'influencer les experts, le Secrétariat, ou les Comités de Programme ou le Comité financier, par des exigences hors de propos.

Nous, nous avons payé Monsieur le Président. Malgré ses énormes difficultés financières et économiques et les sacrifices quasi inhumains auxquels sa population est soumise pour redresser son économie et son développement, Madagascar a tenu à honorer intégralement ses obligations envers l'Organisation. Mon Gouvernement n'a pas hésité à soustraire de ses maigres économies de devises la part correspondant à ses contributions ordinaires et extraordinaires vis-à-vis de la FAO. Je demanderai à l'honorable assemblée de se reporter au document qui précise ce sujet.

Ce faisant, nous avons tenu à souligner clairement l'importance que nous attachons au renforcement des actions de la FAO; nous avons tenu à dépasser les simples calculs d'intérêt égoïstes pour voir les conditions permettant d'améliorer les actions en faveur des pays en développement dans l'agriculture et l'alimentation. La foi que nous mettons au service de cette cause ne se démentira nullement lorsqu'il s'agira de trouver des solutions à la mesure de nos préoccupations.

On a dit et redit qu'il s'est forgé une conscience plus profonde de l'interdépendance entre la croissance du monde industrialisé et le développement du tiers monde. Ce thème, ainsi que d'autres, revient régulièrement dans nos réunions, année après année. Hais cela reste à l'état de vœux pieux et de déclarations d'intentions. Pour sortir la FAO du borbier dans lequel elle patauge et s'enfonce, ce n'est pas forcément en procédant à des réformes que l'on y parviendra. Une telle gesticulation, loin d'éclairer le débat, nous plonge dans la perplexité et jette un rideau de fumée sur la réalité.

Car cette réalité, Monsieur le Président, est le dépérissement progressif de l'Organisation, sa mort lente par inanition dont le seul remède, comme l'ont dit Monsieur le Directeur général et tous les orateurs qui m'ont précédé, consisterait à lui redonner les moyens et les ressources pour sa survie et sa vie. La leçon des derniers mois est amère et ne pas y procéder ressemblerait à une opération de torpillage qui risque de retendre dangereusement la corde et d'ajouter un peu plus d'embrouille à la situation actuelle.

Monsieur le Président, il faut se féliciter que le Programme de Coopération technique ait été jusqu'à présent épargné des mesures de réduction opérées dans les autres programmes grâce surtout à la contribution généreuse du pays hôte. Nous tenons à en remercier très sincèrement le Gouvernement italien.

Par la même occasion, nous souhaiterions lancer un appel aux pays industrialisés pour que, d'une part, ils renforcent leurs contributions au Fonds fiduciaire et, d'autre part, ils acceptent une majoration des taux de remboursement des dépenses d'appui au Programme de terrain. Concomitamment, nous encourageons le Directeur général dans ses efforts de réduction du coût global de telles dépenses.

Enfin, Monsieur le Président, tout en regrettant que le Directeur général soit obligé de recourir aux emprunts si la situation financière ne s'améliorait pas et s'il n'arrivait plus à garder suffisamment le contrôle de la situation, nous estimons, tout comme la Colombie et le Comité financier, que pour sauver l'Organisation, il faudrait alors effectivement emprunter. Il y a lieu, comme il est suggéré dans le document, de conclure des accords spécifiques de crédits qui ne seraient cependant utilisés qu'en cas de besoin extrême.

Tout cela est bien triste et si ma délégation avance de telles propositions, c'est qu'elle est hautement animée du désir d'aider au renforcement de la capacité d'intervention de la FAO et voudrait, en toute bonne foi, améliorer les redressements à entreprendre pour la sortir de sa sclérose actuelle. Dans pareille situation, la tentation est grande de croire aux prodiges; je ne suis pas un saint comme l'honorable délégué de la Colombie, mais il n'y aura pas de miracle: le seul remède c'est de payer les contributions.

Tout pêché n'est pas miséricorde; l'estime que nous continuons de porter au plus gros contributeur pour son action résolue envers la lutte contre la faim et la malnutrition nous incite à ne pas le condamner énergiquement, mais plutôt à l'engager à prendre davantage conscience de ses responsabilités morales vis-à-vis de ceux qui attendent plus de souplesse de sa part.

José Ramon LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (Mexico) Es muy difícil hablar después de los excelentes oradores y por eso mis comentarios los reduciré en la medida de lo posible. Señor Presidente, en primer lugar, deseamos agradecerle al Dr. Crowther la información que nos ha proporcionado. Dadas las circunstancias, no podemos hacer otra cosa que tomar nota de la situación en que nos encontramos, cuya solución, en parte, depende de nuestra voluntad; pero, en la otra, la mayor parte, del ahora mayor deudor.

No debemos, sin embargo, por ello dejar de agradecer a los países de la OCDE y a otros países en desarrollo los grandes, enormes esfuerzos que han hecho por contribuir, inclusive anticipadamente, para ayudar a resolver la crisis financiera por la que atraviesa FAO. Especial referencia debe hacerse al esfuerzo extraordinario del Gobierno anfitrión, de Italia.

México y otros países en desarrollo, como usted bien sabe, hemos hecho esfuerzos extraordinarios por pagar en tiempo, a pesar de que nuestra situación financiera y económica se deteriora rápidamente, agravada, por cierto, por fenómenos inesperados naturales, como aquellos a los que hizo alusión el Director General esta mañana. No obstante, hemos intentado cumplir, y cumplir a tiempo. Hace unos días, México ha pagado una parte de lo que le debe a la Organización para este año, y hacemos todos los esfuerzos para terminar de pagar nuestra parte a la mayor brevedad.

Es inaceptable, por eso, señor Presidente, retender igualar la importancia de todos los contribuyentes. El ahora mayor deudor ha querido usar el financiamiento como un arma contra la FAO y contra los programas y políticas que unilateralmente no les convienen o interesan. Y me atrevo a decir esto después de un año de expectativas, en que las razones económicas y políticas que les motivaban eran diferentes. A estas alturas, lamentablemente, debemos reconocer que tenemos serias dudas respecto de sus verdaderos intereses. Me voy a explicar. Los Estados Miembros y la Secretaría de FAO somos, de hecho, en estas circunstancias y por la dimensión que implican los pagos del mayor deudor, rehenes de ese país. Hemos hecho todo tipo de exhortos; hemos reiterado que las obligaciones para con la Organización son irrenunciables e innegociables; hemos insistido en que no aceptamos ni aceptaremos la vinculación de estas presiones con los procesos de reforma y de reformulación de programas y de políticas, así como tampoco en el condicionamiento a nivel presupuestarlo de la FAO; hemos hecho alusión, como última instancia, al fundamento ético y moral del pago oportuno del mayor deudor para atender una situación económica, agrícola y alimentaria catastrófica en muchos países en desarrollo, y muy debilitada en la totalidad de éstos, como bien lo describió el Director General en la mañana de hoy y en las referencias que ha hecho al respecto esta tarde. Nada ha bastado, ni el reconocimiento de las obligaciones, ni la ética, ni la moral; pero aun así se ha mantenido viva la llama de la confianza en la seriedad del mayor deudor de cumplir con sus obligaciones. La credibilidad en ese país les ha permitido a los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas llevar adelante ciertas propuestas de revisión de varios aspectos de la FAO, entre otras en materia programática y presupuestaria para renovar el entusiasmo de todos los países por la viabilidad, utilidad, eficacia y eficiencia de nuestra Organización.

Pero, Señor Presidente, la confianza y la credibilidad en el pago anunciado por el Jefe del Ejecutivo del mayor deudor y también de otras instancias del Gobierno de ese país, se desmoronan ahora que ha pasado un año en el que no hemos visto respuestas a la altura de las circunstancias y de las concesiones. Peor aun cuando confirmamos que hay una discriminación explícita, artera, contra la FAO. Ello nos obliga a levantar por tanto nuestras más oscuras dudas.

A pesar de que sea poco elegante decir lo que he dicho, y lo que seguirá, me atreveré a mencionar que durante este año se aceptaron una serie de concesiones a los intereses de ese mayor deudor. No sólo porque sonaban razonables, aunque, por otra parte, estoy seguro para la mayoría de los países miembros no son, o no serían, o no serán, prioritarias. Lo hemos hecho también, o se ha hecho, porque nos levantaban también de la pena de ser causa de excusas infundadas ilegales para no pagar. Muchos se acalambieron, otros razonablemente vieron una luz de esperanza en la seriedad de los compromisos de ese país si avanzábamos en ciertos ajustes a la Organización. Pero todo tiene un límite, inclusive la capacidad de intimidación, y esa frontera debe conocerla ya el mayor deudor. Que no paguen inmediatamente implicará, estoy seguro, una burla hacia los otros Estados miembros, no sólo en desarrollo, sino también desarrollados, particularmente aquellos de la OCDE, que de buena fe han querido introducir en la FAO un proceso de revisión para eventualmente reformarla y fortalecerla. Sería inconsecuente todo ello, porque tal revisión perdería su significación y su sentido práctico. Qué se puede en toda honestidad esperar de una Organización que no sabe como quedará amputada.

Al respecto Señor Presidente, deseo recordar aquí los temores de mi delegación respecto a que todo este proceso de presión financiera combinada con ciertas novedades y cambios en materia de programación y presupuestación parecen tener otro objetivo. Es a ello a lo que me refería al principio de mi intervención. Un objetivo último que sería la amputación de ciertas partes inconvenientes para ese mayor deudor dentro de la Organización. No creemos, si no paga, que las reformas que busca son de buena fe; es decir pensaríamos que efectivamente trata mediante esas presiones de eliminar unilateralmente aquellos programas y actividades que no son de su interés o inclusive que puedan dañar los intereses del mismo.

Sé, Señor Presidente, que no soy elegante al decirlo, pero temo que es lo único que puede explicar las oscuras dudas a las que hacía referencia. Subrayamos de nuevo que para la delegación de México no existe vínculo posible entre el no pago y las reformas a la FAO. Que para que estas reformas se acepten debe previamente resolverse la situación financiera de la Organización; que no aceptamos posteriores recortes a los programas y presupuestos; que la FAO al hacer los ajustes financieros necesarios deberá asegurar la ejecución más completa posible del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1988-89. Para ello el Director General podrá, como tiene autoridad, sobregirarse en las cuentas que osterita la FAO. También la reducción de las labores para un determinado período no debe aceptar la formulación y preparación de las actividades programadas a largo plazo. Los programas de un menor nivel de labores deberán considerarse en términos de demoras, suspensión y aplazamiento de ciertas actividades, no de su completa cancelación. Dicho aplazamiento podría reanudarse y llevarse a cabo si la situación financiera de la Organización mejorara más adelante.

Debe protegerse a los programas de alta prioridad relativos a la agricultura, cultivos, ganadería, desarrollo rural, nutrición, pesca y montes. La FAO debe identificar los mecanismos que permitan maximizar la utilización de los recursos de que dispone, además de evitar reducciones en actividades prioritarias que pudieran vulnerar la efectividad de la Organización. En todo caso los ajustes

deberán centrarse en esferas administrativas y no en el aspecto tributario de los programas. Las condiciones financieras que prevalecen en el Organismo hacen indispensable priorizar las actividades otorgando mayor importancia a aquellos programas que respondan a la necesidad y prioridades de los países en desarrollo.

Sé, Señor Presidente, que al decir esto me estoy adelantando a algún tema; pero lamentablemente en el contexto en que nos encontramos no puede dejar de vincular una cosa con la otra; es decir la situación crítica por la que atraviesa la FAO, los recortes que hasta la fecha ha habido, las presiones que implican para sucesos inmediatos en otras esferas, inclusive de nuestra agenda.

No nos queda más que reiterar un último exhorto al mayor deudor para que haga honor a la credibilidad y a la confianza que todos los Estados miembros hemos puesto en él, sobre todo cuando nos ha reiterado una y otra vez, de su pronto, formal y completo pago.

Danilo VALLE (Nicaragua): La delegación de Nicaragua luego de estudiar detenidamente el documento relativo a la situación financiera de la FAO considera que este estado difícil y crítico por el cual atraviesa el Organismo, se ha venido reflejando a lo largo de los últimos años, quedando plenamente identificado a la luz de estos documentos el factor principal de la misma, consistente en la falta de pago de las cuotas respectivas de cierto número de países miembros. Unos, por su precaria situación económica en sus respectivos países y, otro, el mayor contribuyente, que se ha transformado hoy en el mayor deudor, que se resiste a aceptar que este es un Organismo por la vida, la esperanza y el bienestar de la humanidad; pero que sin embargo gasta sumas millonarias en programas de destrucción y muerte, como la ayuda a grupos paramilitares, los Contras en Nicaragua, y en otros pequeños y pobres países del mundo que luchan por sobrevivir. Este dinero consideramos nosotros debe ser entregado a la FAO. El documento arroja que a la fecha la deuda de los países deudores anda alrededor de los 140 millones de dólares, siendo la cuota por pagar del mayor contribuyente, de 103 millones de dólares. Como se puede observar la relación es a todas luces desproporcionada, tanto por el monto de la deuda como por la riqueza material del mayor contribuyente, hoy el mayor deudor. Instar al pago sin condicionamientos, ni discriminaciones, debe de ser la solución por parte del mayor contribuyente en aras de continuar los programas planificados de la FAO que luchan por la vida y la sobrevivencia alimentaria de nuestros pobres países.

Para finalizar nuestra delegación quiere agradecer al Gobierno de Italia por su generosa contribución a la FAO.

Muhammad Saleem XHAN (Pakistan): Since this is the first time that my delegation has assumed the floor, let me start by recording the immense pleasure of our delegation at your presence in the Chair, and our congratulations to the three Vice-Chairmen elected this morning.

We also take this opportunity to thank the Director-General for his comprehensive and forthright statements, as well as the valuable work that the FAO has been performing under his able guidance for the past several years to alleviate poverty, misery and malnutrition amongst millions in the underdeveloped countries like ours.

FAO as the oldest UN specialized agency has proved the importance of the ever-increasing role of the UN system in this area of human endeavour. We, as Member Nations of the system, are obliged by the Charter of the United Nations to support and foster the Organization to the maximum extent possible.

We have been disturbed to observe from the documents before us for this session, and from the statement of the Director-General, the severe financial crises perpetuated in the organization by the non-payment of contributions by some of us. Various valuable programmes have had to be put back. Essential meetings and bulletins have had to be dispensed with. Necessary staff strength and facilities have had to be sacrificed in order to tighten our belts. We have passed from an era of global plenty in terms of food supplies to one of global shortages, with looming dangers of mass hunger and malnutrition. Regional disparities have become more pronounced. Natural disasters have further compounded the situation. More than ever the FAO has a prominent role to play, if not to improve at least to arrest the situation. To put the FAO on the altar at the moment would be unfortunate.

Sir, review and reform is a continuous process in any organization for the health and improvement of the Organization. But need we stop everything until such time as the review and the reform are completed? We feel that the two can go hand in hand to work for a better tomorrow. We therefore

take this opportunity to appeal for better international support and cooperation to enable the FAO to serve humanity with even more vigour and imagination, to urge all Member Nations to pay their outstanding contributions without further hesitation.

Pakistan is a great believer in the UN system, and as such would never be found lacking in its support for the system. Therefore, in response to the call of the Director-General we were among the first nations to pay our contribution despite our own grave financial difficulties. We do notice that in Appendix A at page A3 of the English version of Document CL 94/LIM/1, we have been shown as having outstanding contributions of \$ 32 967.93. This is perhaps an error or an oversight and will be corrected by the Secretariat.

Finally, Sir, we would like to add our voice to the many others who have voiced their thanks to the host government for their extraordinary support of the FAO.

Stanley Munkindia GUANTAI (Kenya): My delegation takes this opportunity to convey to you, Mr. Chairman, our sense of reassurance to see you again in the Chair. We also wish to welcome the Vice-Chairmen who were elected this morning to support you.

My delegation welcomes the documents tabled on this Agenda Item which have provided a fair amount of analysis, particularly regarding the financial status of FAO. We have listened to Mr. Crowther's presentation and the passionate appeal by FAO's Director-General. We are moved by the gravity of the situation and by the implied consequences. Despite the cut-backs and the economies instituted by the FAO, the Organization is far from finding a level from which it could perform its mandate efficiently. Any developing country, and indeed the world, looks to the FAO for guidance on technical support in food and agricultural matters. We are very aware of the fact that there are over 500 million to 700 million in the world, depending on the parameters you use, who are living below the required minimum levels of survival. It is these people among many more for whom the hearts of the members should bleed. Let those members who have not paid - and they are many, all equally responsible - remember that reduced performance and reduced efficiency of their Organization may sentence thousands of these under-privileged, under-nourished and, furthermore, suffering people to the denial of the right of opportunity and the hope that could have been provided through the FAO.

Under para. 4.15 (b) of Document CL 94/4 and the chart provided, it implies that receipts have followed the normal trends. If this is true, then my delegation believes that the FAO has every reason to look once more at its budget process, but we take seriously - and we are witness to - some of the severe economies undertaken. The implications of this are obviously that despite normal trends this time the amounts owed are much more substantial than previously. We may indeed learn that the world economy and food requirements are dynamic and increasingly demanding. We appeal once more, therefore, for those members who still owe the Organization their pledged contributions to see the Organization through the eyes of those starving millions who are suffering and who have little hope.

Document CL 94/4 also refers to staff salaries and the cost-of-living index in Rome. Those of us who live in Rome will agree that the Secretariat's analysis is correct. For our part, we wish to thank the FAO employees for their patience and understanding.

The document also refers to the audited accounts of the WFP and the UNDP under which there are interesting revelations that we will come back to on the appropriate Agenda Item. We recall during the Conference the special authorization for a number of countries to pay their dues in instalments was provided, and we wish to refer to Appendix A, page 41 which shows that at least one country has more or less cleared its debt. We should thank that country for its efforts.

In conclusion, we would wish to join those who have conveyed their appreciation and thanks to the members who have paid their dues, and particularly to the host government which has done quite a lot for this Organization and continues to give it hope for stronger continuity.

Ms. Joan DUDIK-GAYOSO (United States of America): We agree with the statements made by the Director-General this morning that world agricultural production faces great challenges. We also agree that the FAO can play a key role in addressing many of those challenges. The United States, in providing over \$ 9 billion annually in bilateral and multilateral assistance, despite the current budget climate, has shown its commitment both to alleviating emergency situations and to addressing the longer-term issues in agricultural development. Over 35% of our development assistance now goes

to agricultural and rural development programmes across the whole range of the sector from ag-credit and pest management to irrigation, storage and research. In addition, Food Aid Programmes amount to another \$ 2 billion annually.

We have also quickly come forward with funds for special emergency needs in providing most recently, for example, US\$3 million through FAO for the locust campaign.

We welcome this opportunity to inform Council that last week the United States notified the Director-General of FAO that it had initiated the process of paying US\$25 million just appropriated, for FAO by the United States Congress. FAO should receive the payment shortly.

As we have explained before in this Body, and as the Director-General noted, the present United States fiscal situation, especially the United States government budget deficit, has required and will continue to require, tough choices on funding priorities both for domestic and international programmes. We believe the first priority for the United States as a member of the International economic system is to get our own fiscal house in order. This we intend to do. The deficit is a problem any US administration must confront. It will not go away by itself and there will be no miracles here either.

The Director-General noted that he is now preparing the 1990/91 budget for presentation in January. In all candour I must note now that the outlook for substantial increases in United States contributions for the next biennium is very unfavourable. We would not like to see FAO again in a situation where its major donor must choose between fiscal responsibility and payment of its assessed obligations. We would like the record of this Council to show that we urge the Director-General to prepare his 1990/91 budget proposals with a keen sense of realism as to the capacity of FAO's members (including the United States) to provide the necessary resources. The United States takes seriously its responsibilities and its obligations as a member of the multi-lateral system. However, as I said earlier, we are confronted with painful choices and many needs. All of us - both the secretariat and all FAO Members - have a heavy responsibility to ensure that plans fit the resources available. To do otherwise harms the Organization and its programmes. I can assure you that as we proceed with the planning for 1990/91 my Government will be as candid and realistic as possible in indicating the level of budget we can expect to support.

As you know the United States is opposed to external borrowing by international organizations. In addition, we are prohibited by law from paying any share of interest expenses on loans incurred by international organizations through external borrowing.

In closing, I should like to recall that the United States support for UN system agencies was demonstrated by President Reagan's announcement on 13 September of his intention to request full funding to the extent permitted by law and overriding considerations for assessed contributions to UN agencies in 1989. With regard to the payment of US arrears to FAO in his 13 September statement the President also directed the Secretary of State to develop a plan regarding the payment of US arrears to international organizations in the UN system. We have prepared options which are currently under review, however, no decisions have been taken at this time.

Gerhard LIEBER (Germany, Federal Republic of): Let me first through you Mr. Chairman, thank the Director-General and Mr. Crowther for their introductory statements which clarified a number of points which are important to us. The agenda item that we are discussing now is of great importance to the work of FAO. We are all aware of the gravity of the financial situation facing our Organization and we should do our best in the course of this Council session to contribute towards a realistic analysis and to the formulation of suitable counter measures. May I urge strongly that we do so in an objective and constructive way.

In spite of the contribution just announced by the United States delegation (which we welcome very much) we have to state with regret that the outstanding contributions at the end of this year will, in conformity with the information received, still be very high. Therefore, we welcome the fact that the Director-General has initiated measures which will lead to a slow down of expenditure by US\$20 million. However, on the basis of current available information unfortunately it is obvious that this US\$20 million may probably not suffice to make up for the total deficit in income. We think that nobody should spend more than he has at his disposal.

Let me recall that my Government has requested for years that the UN system organizations should make one or the other provision for contingencies. Some organizations have already achieved some results in this respect. The 24th Conference of FAO took a decision with Resolution 20/87 which goes at least in the right direction. Accordingly, the Council of FAO is authorized and called

upon to discuss the necessary economies and related programme adjustments. The Organization cannot wait with such measures until the next Council session next summer. At that time programme adjustments would be practically impossible because there would be only six months left for their implementation.

We have already pointed out on several occasions that we do not consider it right that paying Member States should take the responsibility for unpaid contributions of other Member States. Therefore, we appeal to all Members to fulfill their duties to the Organization. At the same time, for our part we would assure the Organization that we shall do our best to pay our contribution for the coming year as early as possible.

The Director-General has the authority to borrow, but in the worse case this would also result in additional costs, namely interest, which would also have to be paid by the Member Countries which are not responsible for the present situation.

Let me now come to another detail in our document. It was duly reported that the Director-General entered into forward exchange contracts to avoid losses due to exchange rate fluctuations. We all know that a number of other UN specialized agencies have been faced with the same situation as FAO they also budget in US dollars, but, however, make most of their payments in the currency of the respective host country. We are dealing at length with the implications of exchange rate fluctuations, which means that their Governing Bodies discussed in detail, and are to some extent still discussing, the existing situation and the measures before a final decision on how to proceed is taken by their respective Conferences. We would have welcomed an exchange of views with the Member States in Rome as happened for example in Geneva, Paris and Vienna. We would like to be informed about the conditions on which the Director-General entered into the forward exchange contracts and in this connection we also suggest that the external auditor should, in due time, submit a detailed report on these operations. However, we have also to examine whether, and to what extent, these measures have an impact on other activities in connection with the budget. Between the forward exchange contracts of FAO and the Special Reserve Account there is undoubtedly a close connection. Mr. Crowther made reference to that in his statement. However, we wonder why the Special Reserve Account must be replenished (we have paid our share in the replenishment already this year) by additional contributions of Member States at the same time when, as it was reported, profitable forward exchange contracts are being entered into. We are quite happy about the fact that they are profitable. Therefore, Mr. Chairman, we would like to ask through you that the Council, and the Finance Committee deal with this issue and examine whether the existence or replenishment of the Special Reserve Account is still justified if exchange rate risks could be covered by forward exchange contracts.

There is one more point in connection with the Special Reserve Account. It is stated in document CL 94/4, para. 1.31, that US\$1.8 million are to be taken from this account to cover most of the costs of the review, which is according to Conference Resolution 6/87. Frankly, we believe that this is in contradiction with the destination of funds of the Special Reserve Account. Therefore, we should also like to ask the Finance and Programme Committees, in consultation with the Director-General, to find alternative solutions.

Jean Luc GRAEVE (France): L'Organisation pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture est durement atteinte par le retard dans le versement des contributions de ses Etats Membres. Quelques chiffres déjà cités par Monsieur Crowther illustrent cette situation; le montant exceptionnellement élevé des sommes dues au 11 novembre 1988 (140 millions de dollars), le nombre élevé des Etats qui n'ont effectué aucun versement - ou seulement des versements partiels - à l'Organisation, le fait que le plus important contributeur ait accumulé des retards qui constituent la majeure part des arriérés, les retards de paiement dus par l'ensemble des Etats Membres.

Les conséquences, comme le Directeur général l'a mentionné ce matin et cet après-midi, sont graves pour l'Organisation. L'Organisation a dû prendre des mesures d'économie qui touchent le recrutement, les voyages, les publications, les réunions, la substance même des programmes.

Les agents récemment recrutés partent, les postes vacants ne sont pas pourvus; la substance humaine de l'organisation en souffre et cela alors même que le rôle de l'Organisation paraît plus essentiel que jamais, notamment en tant que Conseil auprès des Gouvernements.

Ma délégation appelle l'ensemble des Etats qui n'ont pas réglé - ou qui n'ont pas pleinement réglé leurs obligations financières - à s'acquitter de leurs engagements.

Cet appel ne peut pas ne pas s'adresser également au plus gros contributeur qui, dans les dernières semaines, à annoncé sa volonté d'apurer ses dettes à l'égard de l'ensemble du système des Nations Unies et notamment de notre Organisation.

Ce sont là des indications très positives et encourageantes qui laissent espérer une restauration progressive de la santé financière de l'OAA.

Il est clair cependant que la crise actuelle de paiement laissera des traces durables. La délégation américaine a annoncé le paiement très prochain de 25 millions de dollars: à la fin de cette année le montant des arriérés et des retards de paiement dus par le plus important contributeur sera largement supérieur à une année entière de contribution.

Par ailleurs, il existe une incertitude sur les modalités de paiement qui seront effectués en 1989 par le plus important contributeur. Il est à craindre que les paiements de cet Etat ne pourront être faits au début de l'année mais ne le seront qu'en fin d'année, ce qui laissera à l'Organisation des choix difficiles, une situation financière délicate, et au Directeur général, sans doute l'obligation de faire encore une fois des choix douloureux qui handicaperont la capacité de l'Organisation à effectuer son programme.

Il est sans doute trop tôt aujourd'hui pour que les Etats Membres puissent donner des conseils ou tirer des conséquences sur la situation nécessairement fragile de l'Organisation au début et tout au long de l'année prochaine, tant que les plans d'action actuellement à l'étude, de l'autre côté de l'Atlantique, n'auront pas été connus. En tout état de cause, l'Organisation se trouvera encore l'année prochaine dans une situation d'incertitude, même si un versement de 25 millions de dollars est quand même de nature à faciliter la situation de l'Organisation en décembre prochain et au début de l'année prochaine, quand les premières contributions seront versées.

La France, quant à elle, s'efforcera, comme elle l'a fait chaque année, de verser dès le début de l'année prochaine l'intégralité de sa contribution.

Je souhaiterais maintenant aborder un point plus technique mentionné dans le document 94/4 et qui concerne la décision du Secrétariat d'ouvrir deux comptes bancaires où sont déposés séparément les recettes du Programme ordinaire et celles du Programme des fonds fiduciaires.

Ma délégation se demande si le fait que la trésorerie des deux programmes soit maintenant distincte n'entraîne ou n'entraînera pas une rigidité nouvelle dans sa gestion en empêchant les compensations de trésorerie qui s'effectuaient antérieurement.

Ma délégation souhaiterait savoir si le besoin de trésorerie du Programme ordinaire ne s'en trouvera pas augmenté.

Yousef Ali Mahmoud HAMDI (Egypt) (Original language Arabic): First I would like to express my gratitude for the trust placed in me by the Council in selecting me as Chairman of the Drafting Committee. This is an honour for my country and it is a propitious opportunity for me to work together with you, Sir, at this Session.

We have listened very carefully to the introduction of the document before us and we appreciate the efforts made by the Director-General and his staff in an attempt to get the Organization to do its work as well as possible in the current difficult financial situation because of the cash flow crisis. This has been made possible through a slowing down of expenditure and also by cancelling some work headings but we are afraid that this may go further because these cost-cutting measures are in fact reducing essential activities of the Organization in some aspects and especially activities to be developed in countries which need the Organization's assistance very sorely indeed.

We therefore feel that the cuts should stop and we would plead with countries which are in arrears to kindly hurry up and pay up as quickly as possible. There is no doubt about it that those countries cannot but realize the difficult situation in which FAO finds itself at the present time and the negative impact resulting from the non-payment of contributions due. The payment of such contributions will help the Director-General to go forward with the Organization and to perform the programme of work that we all adopted together and thus strike further blows in the battle against hunger and malnutrition. This will also help the Director-General to avoid having recourse to borrowing, having to exercise the borrowing powers that have been invested in him, because if no cash is available inevitably the Director-General would find himself compelled to borrow.

Bashir EL MABROUK SAID (Libya) (Original language Arabic): First I would like to thank Mr. Crowther for having given us such a clear presentation of this document that we are now considering. The statements made by Mr. Crowther as regards the financial position of the Organization show a regrettable situation which is deteriorating further, adding to the number of victims in developing countries, which is something which worries us very considerably indeed.

We are certain that the Director-General and his staff have made the most extraordinary efforts in order to make it possible for FAO to carry on in the best possible manner in implementing its programmes in spite of the current crisis, in spite of the fact that numbers of programmes and publications have had to be cancelled. But we cannot but say that this is a very regrettable state of affairs.

However, we feel that if this situation were to be allowed to continue in the future we really must wonder whether the Organization will be able to survive and perform its appointed task, and we can appreciate that the Director-General may have to have recourse to the powers to borrow which were vested in him by the Conference if the cash flow crisis gets any worse. He would not have any other choice if this situation were allowed to continue, in other words if contributions due are not paid promptly. We feel that to make the payment of assessed contributions due dependent on certain things being done is not really the right kind of approach. The contributions have been duly assessed and they are therefore due and I think the majority of member organizations feel that what is due is due irrespective of analyses or restructurings or whatever. We must all pool together in a constructive manner to keep our Organization, which matters so much to us, afloat. It is not just a matter of big countries or small countries, big contributors or small contributors. We all contribute to the measure of our possibilities to this Organization. We all contribute in accordance with the assessed scale of contributions. So we cannot say that there are rich people here that give charity to the poor, we all contribute what we can and in proportion we all contribute the maximum amount that we can.

We are anxious to avoid confrontation, but we would exhort once again everyone concerned to respect their obligations and commitments so that we may all make a positive contribution.

I would like to say here that in spite of the economic circumstances which my country is facing, and which everyone is aware of, we have great faith in this Organization and in its principles and we have transferred our contribution for 1988 to the full.

Sra. Mercedes FERMIN GOMEZ (Venezuela): Hemos analizado ya con bastante detalle y para gran satisfacción nuestra una excelente exposición del Director de Administración y Finanzas, exposición que le agradecemos, de cuales son la situación y las perspectivas futuras de esta Organización. Podemos deducir perfectamente cuáles son, pues, las consecuencias de esta situación financiera. Y respecto a las posibles medidas para el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto 88/89, la exposición del señor Director General nos ha adelantado algunas de estas medidas.

Desde luego, todos estamos de acuerdo con que la primera medida es la responsabilidad que deben cumplir los países que no han hecho honor a su compromiso de pagar las cuotas a que están obligados. Algunos de estos países se encuentran, desde luego, en bastante dificultad, con motivo de otras obligaciones, como es el problema de la deuda externa. Por lo que a mi país respecta, hemos tratado de ponernos al día y, efectivamente, Venezuela, para el año 1988, tiene todavía un remanente del 2 por ciento de su cuota de este año; es mi responsabilidad recordar a nuestro Gobierno que debe ser cumplida lo antes posible y así lo haremos.

En relación con las medidas de reajuste que ha anunciado el señor Director General (con la mayoría de las cuales debemos estar de acuerdo, porque son obligatorias), yo quería referirme a los puntos 4.4, 4.5 y 4.8 del informe que estamos leyendo del documento CL 94/4, en relación con los viajes en comisión de servicio. Este es un punto en el que los países, digamos, adversarios de la FAO han hecho mucho hincapié en cuanto a los gastos que significan los viajes, el Programa de Cooperación Técnica y los trabajos de campo. Pero no sé como pudiera la FAO prescindir de estas actividades, que son la esencia de su trabajo. La FAO debe atender los países del Tercer Mundo, que están, desgraciadamente para quienes se lamentan de estos gastos, esparcidos por todo el mundo, y no precisamente en Europa: están en el continente africano, en Asia, en América Latina, que son bastante distantes de Roma, y, si no se envían allí personas para hacer su observación "in situ", difícilmente la FAO podría encontrar otro medio de responder a las solicitudes de programas de estos países.

Por consiguiente, estos viajes de las comisiones de servicio tienen que ser, indudablemente, cumplidos por la Organización, aunque cualquiera de nuestros críticos diga que deben consultarse las otras organizaciones. Yo no creo que el Banco Mundial gaste, para sus viajeros, menos de lo que gasta la FAO, porque depende de dónde parten. Si parten de Roma y van a ir, seguramente, a Venezuela no tienen más remedio que ir en avión, porque sería muy costoso para ellos en cualquier otra forma.

Por esta razón, yo creo que esta insistencia en hacer una reducción de los gastos de los viajes para el servicio de los observadores, para el servicio de los que tienen que formular una opinión acerca de la viabilidad de los proyectos de la FAO, es un poco inoficioso, creo yo. Y la misma cosa podríamos decir de aquellos funcionarios expertos, técnicos que tienen que actuar en el propio país en donde se va a realizar el proyecto, como elementos de trabajo de campo; no hay otra manera.

Nosotros pertenecemos a un campo profesional que es la geografía, y que nos dice que no se puede hacer geografía ni en el mapa ni en la fotografía aérea cuando se quieren aplicar determinados procedimientos: hay que ir allí y hacer un examen directamente en el campo, aunque tengamos los demás instrumentos para poder complementar ese trabajo. La FAO no podría prescindir de estos elementos para realizar su trabajo de una manera eficiente. Por eso yo creo que cualquier otro medio de reducción del gasto de la FAO podría, como ya lo ha advertido el señor Director General, encontrarse en publicaciones, por ejemplo, o en cualquiera de los otros capítulos de gastos; pero no de estos programas indispensables, que son generalmente los que más comprometen la razón de existencia de la FAO y que son muy importantes para los países del mundo subdesarrollado, del Tercer Mundo, que es el que lo necesita con mayor razón, y también para los países en desarrollo. Porque muchos de nuestros países, el mío incluido, pueden tener especialistas y profesionales en algunos campos; pero para esta especialidad de directa observación en el terreno de estas actividades y para poder aconsejar, para poder asesorar lo que es necesario hacer en determinados momentos sobre determinadas actividades, no hay otro remedio que mandar técnicos que ya tienen experiencia.

Por eso yo, haciendo hincapié en las medidas para asegurar la ejecución del Programa, insisto en que hay algunos elementos, algunos aspectos del programa que pueden ser reducidos; algunos gastos que pueden ser disminuidos, pero los que no toquen a este campo de los programas de cooperación técnica, de los programas de trabajo de campo, de las realizaciones directas, que son la obligación de la FAO. Es para ella obligación la supervivencia de estos países pobres, de estas comunidades, que no tienen otro medio, sino la FAO, para poder llegar a mejorar sus condiciones de vida. Por esa razón, ésta es una obligación que no puede dejar de cumplirse. Para no repetirme en puntos en los que ya han abundado todos los que me han precedido en el uso de la palabra, pienso que respecto de las demás invitaciones a que los miembros cumplan con sus obligaciones puntualmente, nos corresponde cumplir nosotros mismos; pero en cuanto a la reducción del Presupuesto, yo creo que vale la pena insistir en recordar que estos puntos no deberían ser eliminados, cualquiera que sea su oportunidad y el gasto que produzca su ejecución.

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Excusez-moi d'intervenir en ce moment mais on a évoqué des sujets qui ne l'ont pas été par nous-mêmes, comme le niveau du budget de 1990/91, qui n'est pas en discussion; on a parlé aussi d'emprunts ou de non emprunts, d'intérêts, du Programme de 1989: faut-il couper ou ne pas couper ?

Si vous êtes d'accord, je voudrais exprimer mon opinion sur ces sujets pour éclairer la discussion car il s'agit de questions que je n'ai pas évoquées et, si j'attends que tout le monde ait parlé et que la discussion soit close, l'intérêt sera moindre.

La mise en garde - en anglais, "urging": "We urged the Director General" - a été bien entendue et bien notée. Ma réponse sera la suivante: en tant que Directeur général élu par l'ensemble des pays membres, je dois également tenir compte d'autres facteurs, de l'avis de tous les pays membres. Je dois aussi tenir compte de la situation économique dans laquelle les pays en développement se trouvent.

En six ans, le budget de la FAO a été amputé de 4%. En six ans, la population du monde a augmenté de 500 millions d'habitants. Dans deux ans, elle aura augmenté de 180 millions. Peut-on, en conscience, proposer des budgets décroissants ou à croissance négative ? Cette mise en garde signifie-t-elle que je dois présenter un budget réduit de 40 millions ? Jamais je ne le ferai, vous le savez bien. Je suis un homme juste, un homme consciencieux, et vous m'avez donné l'autorité de proposer un niveau de budget. Ensuite, c'est à vous de décider. J'entends des mises en garde, je les accepte, mais il faut également voir dans quel contexte ce nouveau budget doit être préparé. Nous revenons de très loin, nous avons été amputés; il y a plus de 200 postes gelés. Nous n'avons plus assez d'argent, nous n'existons presque plus. Il y a des centaines de milliers de personnes dans le monde qui lisaient nos publications, elles ne les lisent plus.

Je n'ai pas l'intention de proposer un budget extraordinaire mais, je le dis franchement, je ne peux pas présenter un budget décroissant, un budget à croissance négative.

Pour ma part, j'aurais voulu obtenir une explication sur les raisons pour lesquelles la FAO est traitée différemment d'autres organisations du Système des Nations Unies par le principal contribuant. En 1987, la FAO n'aura reçu que 50% de la somme qu'il lui doit alors que d'autres organisations ont reçu entre 60 et 100%. En 1988, pour la deuxième année consécutive, la FAO a été punie. Le principal contribuant ne nous a réservé que 38 % des sommes dues, c'est-à-dire 25 millions de dollars, alors que d'autres organisations ont reçu bien plus de sa part.

Parlons maintenant d'autre chose, de choses aussi sérieuses peut-être que le Programme de travail pour 1989. Pendant deux ans, je me suis retenu d'emprunter, j'ai voulu faire plaisir aux Etats-Unis, à l'Allemagne et à tous les pays qui ne voulaient pas que j'use de l'autorité qui m'avait été donnée par le Conseil et la Conférence. Je ne me suis pas servi de cette autorité et j'ai regretté, en conscience, d'avoir puni tous les Etats Membres en coupant le budget de 25 millions en 1987 et de 20 millions en 1988. Et maintenant, faut-il encore le couper en 1989 ?

En tous cas, je ne voudrais pas être obligé d'utiliser les facilités de paiement bancaires. Je vais parler doucement ici d'une question délicate et importante. La résolution de la Conférence qui m'y autorise m'oblige de faire d'abord ce que l'on appelle des emprunts internes. Il existe des formules selon lesquelles nous pouvons emprunter certaines sommes de fonds internes non liées à l'exécution du Programme de travail. Mais si ce n'est pas suffisant, nous n'allons pas signer un contrat avec telle ou telle banque pour emprunter 30 ou 40 millions de dollars payables en 2 ou 3 ans - c'est ce que l'on appelle un "emprunt".

Chacun d'entre vous a un compte en banque et bénéficie de facilités bancaires. Vous avez une ligne de crédit. En général, on dit au fonctionnaire: "Ne dépassez pas le montant de deux ou trois mois".

En ce qui nous concerne, dans certains cas, nous avons peut-être un découvert dans certains de nos comptes courants. C'est de cela que je veux parler. Je veux rassurer ici le Représentant de l'Allemagne qui m'a stupéfié en me demandant si les ventes de dollars à terme étaient légales ou illégales. J'approuve son initiative de faire examiner la question par le Comité financier s'il ne l'a pas encore fait. Mais comme il le sait, le Directeur général a la responsabilité de gérer les fonds de la FAO. Il est de mon autorité, assisté par M. Crowther et M. Heim, de faire en sorte que les décisions à ce sujet soient prises sur la base d'appels d'offres auprès de plusieurs banques.

En tant que Directeur général, je n'envisage pas de faire des réductions dans le Programme de travail de 1989. Je voudrais vous assurer que les intérêts ne seront pas payés par des contributions supplémentaires des Etats Membres. D'ailleurs, les Etats Membres qui m'ont conféré l'autorité d'emprunter ont prévu la façon dont les intérêts seraient payés: ils le seront avec les revenus divers. Nous avons des revenus divers et ce sont eux qui serviront à payer les intérêts. Je le répète: il n'y a aucun danger à utiliser le crédit bancaire. On ne nous demande même pas de garanties. D'ailleurs, si je suis amené à utiliser ces facilités bancaires, je réunirai le Comité financier pour que ses membres soient informés et obtiennent tous les détails possibles au sujet des opérations bancaires. En pratique, on a un découvert pendant un mois, d'un ou de deux millions dans telle banque, de trois millions dans telle autre, et quand on reçoit un paiement d'un pays membre, on rembourse immédiatement ces banques. Il ne s'agit pas d'emprunter pour quatre ou cinq ans. Il y a des mois où nous avons des surplus. Au début de février, nous avons eu plusieurs dizaines de millions de dollars pour lesquels nous avons reçu des intérêts. Puis, en juin, la sécheresse.

Je vous prie de me croire. Je ne cherche pas à emprunter. Je n'aime pas l'emprunt par nature. Avec le paiement probable de 25 millions de la part des Etats-Unis, M. Crowther me dit que nous passerons le cap de l'année, que nous commencerons même l'année avec une toute petite réserve. Cela dépend de vous. Si les gros bailleurs de fonds, la Suisse et les pays nordiques, exemplaires comme d'habitude, payent avant le 15 janvier, nous pourrions fonctionner normalement en janvier. Peut-être alors qu'au mois de juin, il faudra avoir recours au fonds interne de la FAO, aux fonds fiduciaires que nous avons. Si cela n'est pas suffisant, il faudra s'adresser aux quelques banques qui acceptent de nous faire crédit pour quelques mois. Je n'ai pas le choix.

Je fais confiance à la déléguée des Etats-Unis qui dit que, pour 1990, les Etats-Unis vont prévoir dans leur budget le paiement du total de leur contribution. Mais elle me dit gentiment: "N'exagérez pas avec le budget, ne le faites pas très élevé." Bien sûr, j'en tiens compte. Seulement, si j'ai présenté un budget à croissance zéro ou 1% pour ces années, c'est parce que j'ai tenu compte de l'avis du groupe de Genève. Mais je ne peux vraiment pas aller plus loin en présentant un budget négatif. J'irais en arrière, car qui n'avance recule. Nous avons reculé depuis six ans. Le budget a diminué de 4%.

Ce n'est pas le sujet de la discussion mais j'ai voulu le relever. Car si vous prenez certaines décisions qui m'obligeront à vous présenter un document au mois de janvier, cela valait la peine d'en parler.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie le Directeur général de ces informations. Je crois qu'elles ont été utiles à l'ensemble du Conseil et à ceux qui sont inscrits sur la liste des orateurs.

Joao Augusto de MEDICIS (Brazil): Since I am addressing this Council after we accepted the presence of an observer from the Soviet Union let me welcome this decision and hope that his presence today will signal a permanent and fruitful participation of the USSR in FAO. In a time when the Soviet Union is giving repeated proofs of its desire of strengthening international cooperation with the UN System, the participation of the USSR in FAO should only be a logical, and I repeat, welcome consequence. The good relations between our two countries have just been enhanced by the visit to Moscow and Leningrad of the President of Brazil and our government will look forward to cooperating with the USSR in this Organization.

The Brazilian delegation does regret the constraints faced by FAO during the current biennium. Substantial programme cuts have to be made affecting many of the priority activities of the Organization. It is sad and frustrating to observe the drastic reductions of services rendered by this Organization. We all know that many FAO programmes address the crucial needs of many of the developing countries. We consider these activities as very valuable and important and oppose their being eliminated or seriously affected under the situation created by the voluntary retention of payment by one member country.

It is time again to emphasize that the pressures exerted on FAO through the withholding of contributions are unacceptable. Trying to force reforms through financial pressure will have an adverse effect. The improvements we want to introduce in the Organization have to be achieved through an objective analysis of the situation, through a constructive and positive dialogue, and not through pressure, through ignoring constitutional obligations or creating a permanent state of uncertainty about the Organization's future or even by submitting the payment of their contribution to unilateral conditions.

At the beginning of the current year, we agreed to reform the programme budget process of the Organization in order to meet the concerns of the largest debtor. Showing great flexibility and a spirit of conciliation, we have taken some important steps towards a compromise, because we believed that this would lead to a more positive attitude from the major debtor.

The announcement that the United States are going to pay another small percentage of its arrears may be considered a sign of good will towards this Organization. Nonetheless, as the Director-General pointed out we may still consider that FAO is being discriminated against by the US Government, because the amount which will be paid to FAO does not correspond, in proportional terms, to the amounts which are being paid to the other United Nations bodies and we have no room for hope after we have heard the United States delegate's warning to Council, or should I say threat to Council, that we should not, in the consideration of the next biennium budget, expect any good will from her government. I cannot see how the United States delegate can reconcile this statement with the declaration of support just made to the UN System by President Reagan. Trying to justify what cannot be justified the United States delegation this morning advanced a fallacious argument when it tried to share the blame for the financial crisis with 53 other countries, all of them from the developing world. The simple indication that the total debt of those 53 countries amounts to one-third of the United States debt is enough to show the weakness and falseness of this argument. If all these 53 countries could promptly pay their contributions, this Organization would still be in a very difficult economic condition. We should in no way confound the politically motivated attitude adopted by the United States government with the situation of the developing countries which face legitimate difficulties with the payment of their contributions. Brazil, which has been going through the most serious financial crisis of its history paid last month its contribution relating to 1987. We still owe our quota for this year but we hope we shall be able to pay our full assessment in the near future.

Amin ABDEL MALEK (Liban) (langue originale arabe): Permettez-moi, M. le Président, de préfacer mon intervention par des paroles de félicitation à votre endroit, car vous aurez à présider le Conseil de l'Organisation au cours d'une période certes difficile du point de vue financier. Votre expérience et votre compétence sont les meilleures garanties pour trouver une solution à cette situation.

Je voudrais saisir cette occasion également pour féliciter les trois Vice-Présidents qui ont été élus ce matin.

Je dois aussi féliciter M. Crowther de la présentation excellente de la question dont nous sommes saisis actuellement, c'est-à-dire la situation financière de l'Organisation, car sa déclaration a été très claire, très précise et nous partageons ses craintes quant à la situation financière concrète que connaît l' Organisation et ses conséquences éventuelles à l'avenir.

Vous connaissez tous la situation très difficile dans laquelle se trouve le Liban depuis treize ans déjà, surtout du point de vue économique et financier. Malgré toutes ces difficultés, nous n'avons jamais eu d'arriérés dans les versements de nos contributions. Récemment, nous avons versé notre contribution pour 1988, car nous accordons une très grande attention aux activités de la FAO, et au service de l'humanité en particulier.

Nous ne pouvons que lancer un appel pressant aux Etats-Unis pour que ce pays examine en toute sincérité les conséquences de son attitude pour l'Organisation et les Etats Membres. Le chef de la délégation américaine, qui est un ami que nous respectons, réfléchira à cette question et nous sommes certains qu'à la fin de la présente session, après avoir réfléchi mûrement sur la situation, il pourra être notre porte-parole auprès de son propre gouvernement. Nous sommes certains que cette superpuissance doit aider les pays en développement, pour que ceux-ci améliorent leur situation agricole, et nous sommes certains que ce grand pays versera sa contribution afin de permettre à l'Organisation de fournir l'assistance voulue par le biais de ses activités et de ses programmes dans l'intérêt des pays en développement.

Nous essayons tous de maintenir un niveau élevé d'efficacité de l'Organisation, car nous sommes habitués à l'excellence des activités de l'Organisation depuis sa création, et surtout depuis que le Docteur Saouma en est devenu le Directeur général. Je ne dis pas cela parce que le Directeur Saouma est libanais, mais parce que c'est un excellent Directeur général, et nous en profitons pour le remercier des efforts inlassables qu'il a consentis, malgré les ressources fort précaires dont il dispose pour maintenir l'efficacité et la qualité des activités de l'Organisation. Je suis certain qu'il pourra faire face avec nous à la crise actuelle.

Sumiji NAKAZAWA (Japan): To begin with, I would like to thank Mr. Crowther for his excellent introduction to this Agenda Item, and also the Director-General for his very impressive comments on this matter. However, I would have appreciated them more if Documents CL 94/4 and LIM/1 had been delivered to us earlier.

At any rate, my delegation welcomes the fact that FAO has managed to tide over its financial crisis so far, with efforts by the Secretariat and cooperation of the member countries. My delegation understands from Document C 89/5, page 6, that the financial status of the Organization is positive on an accrual basis reflecting the fact that an increase in staff costs - caused by fluctuations in the US dollar/Italian lira exchange rates - was covered by the Special Reserve Account and the programme cut in the last biennium. It shows us clearly that the financial crisis in the last and present biennia have been caused mainly by non-payments of assessed contributions by a number of countries. My delegation admits that the Secretariat uses the phrase "liquidity problem" as an explanation of the crisis.

My delegation holds the basic position that borrowing, especially external borrowing, is questionable as it may cause insecure finance and will bring an additional share of interest upon member countries who have already done their duty. My delegation would therefore like to stress the importance of payments of the arrears and outstanding contributions by the member countries concerned, and to request the Director-General, as well as the Programme and Finance Committees, to examine the possibility of further slowing down programme implementation.

Finally, my delegation would like to have more detailed Information on the forecast of the cash flow for the rest of the present biennium from the Secretariat.

Earl W. WEYBRECHT (Canada): Let me say first of all that the Canadian delegation wishes to express its pleasure at seeing you in the Chair, Mr. Chairman; and to congratulate the three Vice-Chairmen on their election.

We welcome the reports provided under this Item, and thank the Secretariat for its efforts, including the introductory remarks given by Mr. Crowther. Although one document, CL 94/LIM/1, was only received this morning, it does have the advantage of having very up-to-date and helpful information on the current financial position of the Organization. We note in paragraph 4.32 of the Finance Committee's report that on the basis of the latest cash projection it will not be necessary to borrow during 1988. This is welcome news. Having narrowly avoided the difficult issue of borrowing this year, we should not be complacent about the present situation. We are encouraged by the announcement that the largest contributor will make an additional instalment of \$ 25 million in the current year, but we note that more than 50 Member Nations have paid nothing at all in 1988. This is most regrettable. The Finance Committee and the Director-General have urged all Member States to pay their assessed contributions in full. We hope that in the very near future conditions will be such that they are able to do so.

My delegation would welcome the provision of a break-down of the budget appropriation and expenditure by major programmes which shows cash disbursements and outstanding obligations for the current biennium. This was provided to the 24th Session of the Conference as Document C 87/LIM/41 dated November 1987 at the request of a Member Nation.

We note from the documents before us that there is a large shortfall in the receipt of contributions, but we do not know with any precision the effect this cash flow has had on the programmes approved by the Conference.

The Director-General has had some difficult choices to make and has given some indication of this in his introduction this morning. We would like to have a clear picture, however, on what programmes have been affected, what meetings have been postponed, what publications have been cancelled or delayed, which posts have been left unfilled, which capital expenditures are cancelled or upheld. These are important questions. They involve priorities. Member States have had little or no say in what was cut. My delegation would request that the Council be better informed about the effects on the programme of work of these late assessments, and that such Information be provided in the future.

Mr. Chairman, in various discussions which have taken place previously in the Conference and in the Council, the problem of late assessments has often been invoked. Canada and others have indicated on these occasions the need for a forward-looking process that will allow for the Member States to set priorities amongst the activities. Looking to 1989, we are very concerned that the problem of cash shortfall will again face the Organization in perhaps an even more acute fashion.

We would like at this time to suggest that a forecast of receipts and commitments be prepared for 1989 on a programme-by-programme basis, and that such a document be brought to the attention of the Programme and Finance Committees and to the Committee on Agriculture.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous pourrions peut-être demander au Dr. Shah de bien vouloir répondre aux questions précises du Délégué du Canada.

V.J. SHAH (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): Mr. Chairman, the distinguished delegate of Canada requested information on the programme adjustments which had been proposed to be carried out and the slow-down of \$ 20 million which is being effected during this year. The question comes as somewhat of a surprise to me because Canada, of course, is a member of the Programme Committee and this Information was discussed specifically at the 54th Session of the Programme Committee in May 1988. The document submitted to the Programme Committee on that occasion gives full Information on the manner in which the programme adjustments were approached, the level of the programmes affected by programme, the specific activities such as meetings and publications which had to be postponed and cancelled, and the views of the Programme Committee are, of course, given in their report under paragraphs 2.7 to 2.18. I believe this information exists in accordance with the requirements. The Programme and Finance Committees have considered together the level of the adjustments which will have to be made, and the Programme Committee examined in detail the adjustments as regards their programme effect and implications.

J.D. AITKEN (United Kingdom): Mr. Chairman, before I begin I would like on a personal basis to echo the congratulations and pleasure mentioned by my head, of delegation earlier on about seeing you in the Chair again. I would also like to add my delegation's congratulations to the Vice-Chairmen who have been elected.

Mr. Chairman, through you I would like to thank Mr. Crowther and the Director-General for their introduction to this Item, both at the beginning of the items and in the interventions and in the Director-General's opening speech. I would particularly like to say how much we support the Director-General's comments in the conclusion to his opening speech, that it was his most fervent wish that an atmosphere of harmony, goodwill and cordiality will characterize the work of this Council. In all sincerity, I hope that our intervention will contribute to this.

I would like publicly to go on record as thanking Mr. Crowther's department for the provision of information about the financial situation and the cash flow which has been given us over the year. The documents have actually been improved over time and the information that we have available in the latest quarterly one is more useful and more detailed than we had in the first series. This is the sort of improvement that we always welcome. This quarterly cash flow projection has proved to us to be very useful, and we hope that this statement can become a regular feature of the financial Information provided to Member States.

On a minor point of detail about these presentations, our understanding at present is that the dollar/lira exchange rate used in the calculations of cash flow is the same one as is used in the calculation of the budget, that it is the one that was agreed in November. It would be useful simply to have on record confirmation from the Secretariat that this is the case, but also to ask them if they make any change in the assumptions that this information will be included in the quarterly statement so that we are aware if the basis changed.

We were very pleased to learn that it will not be necessary to borrow this year. This, we believe, reflects prudent and sensible management on the part of the Secretariat, both in the Programme Division and the Finance Division, and it is only right that we should take note of this and thank them.

I can again reiterate on the question of borrowing that the position of the United Kingdom remains unchanged. We are opposed to external borrowing and we believe that the Organization should live within its income. We believe again that this is a practice of prudent management.

We have noticed though the level of arrears and the number of countries which are behind with contributions. Again, I need not remind the meeting that my government's position is quite a straightforward one: all member states should meet their obligations and not fall into arrears.

There are two comments on this. We have heard a number of statements which point out the size of the debt from a particular member state. I think too that we should remember this in the context of the contributions this same member state has made over the past 40 years to the institutions and to the international community. It should be seen in this light as well as in its current situation.

The other comment we have on the arrears is that we note that many of the countries in arrears suffer from chronic foreign exchange shortages. These were referred to in the interventions of a number of countries including that of the distinguished delegation of Venezuela. We hope that the secretariat is actively pursuing a policy of discussing the situation with these members who are in arrears, and possibly informally suggesting payments by instalments which these countries might find easier to fulfill than meeting a relatively large single payment. In fact, we have written to the secretariat about this matter. We are sure that this recognizes the reality of the poorer countries.

Concerning another aspect of prudent management, we were pleased to note that FAO has started to enter into forward contracts for foreign exchange purchases. This is a practice which is a standard practice in some other UN organizations and it has worked well there. We hope that FAO will continue with this sensible action. This approach to foreign exchange represents flexibility, and we believe that flexibility is an important aspect in prudent management. Here, we should like to associate ourselves with the comments made by the distinguished delegate of France about the wisdom of opening two accounts, one for the Regular Programme and one for TCP. We believe that management should have a degree of flexibility and that the key element here is transparency so long as everyone is aware of what is going on. We believe that we must look to the future - the next year and subsequent bienns. We had a very clear statement from the distinguished delegate of the United States and also from the Director-General and other delegates.

As far as concerns the financial aspect, it is our view that it is of prime importance for both the secretariat and the Member States to have a realistic forecast of the cash flow as soon as possible. We certainly welcomed the news from the distinguished delegate of the United States, and we hope that with this Information it will be possible for the secretariat to let us have a projection of their best estimates of cash flow and expenditure for 1989 before we leave Rome at the end of this meeting. Through you Mr. Chairman we would like specifically to ask the secretariat to provide that Information.

We believe also that it is necessary for the Member States and the secretariat to have an accurate picture of spending against the programme headings in the budget. This was one of the points made by the distinguished delegate of Canada when he referred to CL 87/LIM 41. We have also raised this matter with the secretariat and we understand that there is some difficulty in producing this paper at short notice. However, we are also aware from the secretariat that they produce a similar, although not so detailed, version for the Finance Committee. If I may go into a little detail, the difference is that LIM/41 gave us details of actual expenditure and commitment separately, whereas the detailed paper for the Finance committee groups them both together. Through you again Mr. Chairman, I should like to suggest that it would be very helpful if the secretariat could speed up the process of the availability of this information and let Member States have it as soon as possible after the end of this year - anyway, this will be the accounting point for the secretariat. If the Information could be made available in a form which distinguishes between actual spending and commitment it would simply be a slight extension of the Information already given to the Finance Committee. The only further request I would make is, because of the exceptional circumstances, that this information should not be limited simply to the Finance Committee but could be made available to all Member States.

Turning now to the Programme, because under this item we have to consider the effects of a shortfall on the Programme. As with a number of delegates we recall the discussions in the Conference about the need to have a rational approach to reshaping the Programme in the light of available resources. In our view this remains a priority. There remains a need to engage Member States in this process which will become one of the identifying priorities in selecting between alternative forms of implementation. To help us as part of this process, we think it would be useful if the secretariat could share with us the rationale or the way in which the activities of the Organization have been shaped to account for the US\$25 million slowdown which we have heard about from the Director-General earlier. Our Canadian colleagues were asking for something very similar to this and I listened with considerable interest to Mr. Shah's reply. In view of what he said I think it would be very helpful if he could consider whether or not the information about the activities which have been selected could be made available to the Member States as well as to the Programme and Finance Committee. There is a slight nuance here in that if I understood my Canadian colleague properly, he was asking for a catalogue of what had happened. My request would be to have some guidance on the rationale, the theology, behind the selection of the catalogue. In this connection we would also value a statement on the rationale which will be used in 1989.

Finally, in view of all that we have heard I think it would be wise to recognize that the process of planning the biennium 1990/91 will soon be upon us. One would hope that the Organization will see a way through its troubles, but as we have heard this may not be possible. We can also appreciate the position of the Director-General and how he feels in relation to his legal and moral obligations. There seems to be a slightly religious tone to this meeting set earlier by the distinguished - and I think someone described him as "saintly" - delegate of Colombia. The piece of religious wisdom that I call to mind at this point is the parable of the wise virgins, and the wise virgin who ensured she had some oil in her lamp. If I could continue with this theme it is sensible for us to plan to have some oil in our lamps in case there is some darkness we cannot foresee. I suggest in order to enable Member States collectively to consider the Programme and Budget, the secretariat should provide the Spring meetings of the Finance and Programme Committees with an indication of what they see as the priorities within the Programme and the choice between activities. This is very similar to the request already made by the distinguished delegate of Canada and I should like to associate myself with that.

In conclusion, I should like to add that in addition we believe that the Committee on Agriculture as the body which has responsibility for considering the major part of the Programme should also be provided with similar information. At present it has been the practice that the Committee on Agriculture considers the Programme to some extent in isolation from financial considerations. I suggest that what we have heard today concerning the possibilities for the 1990/91 biennium means, in fact, that we should change this procedure and COAG should have some indications of possible resources and choices.

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Après ce qu'a évoqué l'Honorable Délégué du Royaume-Uni, je voudrais faire quelques remarques.

Le sujet en discussion est la situation financière de l'Organisation. Le délégué du Royaume-Uni est sorti du sujet en parlant du Programme de travail pour 1990, du travail du Comité de l'Agriculture.

Je voudrais attirer l'attention du Conseil sur un second point. Le Conseil n'est pas le Comité financier. Il y a un Comité financier dont font partie les Etats-Unis, l'Australie et nombre d'autres pays; il fait son travail et examine les différents points dans le détail. Veut-on transformer le Conseil en Comité financier?

Nous sommes dans un biennium extraordinaire; le Représentant de l'Italie avait proposé à la dernière Conférence que les Etats Membres reçoivent un état de la situation financière, non pas dans le but d'inspecter ou de voir si on avait trop dépensé, mais pour que les Etats Membres puissent suivre continuellement l'état de notre trésorerie.

Nous accueillons avec plaisir tous les Représentants permanents qui veulent venir nous voir, nous demander tous les renseignements qu'ils désirent; en effet, nous gérons des fonds publics et nous sommes tenus de rendre compte de la gestion.

Il nous est impossible en 48 heures ou en quelques jours de demander des documents supplémentaires; nous n'avons ni le personnel ni l'argent; nous n'avons pas d'argent pour recruter du personnel qui ferait des heures supplémentaires, alors que le Conseil est en session.

Vous êtes venu avec vos collègues voir Monsieur Shah et Monsieur Crowther. Nous ne cachons rien mais nous ne pouvons pas. parce qu'une délégation le demande, faire des documents en cinq langues.

J'ai voulu vous dire ça gentiment, nous en reparlerons au cocktail.

J.D. AITKEN (United Kingdom): I ask your indulgence to comment on the remarks made by the Director-General. It is rather unusual and I would not normally do so, but I think it is easier if I speak now and try to respond in the same spirit as the Director-General's intervention.

First of all, I should like to explain the reasons why our intervention covered the areas that it did. The agenda item looks at the financial situation and future prospects. Given the structure and calendar of our meetings, we do not think it is unreasonable to look ahead, if only briefly, to 1990/91. As far as concerns the other request for Information it may be helpful if I explain the reason that we asked for this, and asked for it to be given to the Membership as a whole. These are items which are generated normally and which contain a high content of tabular Information -figures, rather than a verbal presentation which means that it is not high in translation costs. By having this information it enables us to shape our interventions better so we do not ask unnecessary questions and make unnecessary comments.

We also feel that if we have this Information we can better contribute to the work of the Organization and the task of the Director-General, and certainly as far as my country is concerned there is no question of harassment - I may have got the translation wrongly - but there is a genuine desire to try to contribute and participate in the process and to try to do so in an economical manner. This is why we feel that if we have the documents in advance and we get the particular information we can make a more useful contribution.

The meeting rose at 17.45 hours.

La séance est levée à 17 h 45.

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.45 horas.

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ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 94/PV/3

Ninety-fourth Session

Quatre-vingt-quatorzième session

94º período de sesiones

THIRD PLENARY MEETING
TROISIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
TERCERA SESION PLENARIA

(16 November 1988)

The Third Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.45 hours

Lassaad Ben Osman, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La troisième séance plénière est ouverte 19 h 45,

sous la présidence de Lassaad Ben Osman, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la Tercera 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. Je souhaiterais faire une remarque préliminaire, à savoir que, dans nos discussions, nous évitions les considérations d'ordre politique car la tradition veut qu'ici, nous nous en tenions à des discussions de caractère économique et technique - surtout si ces considérations touchent les chefs d'Etats Membres - afin de maintenir un esprit constructif et de concorde et de préserver la sérénité de nos débats.

Cela étant, nous reprenons la discussion sur le point 12.

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

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

IV. ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS (continuación)

12. Financial Position of the Organization (continued)

12. Situation financière de l'Organisation (suite)

12. Situación financiera de la Organización (continuación)

12.1 Financial Situation and Future Prospects (continued)

12.1 Situation financière et perspectives (suite)

12.1 Situación financiera y perspectivas futuras (continuación)

12.2 Consequences of the Financial Situation and Possible Measures to Ensure Implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget 1988-89 (continued)

12.2 Incidences de la situation financière et mesures éventuelles prendre pour assurer l'exécution du Programme de travail et budget pour 1988-89 (suite)

12.2 Consecuencias de la situación financiera y posibles medidas para asegurar la ejecución del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1988-89 (continuación)

Juan NUIRY SÁNCHEZ (Coba): Mucho agradecemos, Sr. Presidente, poder consumir el primer turno de la mañana, pues de este modo nos ha sido posible observar todo el desarrollo sobre este importante tema discutido y analizado en el día de ayer y confirmar aún más nuestros criterios; pero antes, hablemos también sobre el tema. Nuestra delegación no podría dejar de agradecer, en primer lugar al Sr. Crowther, por su presentación breve y resumida de la información financiera de la agrupación de la Organización hasta el día 11 de noviembre actual, así como la intervención especial del Director General puntualizando y situando aún más la extremada situación financiera de la FAO.

Hemos analizado los estados comparativos de años anteriores en cuanto a pagos pendientes, y nunca antes, esos atrasos habían influido tan negativamente en la realización de las actividades de la FAO. Y esto se debe al peso específico que tiene la contribución de un sólo país que ha propiciado la pérdida del equilibrio y por tanto, la Organización se enfrenta a reducciones, recortes, cancelaciones, aplazamientos y todo tipo de ajustes que le ha impuesto la falta de liquidez.

Para los países en desarrollo que tanto dependen de la asistencia de la FAO es de honda preocupación que puedan afectarse aún más los programas y actividades que respondan a nuestras exigencias actuales. Queremos dejar definido que mi Delegación se opondrá a mayores recortes en el Programa aprobado por la Conferencia de 1987. Y ante ello, reiteramos nuestra aprobación al Director General a fin de que pueda concertar préstamos confiando tanto en su honestidad como en su capacidad y experiencia así como la de sus colaboradores para que resulten lo menos gravosos para el futuro de la Organización.

Todos los aquí reunidos somos representantes de países soberanos agrupados en esta prestigiosa Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura, que cuenta con más de cuarenta años de servicio a la humanidad. Desde aquel 16 de octubre de 1945, la FAO ininterrumpidamente ha luchado entre otros objetivos por erradicar el hambre y la desnutrición en los países más necesitados de Africa, Asia y América Latina y el Caribe ganando cada día más prestigio. El no pretender dejar de oír todas estas voces que han expresado su preocupación y posición, es no querer oír el clamor de la mayor parte de la humanidad. Se ha escuchado de una forma u otra, tal vez con distintos matices pero con una única fuerza y preocupación, la actual crisis financiera de la FAO, señalando la misma sostenida responsabilidad, o tal vez mejor dicho el mismo responsable.

Ayer oímos las voces de los pueblos y también oímos la respuesta a los pueblos y esta respuesta fue otra vez la incertidumbre y la imprecisión; la misma no fue una respuesta económica; fue una

respuesta política pero de la política del "big stick". Se vuelve a estar de espaldas a las necesidades de los pueblos, a la realidad en que vivimos. ¿Qué hay detrás de todo esto?

Pero los tiempos cambian y aunque los poderosos puedan creerse más poderosos y creer más pobres a los pobres, lo cierto es que la mentalidad es otra. Entendemos que aquí se analizan cosas más serias que cumplir con una obligación del pago de 25 millones de pesos. Esto no puede responderse con frases de cliché. Ponerse de espaldas a los pueblos que han expresado su condena a tal medida en el día de ayer, repito, es ponerse de espaldas a la realidad de hoy. Todo lo demás es sofisma.

Finalmente, Sr. Presidente, si el día 8 de noviembre nos hubiéramos encontrado con nuestro colega el Embajador Bula Hoyos, le hubiéramos aconsejado muy respetuosamente, por la experiencia acumulada que tenemos de treinta años, que hubiera dedicado sus nobles rezos a mejores causas.

Atif Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (Original language Arabic): In the name of Allah the Merciful and the Compassionate, we are pained and very worried indeed because the present crisis of our Organization will leave deeply profound and negative implications in the long run which will obviously harm the developing countries which depend so much on the technical assistance of this pioneering organization and in the field of food and agriculture.

If we look at the details of this crisis, we are bound to say that a great part of the responsibility for this crisis is because of the attitude of the greatest contributor to the United Nations system as a whole. We have tried more than once, and more than once have we failed, to discover the main reasons which incite this superpower to adopt such behaviour vis-à-vis our Organization. This is strange and hard behaviour indeed. It has not been applied to other United Nations specialist agencies.

Countries which up to now have not paid their contributions in full or those who paid part of their contributions all fall in the category of developing countries. I am talking here, Sir, about countries wallowing in a sea of problems, of economic and financial problems, which do away with all their efforts towards development and growth. These countries can be excused, temporarily at least, especially as they are making strenuous efforts towards paying their contributions due to this Organization. Maybe the superpower has a reason which it does not want to reveal, but what amazes us, what astounds us, really is that it refuses categorically any solution towards the end of this crisis - like the authority to borrow or to obtain credit and bank facilities.

What is the possible solution? The Director-General has adopted a series of vigorous measures. He has made cuts and slow-downs in the programme which have not been reflected only at the level of technical programmes but also to a great extent, to a harsh extent, on the very morale of the staff of this Organization without exception which in turn has led to an exodus of some of the staff members.

We would like here to confirm that savings cannot be the price to pay in terms of our Organization, of our know-how and of our experts who constitute the very backbone of our activities. We have talked to the Director-General on various past occasions and also through the Council. We have asked him to take some time and think the matter over because this was no way to solve the crisis. We were gratified yesterday to hear the Director-General confirming to us that such cuts will be discontinued.

We are amongst the proponents of change, breaking the status quo. This is specifically what we are doing now, as you are well aware. We are doing so without detracting from our dignity. We support the idea of slow, gradual and reasonable change. We are definitely against change for the mere sake of having change. We are against the policy of weakening our organization or detracting from our dignity. This is something we cannot accept or support.

I hope, through you and through Council, that the distinguished representative from the United States will shoulder the responsibility of helping us by looking again into this difficult equation. Maybe, because of her social status and political position, she can do so, and enable us to find a solution without any dissent or confrontation, especially when this Organization is shouldering a very lofty, noble and hallowed responsibility. It is a responsibility of feeding the people and avoiding famine.

All our sacred religions have stated clearly that food should be given without detracting from the dignity of those who ask for it. Allah Almighty in the Holy Koran said "Do not push away those who ask for help, and speak all the time about the wealth that God has given you".

Paul R. BRYDEN (Australia): Firstly, may I express my delegation's pleasure to be working once more under your able guidance. Also, our congratulations go to our three Vice-Chairmen on their election. In line with the guidelines for our debate in Council I will be brief.

As far as concerns arrears we call on all Member States to honour their obligations in full and promptly. We are encouraged by announcements made by a number of delegations of efforts made to make at least partial payments. My delegation calls on all other delegations to make clear to their national authorities the gravity of the situation at FAO, and the need to step up efforts both unilaterally and through bilateral channels to address the arrears problem.

Regarding future budgets, my delegation supports the view of the Federal Republic of Germany that proposed spending should reflect what is likely to be received - a point made by Australia at the last Conference. If the draft budget for the next biennium is once again premised on full contributions against prior knowledge of large shortfalls we will find it difficult to support. In this regard the call by the United Kingdom delegation for an explanation of the rationale for cuts made to date, namely, what are the priorities determined by management, is supported. In a sense we are having a rerun of debates last year on the need for Members to be involved in priority setting. Perhaps if the draft Programme of Work and Budget, premised on full contributions, were also to include an indication of priorities that must be done, and priorities that shall be done if funds permit, then the budget setting process could attract the widest support, unlike at the last Conference where four members voted against and seven abstained. This would also meet the wishes of the Director-General and Members that it need not be a negative growth budget but also a proposal to address the financial realities.

My delegation reaffirms its opposition to borrowing. However it is done there will be interest to pay and a further set of complexities to manage. Programme cuts and adjustments are the prudent ways - ask any Member with a debt problem. I would also notice that the circumstances in which authority was granted by Conference was far less dramatic, and yet Conference expressed some caution concerned with such a move. We commend the secretariat for their handling of the financial crisis. Of course, they are not alone in facing such difficulties. Many Members have real problems (including my own country) and are facing difficult and painful decisions in cutting programmes. We support the use of foreign exchange cover. Perhaps when the results of the operations are clearer the function of the Special Reserve Account might be reviewed - given that it was originally a device to address such issues.

A point of clarification - mention has been made of the Camberley Group's silence on the financial crisis. The Group was not established to examine financial issues. It arose from a sheer desire to improve and strengthen FAO and its activity well predates the current crisis. The Geneva Group is the donor forum for such financial discussions. The Finance Committee, the Council and Conference are the organs of FAO to discuss finances. To criticize or link ideas for reform of FAO with the arrears problem is, in my view, misleading.

We support the Canadian call for information such as appeared in document C 87/11/41 on appropriation and expenditure to be made available to the wider membership beyond the Programme and Finance Committees. Finally, I appeal for continuation, or, indeed restoration, of harmony in our debate on this issue. Criticizing the largest contributor may be a strong, almost overwhelming, temptation but in reality as we all know the situation is more complex than a single Council debate can resolve. Perhaps if the delegation of the largest contributor could report back to its authorities that FAO is determined to survive and adjust, and remains worthy of full support we may do more good than any amount of public castigation.

Saikou SABALLY (Gambia): I express the delight of the Cambian delegation to see you in the chair once again and we congratulate the three Vice-Chairmen on their successful election yesterday.

In the same vein, I should like to express my gratitude to Mr. Crowther and the Director-General for the very strong way they have presented the financial situation of our Organization. I listened to their presentations very carefully and realized that one consolation I had yesterday was when the Director-General indicated that the Organization is not in an "emergency ward". That was indeed a consolation because I was quite nervous. The more I heard from the presentations the more worried I became. I thought we were really in very serious trouble. Of course, I realized that there was consolation, but having heard the different interventions and having recognized the magnitude and level of the crisis I began to hear the siren of the ambulance taking the patients to the hospital. We should try to do something about that situation.

As you can see in the Report, Gambia has a few arrears to pay. However, I am delighted to inform the Director-General that before I came to Rome this amount had already been deposited with the

Bank of The Gambia. The Governor of the Central Bank has been given the necessary instructions to remit this amount to Rome as quickly as possible. Like most developing countries, we have balance of payments problems. I wish to make one more pledge that once I get back to Banjul I will take up the matter with the Governor of the Central Bank in order to give it topmost priority.

I should like to make a passionate plea because the magnitude of the crisis is very serious. The more I listen to the interventions the more I believe that unfortunately we still have a fighting mood, with confrontation and provocation. This will not solve our problems. We should understand that politics is over and should be set aside. Politics, confrontation and provocation should be substituted by peace, harmony and reconciliation. The elections are over. We have all done what we thought was right at the time, however, what is important and what is significant now is the Organization - FAO.

Let me appeal to everybody in this room, please do not let this Organization die. If this Organization dies it is perhaps not anyone of us in this room who is going to suffer and be a direct victim as a result of the demise of this very important Organization. It will be the several million poor and small farmers who are going to suffer. We have an obligation to protect those people, that is why we are here. We are given the trust and confidence of the public and in order to carry out that trust and confidence you must be mindful and sensitive of the conditions of those millions of poor farmers.

I should like to make a very strong plea to everybody to try to pay their contributions, and in particular to the United States. Everyone of us would like to appeal to them to see this as a fundamental obligation, to try and fulfill that fundamental obligation and to try and pay their contribution in order to rescue and save this very important Organization. That is an appeal coming from a very small Minister representing that part of the world that enjoys the best and most effective contributions of this Organization. If this Organization dies, Africa (more than any part of the world) will suffer most. Therefore, I take this opportunity in the name of all the small African farmers to appeal to everybody, in particular the United States, to realize the significance. It is not the election of the Director-General, that was over last November, we all did what was right at the time, we all believe in democracy. We saw what the majority wanted to do and they did it. I can say that I was not among the majority and everybody knew that. However, I accepted the verdict of the majority. I knew that the majority was right and therefore the minority had to follow. The Director-General will undoubtedly carry out all sorts of reforms and readjustments. The last thing he will do is to retrench himself. If the Organization does not have funds he will continue to make cuts which will affect personnel, programmes, training courses and operations that are fundamental to the effective implementation of the objectives of our Organization. This problem must be seen as a problem of the Organization and not as a problem concerning the Director-General himself, or Mr. Edouard Saouma. It is the problem for FAO and the poor and small farmers of the world. We have an obligation to them and in their name, once more, I would appeal to the United States to try and rescue this very important Organization.

Angel BARBERO MARTIN (España): Permítame, señor Presidente, que, como es la primera vez que hacemos uso de la palabra en este Consejo, le felicite por su presencia ante nosotros y felicite también a los vicepresidentes nombrados, así como, por supuesto, al Director General, que tan bien y con tanta realidad y tanta medida (en la medida de lo posible, la que el corazón le ha dejado) nos ha expuesto la situación en que se encuentra la FAO. Y sobre esa situación, como los países que hasta ahora han intervenido, nos gustaría añadir nuestras opiniones.

Señor Presidente, nuestro país es consciente de que, como toda obra humana, el sistema operativo, la eficacia de las actuaciones habituales y extraordinarias que realiza la FAO, se pueden mejorar, se deben mejorar, en aras de un completo cumplimiento de los objetivos que tiene encomendados. Pero no entendemos cómo se puede llegar a esa necesaria evolución en medio de los problemas que ha originado y que va a seguir originando la demora en el pago de cuotas de ciertos países; cómo se puede llegar a esa evolución en medio de las dificultades que supone funcionar con unos presupuestos condicionados por una mano, una sola mano, que cierra y abre un grifo a voluntad propia y suplanta así a las demás voluntades, de cuya conjunción deben ser fruto esos presupuestos.

También opinamos que no podemos paragonar, como alguna vez se ha hecho aquí, las demoras de pagos de ciertos países que tienen reales dificultades financieras para cumplir sus pagos con otras de países cuyas únicas dificultades son la falta de voluntad para hacerlo. Si no creemos, señor Presidente, en la necesidad de la cooperación multilateral en el mundo; si pensamos que un organismo como la FAO no es necesario, esta discusión que estamos manteniendo ahora está fuera de lugar, estamos todos aquí de sobra. Pero nos hallamos todos aquí porque creemos precisamente lo contrario. Eso quiere decir que ninguno de nosotros ignoramos que cada vez que un programa o proyecto de FAO se reduce o

se suprime; que una información estadística o referente a una situación catastrófica no llega un viaje de un experto no se realiza por culpa de esas dificultades financieras, existe en alguna parte, o en muchas partes del mundo, un grupo de pocos o, a veces, miles o millones de seres humanos -que, en definitiva, son seres humanos; no importa su número en ese caso- que van a cumplir fatalmente su destino de hambre, incultura y marginación.

Nosotros, señor Director, vuelvo a repetir, queremos una FAO más eficaz, más transparente y, también, más fuerte en todos los sentidos. Y hacia ahí es a donde creemos que debe ir la revisión prevista en sus estructuras. Asimismo, estamos también a favor de establecer medidas que eviten tener que reponer el Fondo Especial de Reserva, que eviten los riesgos de las fluctuaciones de la principal moneda que compone el Fondo. Nos ha complacido también escuchar en las palabras del Director General que se va a evitar el tener que afrontar por parte de los países el pago de intereses devenidos de los posibles préstamos a los que esta situación podría conducir y que seguramente va a conducir.

Por último, señor Presidente, compartimos la satisfacción expresada por otros países ante al anuncio de la presencia, como observador, de la Unión Soviética. Pensamos que augura una presencia futura más plena en esta Organización.

Dong QINGSONG (China) (Original language Chinese): Mr. Chairman, I would like to congratulate you and say how pleased we are to see you chairing this meeting and to congratulate the Vice Chairmen on their appointment. I would also like to thank the Director-General for his succinct remarks on this subject.

We have heard interventions by many delegations. Now I would like to touch upon three points concerning the financial situation of FAO. First, we should thank those Member Nations, especially the developing Member Nations, who have paid their contributions in full, or in part, even when experiencing domestic financial constraints. However, as some Member States have not paid their contributions in time FAO entered 1988 with a deficit of US \$ 47 million and met with serious financial difficulties. To overcome these difficulties the Director-General had to slow down the expenditure by US \$ 20 million and authorize the forward contracts for the purchase of lire. These are desirable measures to help alleviate FAO's financial crisis and protect it against the possible losses due to exchange rate fluctuation. We extend our support to these measures adopted by the Director-General. However, we are concerned with the impact of some measures and the implementation of approved programmes. Therefore we hope that measures to be taken in 1989 will not further encroach upon the interests of FAO and its Member States.

Secondly, it is a known fact that FAO's financial constraints have seriously affected its programmes which has consequently affected the interests of the Organization and its Member States. Therefore it is our hope that all Member States, especially the major contributor will honour their financial obligations without fail. Only in this way can we enable FAO to maintain its financial vitality and prevent its programmes approved by the last Session of the Conference from being further jeopardized. It is also our hope that one should not precondition payment of contributions with reforms because any attempt to link them together is not an ideal solution to the existing problems and will not yield the envisaged results.

Finally, China, as always, will pay its 1989 contribution as early as possible.

Hanno HALINEN (Finland): Mr. Chairman, let me also express how happy my delegation is to see you chairing this meeting and my congratulations to the elected Vice Chairmen of the meeting also.

Since my country, as one of the Nordic countries, was mentioned by the Director-General yesterday as an example of those paying their dues early and in full I would like to touch on one pragmatic point in this context.

Let me start by saying that there seems to be a unanimous view on the point that all Member States should pay their assessments fully and in time. The question is, how can we enhance and guarantee the widest possible response to this common appeal, or rather obligation.

We strongly re-emphasize here that the obligation of every Member State, whether it is the biggest country or the smallest, is the same. We have been informed of prognosis and measures concerning the year 1989 which seems to be of crucial importance to the Organization. I understand that the Finance and Programme Committees will discuss the outline of the Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium, 1990/91, in January 1989. In the situation described yesterday and

today it seems inevitable that they have to address themselves also to the year 1989. This meeting as scheduled at the moment will coincide with the time that the first assessed payments for the next year are expected to be made. Perhaps it would be useful, among the many ways and means to encourage early payments by Member States, to consider in that context organizing a meeting or meetings, as happened twice during last spring, with all the Roman representatives. That would provide the possibility for all of us to share the latest information on the financial situation, clear some possible misunderstandings connected with it, and consider further the views of the management and the Member States on this issue and hopefully lead to an increased and speedy inflow of contributions.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I would like to assure you that the Nordic countries again next year will do. their utmost to make their full assessed payments to FAO in January 1989.

Roberto E.E. DALTON (Argentina): Señor Presidente, permítame expresar nuestra satisfacción por contar, una vez más, con su reconocida capacidad para conducir nuestros debates. De igual forma, hacemos llegar nuestras felicitaciones a los distinguidos delegados que ayer por la mañana elegimos para la función de vicepresidentes del Consejo. Deseo también dar la bienvenida a la decisión de la Unión de Repúblicas Socialistas Soviéticas de participar en nuestros debates como observador. Esperamos que éste sea el primer paso hacia su participación plena en los trabajos de nuestra Organización.

Señor Presidente, agradecemos al señor Crowther la concreta y profesional introducción al Tema 12 de nuestra agenda, así como la calidad de la documentación preparada por Secretaría para nuestra consideración. Hemos recibido también comentarios y obsevaciones del Director General que constituyen, sin duda, un valioso aporte a nuestros debates.

El nudo de la cuestión es la situación creada por el nivel de atrasos en las contribuciones de los Estados Miembros, sin precedentes en la historia de la FAO. Esta anómala situación forzó cortes presupuestarlos de 25 y 20 millones de dólares en años sucesivos, limitando, postergando o cancelando programas, publicaciones y actividades de nuestra Organización. Eso, señor Presidente, es grave hoy y lo será más aun en el futuro, si la situación actual se prolonga en el tiempo.

Antes de seguir exponiendo mis puntos de vista sobre esta delicada cuestión, me apresuro a señalar que, tal como consta en el documento CL 94/LIM/1, ml país acaba de hacer efectivo en pago que, si bien modesto, trae el mensaje de que la República Argentina, aun en el marco de la más grave crisis de su historia, hace esfuerzos para regularizar su situación. Nuestros atrasos no son productos de una decisión política.

Señor Presidente, a lo largo del debate sobre el Tema 12, hemos tocado la cuestión del nivel del Presupuesto para el próximo bienio. En ese marco, algunas delegaciones han expresado la necesidad de que nuestra Organización viva dentro de sus medios, pidiendo al Director General que tenga en cuenta esta circunstancia. Por cierto que coincidimos con ese principio de sana administración, en un todo aplicable a la vida de la FAO cuando en el pasado los pagos se realizaban con puntualidad y la curva de los atrasos sufría pequeñas y predecibles fluctuaciones. En otras palabras, se podía conocer el monto de los ingresos y aun el ritmo de los pagos con poco margen de error. Pero ésa no es la situación actual. Según el documento CL 94/LIM/1, las sumas pendientes de pago, entre cuotas corrientes y cuotas atrasadas ascienden a más de 140 millones de dólares, un nivel de incumplimiento sin precedentes. De ese nivel, algo más de 103 millones constituyen el atraso del mayor contribuyente. En ese marco, cabe que nos preguntemos cuáles son los medios dentro de los que nuestra Organización debe moverse, a los que debe ajustar su Presupuesto. Mi Delegación entiende que los medios de que dispone toda organización internacional están dados por la suma de las contribuciones de los Estados Miembros según la escala de cuotas en vigor. Por ello nos complace oír que el Director General no prevé nuevos cortes presupuestarlos.

Por último, señor Presidente, una breve referencia a la situación de la Secretaría, una cuestión que no debemos olvidar. Los cortes presupuestarlos han afectado gravemente a la actividad de nuestra Organización y han tenido también un serio impacto en la situación del personal, con niveles salariales estancados, puestos congelados, subsidios de escolaridad fuertemente reducidos, etc. Me pregunto si tenemos conciencia de que es ramos muy próximos a transformar a la FAO en un empleador no confiable, que en el futuro tendrá serla: dificultades para frenar el éxodo que ya se insinua y para la incorporación de nuevo personal manteniendo el alto nivel profesional actual.

Douramane MOUSSA (Niger): La délégation nigérienne que j'ai l'honneur de conduire, joint sa voix aux nombreux orateurs qui l'ont précédée pour se féliciter de l'honneur qui vous a été fait en vous désignant pour présider notre conseil.

Je félicite également les Vice-Présidents élus ainsi que le Directeur général de la FAO et ses collaborateurs pour nous avoir exposé avec toute la sérénité voulue la situation financière de notre Organisation.

Il me revient de vous assurer que nous sommes tout disposés à continuer de contribuer à un échange franc des idées, des avis et recommandations qui vont dans le sens du redéploiement des activités de la FAO.

Tous ceux qui ont parcouru les campagnes rurales ont pu apprécier l'oeuvre combien importante conduite par des experts de notre Organisation en harmonie avec les cadres nationaux, pour apporter leur appui technique et leur savoir-faire combien nécessaires aux petits agriculteurs en vue d'améliorer leurs conditions économique et sociale.

C'est au nom de ces populations que j'exhorte toutes les délégations des pays membres qui ne l'ont pas encore fait à oeuvrer auprès de leur gouvernement respectif afin que la FAO puisse disposer dans les meilleurs délais des contributions financières combien nécessaires à la poursuite de son assistance et de son appui aux populations rurales, conformément à nos engagements réciproques.

Malgré nos difficultés financières, notre pays, le Niger, a procédé depuis le mois de mai 1988 au règlement intégral de sa très modeste contribution pour l'année 1988. Nous tenons à la disposition du département financier de la FAO les informations nécessaires afin qu'il procède aux rectifications des documents financiers que nous examinons en ce moment, après les vérifications d'usage.

Un consensus s'était dégagé depuis la précédente Conférence générale, à savoir que chaque pays membre reconnaissait - de même que la Direction générale de la FAO - l'opportunité d'une évaluation de l'oeuvre grandiose de notre Organisation, le recentrage de son mandat au vu malheureusement de l'aggravation de la crise alimentaire mondiale et, comme corollaire, la redéfinition des voles et moyens pouvant lui assurer une meilleure efficacité sur le terrain, aux côtés des populations démunies. Un mandat clair avec un calendrier précis ont été attribués à des comités spécifiques qui sont à pied d'oeuvre. Nous nous devons de nous conformer aux décisions de notre organe suprême et de lui laisser toute liberté de réflexion. Il va de soi que tout document de travail qui pourrait tant soit peu les aider sera mis à la disposition des membres qui le solliciteraient; ils doivent disposer de toute l'autonomie et de toute la neutralité que requiert une telle tâche. Nous sommes sûrs que la bonne foi pourrait prévaloir et que les débats que nous avons inaugurés depuis le début de notre session seront plus sereins une fois que les éclairages requis auront été apportés par ces Comités, l'année prochaine.

Pour le moment, la gravité de la situation et ses répercussions sur de nombreux programmes de terrain nous dictent un peu plus de sagesse et de sérénité. Ne tuons pas le peu d'espoir qui reste aux déshérités de ce monde après avoir déjà, à travers des mesures draconiennes du FMI et de la Banque mondiale, compromis les possibilités d'une réelle relance économique.

Nous avons, par le respect des dispositions d'un acte constitutif que nous avons avalisé, élu un Directeur général qui est, dès lors, notre Directeur général à tous. Nous nous devons de l'aider et de travailler ensemble; ne soyons pas trop pressés; faisons ce que nous avons toujours fait ensemble jusqu'à ce que les études que nous avons commencées nous assurent que quelque chose de meilleur pourrait être fait; mettons-y les moyens, la bonne volonté, la patience et la tolérance.

Mlle Faouzia BOUMAÏZA (Algérie): Je commencerai par vous souhaiter la bienvenue parmi nous. Ma délégation est heureuse de vous voir présider à nouveau le Conseil car, à travers vous, c'est un peu le Maghreb tout entier qui est à l'honneur. Je voudrais également féliciter les autres membres élus du Bureau; ce sont des personnalités représentatives et hautement qualifiées.

Ma délégation se joint à ceux qui ont exprimé le souhait de voir siéger l'URSS à nos côtés et elle espère aussi que la Palestine sera bientôt un nouvel Etat Membre parmi nous.

Bien entendu, ma délégation a examiné les documents pertinents CL 94/4 et CL 94/LIM/1. Nous avons écouté attentivement la présentation faite par M. Crowther et les commentaires du Directeur général. Nous avons également écouté les interventions des orateurs qui nous ont précédés et notre sentiment est que la situation financière de la FAO demeure critique.

En effet, si pour l'instant les projections pour la fin de l'année sont moins sombres qu'on ne pouvait le craindre en début d'exercice, c'est tout simplement parce que des mesures ont été prises, mesures que nous avons beaucoup de mal à accepter car il s'agit de coupes budgétaires qui, en définitive, ne sont pas bénéfiques aux pays du tiers monde. Il y a eu aussi la réaction positive des pays européens et de nombreux pays du tiers monde qui ont fait d'énormes sacrifices pour régler leur

contribution. Parmi ces pays, il y a le mien qui, attaché à l'Organisation, attaché aux valeurs du multilatéralisme, a tenu à honorer ses engagements et a payé sa contribution rubis sur l'ongle, comme l'a dit le Directeur général.

C'est pourquoi nous sommes déçus, après l'intervention de notre amie des Etats-Unis, de voir que la position de ce grand pays demeure inchangée et qu'il persiste dans le refus de verser sa contribution. Nous espérions que, lors de cette réunion du Conseil, il y aurait eu un élément positif. Or, il y a un an exactement, lorsque nous discutons de la situation financière et des réformes de la FAO dans cette même salle - les délégués qui sont ici sont presque les mêmes et peuvent en témoigner - ma délégation avait dit que si nous n'étions pas a priori contre les idées de réforme, nous ne partagions pas non plus l'idée de la réforme qui était dans l'esprit de certains pays occidentaux. A l'époque, on avait très clairement laissé entendre que le versement des contributions était lié aux réformes qui seraient entreprises à la FAO. Eh bien, depuis un an, l'examen de ces réformes a lieu; nous nous sommes rendus à la position de la plupart des pays occidentaux puisque nous avons accepté la plupart de leurs idées et les propositions contenues dans le document CL 94/4. Le rapport intérimaire montre que nous sommes en voie d'accepter la plupart des propositions occidentales. On s'étonne alors - et l'on est en droit de s'étonner - de ce refus persistant de ce pays de payer sa contribution à la FAO.

Bien sûr, il y a d'autres pays membres qui n'ont pas payé leur contribution. Mais cet état de fait ne découle pas d'une prise de position politique. Il y a une distinction à faire. Voilà notre sentiment face à cette situation. Nous souhaitons vivement que tous les pays membres versent leur contribution. Nous souhaitons également que notre amie la Représentante des Etats-Unis se fasse notre interprète auprès de son gouvernement pour qu'il active le versement de ses contributions antérieures et courantes.

Antoine ESSOME (Cameroun): Monsieur le Président, la délégation du Cameroun est heureuse de vous voir présider cette 94^{ème} session du Conseil de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture dont les travaux, à notre avis, revêtent une importance capitale pour la raison essentielle que nos décisions sur le problème crucial des contraintes financières que connaît l'Organisation vont avoir, à court ou moyen terme, des répercussions directes sur la gestion et les activités de cette institution.

Je saisis cette occasion pour adresser mes vives félicitations aux trois vice-présidents élus et pour saluer avec la chaleur qu'elle mérite la délégation l'Union des Républiques socialistes soviétiques qui participe à nos travaux en qualité d'observateur. Notre souhait est de voir ce grand pays se joindre à la grande famille de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture et prendre la place qui lui revient en son sein.

Nous avons suivi avec la plus grande attention l'excellente présentation par M. Crowther du sujet que nous examinons et toutes les précisions fort pertinentes que le Directeur général a bien voulu y apporter.

Comme l'ont si bien souligné les orateurs qui m'ont précédé, la situation financière de notre Organisation est très préoccupante du fait des problèmes de trésorerie qui procèdent surtout des lenteurs enregistrées dans le rythme des versements de leurs contributions par les Etats Membres.

Cette situation, qui se traduit par un déficit budgétaire important dès le début de l'exercice en cours, a déjà conduit le Directeur général à opérer à contre-cœur des coupes sombres dans le budget par le gel des postes vacants, par la mise en veilleuse d'importants programmes d'intérêt capital pour certains pays, la suppression de beaucoup de publications, et j'en passe.

A ce rythme, de telles mesures de restriction, que nous avons accueillies avec consternation, vont à coup sûr affecter le sens même de la mission que nous avons confiée à l'Organisation, à savoir libérer l'humanité de la faim.

La force de l'Organisation réside aussi dans sa capacité de relever le défi qui se pose à elle. Les difficultés financières de l'Organisation nous interpellent tous. C'est donc ensemble que nous devons rechercher les mesures visant à doter la FAO de ressources financières nécessaires et suffisantes à la réalisation de son programme.

La présence de tous dans cette salle, et les discussions importantes qui se sont développées autour de cette question, montrent à l'évidence que nous restons attachés à la coopération multilatérale, et que vraisemblablement tout sera fait par les uns et les autres pour apporter une solution satisfaisante à ce problème.

Nous nous félicitons donc de tout l'intérêt que beaucoup de pays ont marqué à ce problème de la situation financière de l'Organisation. A ces pays qui se sont acquittés intégralement de leurs obligations, nous adressons nos vifs encouragements.

Et c'est sans doute le lieu d'exprimer notre reconnaissance au pays hôte pour sa contribution supplémentaire de 30 millions de dollars destinés aux programmes de coopération technique.

Pour sa part le Gouvernement camerounais, en dépit de la grave crise qui n'a pas épargné notre pays, et malgré les mesures draconiennes prises pour réduire le train de vie de l'État et imposer des sacrifices à son peuple, n'a pas manqué d'honorer ses obligations. C'est d'ailleurs dans cet esprit que nos contributions aux ressources de la FAO au titre de l'année 1988 ont été réglées dans leur intégralité, avec un acompte sur celles de 1989.

M. le Président, la délégation du Cameroun se joint aux autres délégations et réitère l'appel lancé à tous les pays membres de l'Organisation pour tout mettre en oeuvre afin d'accélérer le processus de déblocage et de versement des contributions courantes et des arriérés dus à l'Organisation dans l'intérêt bien compris des Etats Membres, mais surtout pour aider la FAO à apporter aux masses rurales des pays en développement toute l'assistance qu'elles sont en droit d'attendre.

Namukolo MUKDTU (Zambia): Thank you for giving me the floor to make some contributions on this very important subject of the FAO budget and the financial problems affecting our Organization. It is a pleasure seeing you in the Chair and my delegation takes this opportunity to congratulate your three vice-chairmen on their election to assist you.

My delegation also takes note with tremendous delight of the presence in an observer capacity of the USSR delegation. It is our fervent hope that the USSR will soon enjoy membership of the FAO and thus complete FAO's intended universality. The USSR membership would probably assist in the future in alleviating to some extent FAO budgetary problems.

My delegation appeals to all member nations to pay their contributions. All member nations who have not paid the assessed contributions are as guilty of disrupting the operations of the FAO as the single member nation who seems to be repeatedly attacked. Every country is capable of paying their contributions; how the payment is effected is a matter of a given country's priority settings. Member countries should give adequate priority to the payment of FAO assessed contributions. Our condemnation of the biggest contributor would be very strong today if we had all paid our shares of contributions.

My delegation is extremely alarmed by the poor cash flow situation of the FAO. This cash flow situation becomes more critical when seen against the background of the enormity of the problems facing the world today; problems of the calamities such as floods, such as locusts and rinderpest outbreaks, constantly calling for enormous assistance from the international community with FAO being expected to take the lead in responding timely. Under the circumstances my delegation pleads, appeals to all member nations to pay their assessed contributions.

With regard to the need by FAO to borrow money to meet its immediate obligations, my delegation would be sympathetic to the idea if the borrowing is for bridging finance. Bridging finance should therefore be borrowed under the assurance of the receipt of funds from its member countries sooner or later. Under such circumstances FAO should negotiate for as low interest rates as possible and that the particular activity for which finances are required is deemed to be truly urgent and critical.

A number of issues have been touched upon by other delegations. What I want to speak to briefly is the role of FAO in the structural adjustment programmes of various countries. My delegation feels that the role of FAO in the structural adjustment programmes should be left to that of the FAO of mobilizing funds for developing countries and for identifying markets for produce from these countries. As a general principle, we should restrict FAO to each area of expertise and to let other organizations carry on their own specialised functions. In this way, we shall execute tasks timely and with excellence.

The financial problems of the third world arise from failure to find new markets for our produce, failure to attract really good prices, aggravated on the other hand by developed countries' desires to keep inflation low, desires to generate more revenue from the exports to developing countries and for their desire to minimize inputs by developing artificial substitutes.

I hope that our protracted debate on the FAO financial situation will not discourage the Soviet Union from joining the FAO at some future date.

V.k. SIBAL (India): At the outset, Mr. Chairman, I am very happy to see you in the Chair and guiding our deliberations. We would also like to congratulate your Vice Chairmen on their elections. We would also like to join the previous speakers in the warm welcome accorded to the observer from the USSR, a country with which India has very strong and deep relations.

Thank you for giving me the floor to enable me, as Chairman of the Group of 77 to make a statement expressing the essence of the views of the Group on this most important subject which the Group has directed me to make. I would like to apologize in advance if the statement is a bit lengthy but I hope that you will bear with me, keeping in view the nature and importance of the subject and my obligations to cover the principle views of my Group in it. In making the statement we are heartened by the awareness that many of the important elements in this statement are shared by many developed countries.

FAO's financial situation is continuing to give cause for grave concern. The Group deeply regrets the circumstances of the non-payment of contributions which have brought FAO to its present pass. The beneficiaries of FAO services, mostly developing countries, have suffered grievous cuts in such services valued at over US dollars 45 million over the last two years and there seem to be no indications in sight which would signal the end of the present situation which is marked by serious anxiety and concern. The belt-tightening measures taken by the Organization and the generous assistance of Italy have kept FAO and its important programmes afloat without damage to its core capacities and activities and for that we deeply appreciate the efficiency and prudence exercised by the management of the FAO in making the painful choices that the Director General was compelled to make in this situation and applaud the host government for its assistance.

The Group recognizes that FAO's financial agony has gone on too long. We believe that there is little scope to continue the cut and slash exercises which have been carried on for the last two years without causing serious damage to the Organization's capacity to deliver programmes. In this context, the Group would expect that while FAO may continue to pursue any economies in its operations as may be feasible without its damaging its capacities, we believe that the scope for further substantial cuts is exhausted. Other alternatives such as borrowing may also have to be and, indeed, explored and resorted to within the mandate of the Director-General to keep the Organization's core programmes going. We also believe that ways have to be found to increase FAO's activities to meet the increasing expectations from it on the part of the burgeoning populations of the world. In that context, the budgetary levels of the FAO should have a realistic relationship with its increasing responsibilities and should be adequate to address the needs which it is called upon to satisfy. The Group recognizes that the serious situation which FAO is facing is not the result of the financial imprudence or administrative inadequacies, but the outcome of the situations brought about by the non-payment of assessed contributions, particularly the outstanding dues of the largest contributor which stand at US dollars 103 million out of total outstanding of US dollars 140 million as at November 11, 1988.

We had the pleasure of listening to the distinguished delegate of the largest contributor and have noted the announcement we made about the part-payment to be made. We feel it would be helpful if complete payment were possible. We hope that the release of funds will be quick and that there will be a progression to full funding, and the framing of a plan for the payment of arrears will find fruition at a pace and in a manner which will restore FAO's financial health early.

The Group of 77 also recognizes that the assessed contributions to FAO are a constitutional obligation of the member countries and should not be the subject of negotiations. If these payments, which should be certain and predictable to enable FAO to programme and implement its services smoothly and efficiently, need to be negotiated every time, it will mean a serious and regressive setback to the multilateral system. The Group of 77 would like to place on record its strong and clear view that conditionalities should have no place in the financing of the FAO.

The Group have also noted that there are instances where the contributions by the same country to different International organizations have been made in different proportions. FAO has suffered from this. We are of the view that there should be no discrimination in such matters, particularly in respect of FAO which has dedicated itself with distinction to the pursuit of the goal of serving the poor, the hungry and the malnourished of the world.

In spite of the Group's clear view on the untenability of conditionalities on the payment of assessed contributions, the Group has been flexible and accommodating in that it agreed to a review of certain goals and operations of FAO even when the need for it was not clearly established. We have agreed to certain experimental changes in the budget process to facilitate repayment of certain contributions which, we were given to understand, would be facilitated if such an approach were adopted. However, although the process of review and change has been launched seriously, the problem of arrears has been aggravated.

We hope that the delicate package which the member countries distilled after intensive discussion will not come under pressure through disappointment arising from lack of signals supportive of those understandings. We hope that our concern will be appreciated, as also our spirit to assist all objective and serious endeavours to shape FAO and to strengthen it through change. At the same time we would expect that ways and means can be found quickly to unblock the flow of funds to the FAO.

Finally, the Group joins the Director-General in appealing to member countries, particularly the largest contributor, to pay their outstandings as soon as possible so as to enable the Organization to fulfil its mandate.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie le représentant de l'Inde pour sa déclaration et également pour la communication qu'il a faite au Conseil d'une déclaration du Groupe des 77.

Washington ZUÑIGA TRELLES (Perú): En primer lugar, debo manifestar mi completa adhesión a las declaraciones de mi Grupo. Por consiguiente, ya prácticamente no debía hacer declaraciones que ya han sido expresadas por nuestro Presidente. Sin embargo, quiero expresar la opinión de mi país en relación a este asunto.

En primer lugar, considero que la exposición hecha por el Director General ha sido muy clara en todos sus aspectos, y no solamente clara sino dramática en muchas partes debido a la erosión que viene sufriendo la ecología mundial y la agricultura, a causa de fenómenos naturales y otras debidas al hombre como son los aspectos económicos, políticos y sociales.

El tema que estamos tratando me da la impresión de que se tratara de un rompecabezas que se quiere armar sabiendo que el elemento fundamental es la base financiera. Si bien hay algunos países del Tercer Mundo que no hemos completado o que estamos atrasados en nuestros pagos, se debe como se ha expresado, no a la falta de voluntad sino a que estamos atravesando muchos de nuestros países las crisis más importantes de este siglo.

De acuerdo con todos los que han expresado su opinión, llegamos a la conclusión de que todo reside principalmente en la voluntad que tengan los Estados Unidos en pagar sus contribuciones. Yo creo que es lo fundamental.

Quizás por razones de vecindad con Colombia somos un tanto soñadores. Yo quisiera exponerles también un sueño que tuve hace algunos días. Me acosté pensando en el problema financiero de la FAO y soñé que un presidente recién electo había deseado cambiar el lugar de sus vacaciones; en vez de ir a un lugar de playas hermosas y hoteles muy elegantes, prefirió irse a un continente que sufría las consecuencias de la crisis y de grandes desventajas ecológicas. Llegó a uno de estos países y se encontró con que había una tremenda sequía.

Lo que relato no es una idea sino un sueño, y como Uds. saben, en los sueños las cosas resultan un poco raras. Al llegar a estos países, su avión se le malogró y tuvo que aterrizar en un país pobre donde requirió un poco de pan, y le dijeron que solamente le podían dar uno para cada uno de ellos. Y preguntó por qué. Porque no tenían dinero para poder importar trigo, no tenían las suficientes divisas. Bueno, pidió un poco de Coca Cola y le dijeron que tampoco había por la misma situación de que no había divisas para importar, y les dieron un pan a cada uno que no era sino la ayuda del Programa Mundial de Alimentos.

Se fue a otro país donde encontró un poco de comida pero apareció una manga de langostas que terminaron con la comida que tenían entre manos, y no les dejaron siquiera comer su hot dog a este señor y a su comitiva. Siguió caminando por el Africa y llegó, estaba tan tostado por el sol que había cambiado casi de color, llegó a la frontera de un país y le dijeron que no podía entrar porque era un hombre moreno. Era lo que se llama el Apartheid.

Pero, después de toda esta tragedia, llegó a su país, regresó, y preguntó que quién era el responsable de la situación de la agricultura de estos países. Le dijeron que era la FAO. Entonces él consultó con sus asesores que le dijeron que efectivamente era la FAO pero que no podía hacer mucho por estos países en vista de que no tenían recursos. Y él ordenó inmediatamente que se le dieran los recursos. Entonces una voz dulce femenina en un tono un tanto inocente le dijo: "Señor, pero si son 54 países los que no pagan". "Pero, hijita, yo he estado en Africa y he visto toda la tragedia de este pueblo y ¿cómo quieres exigir a estos países que paguen antes cuando nosotros debíamos dar ejemplo y pagar?" "Señor, no tenemos dinero". "Bueno, cortemos los presupuestos de las Fuerzas Armadas, por ejemplo; dejemos de fabricar algunas armas y demos los fondos correspondientes a los pueblos que lo necesitan, a la FAO para que pueda cumplir con sus programas".

Bueno, este es un sueño nada más y como en los sueños, yo aparecí metido por allí, y cuando estaba con el deseo de llamar por teléfono al Dr. Saouma y avisarle de esta novedad, de este cambio que se habla suscitado, oí las campanas de mi humilde parroquia y en eso desperté y ví que era simplemente un sueño. Yo le había dicho antes a ese señor que dijo que tenía que hacer cambios y reformas que estaba haciendo una especie de perestroika y que lo felicitaba. Ojalá que estos sueños se pudieran

hacer realidad y ojalá que muchos gobernantes pudieran visitar estos países para llevarse la impresión exacta de lo que sucede en estos países.

No sólo necesitamos de la perestroika en muchos países sino también un poco de claridad, del glasnost como se le llama hoy. ¿Por qué Estados Unidos discrimina a la FAO? ¿Acaso no se están ejecutando las acciones solicitadas por ese país con expertos y otros? Hay casos contradictorios. Se le asignan recursos, por ejemplo, a la Organización Mundial de la Salud, y no se le asignan a la FAO cuando son prácticamente programas interdependientes. Si es que no hay nutrición y no hay alimentación, van a tener que triplicar sus aportes a la Organización Mundial de la Salud.

Nosotros deseáramos que se nos explique por qué hay esta discriminación. ¿O es que hay falta de simpatía a quienes dirigen la FAO? Y si fuera cierto esto, ¿por qué ha de castigarse a los países pobres? ¿O creen los Estados Unidos que la FAO es una entidad antinorteamericana por haber criticado la equivocada política de su gobierno hacia nuestra entidad? Mi Delegación al menos, señor Presidente, siempre se ha cuidado de separar, para que no se crea que somos antinorteamericanos, pueblo y Gobierno. Siempre hemos manifestado que los pueblos son buenos. El pueblo norteamericano es admirable; pero no podemos, a veces, dejar de criticar la equivocada política de sus gobiernos, que son transitorios; el pueblo es permanente.

Quiero aprovechar también, señor Presidente, para felicitar a la Unión Soviética por enviar un observador. Mi Delegación quiere expresar su deseo de que ojalá pueda incorporarse plenamente a la FAO. Señor Presidente, quiero también solicitar a la Delegación soviética haga presente, en nombre de mi Delegación, la esperanza que tenemos en la "perestroika" soviética. Yo acabo de leer el libro escrito por el señor Gorbachov, y encuentro que lo que está realizando está de acuerdo con lo que él dice en su libro y que significa no solamente el desarrollo de su país, sino mejorar las relaciones con el mundo. Tengo mucha fe en el señor Gorbachov y creo que si se llegan a cumplir sus propósitos, bajarán los gastos en armamentos y esto se invertirá en el desarrollo de nuestros países.

Permítaseme leer un pequeño párrafo del libro del señor Gorbachov. Dice: "Mucho depende de la posición de los Estados Unidos y de todo el Occidente. Por encima de todo, depende de ellos si vamos a ser capaces de solucionar los problemas del mundo moderno y romper el bloqueo de las oportunidades existentes de desarrollo. Si tenemos éxito en establecer nuevas relaciones basadas en la igualdad y en el debido respeto por los intereses de cada uno, ¿para qué necesitaríamos la maquinaria militar existente, que fue diseñada como instrumento de la política exterior expansionists? De manera comprensible, esta maquinaria ha aumentado a través de los siglos y no es fácil destruirla de la noche a la mañana; pero estamos llegando al punto en que debe destruirse, ya que asiáticos, africanos y latinoamericanos quieren vivir como seres humanos. Estoy convencido de que los Estados Unidos y la Unión Soviética pueden contribuir mucho en la búsqueda de caminos para establecer nuevas relaciones mundiales."

Señor Presidente, me parecen admirables estos propósitos. Yo tengo fe en el futuro, señor Presidente. Creo que todos nosotros debemos apoyar estas ideas o cualesquiera otras similares que surjan en el mundo. Nuestra crisis yo creo que sólo es transitoria. Debemos tener fe en el futuro. Debemos rogar a Dios. Creo que el señor Gorbachov, por su ideología, es ateo; sin embargo, le digo que, por mis creencias religiosas, rezaré siempre por él, para que sus propósitos se cumplan y por que también sucedan perestroikas en la otra parte del mundo y estos recursos dedicados a armamentos puedan llegar a solucionar el hambre de la humanidad.

Vanrob ISARANKURA (Thailand): First of all, Mr. Chairman, I would like to associate myself with earlier speakers in welcoming you once again to the Chair, and to express my congratulations to the three Vice-Chairmen on their election.

My delegation would also like to extend our thanks to the Director-General and Mr. Crowther for giving us the very clear information on the financial position of our Organization.

On this item my delegation wishes to make a few comments. First, we are happy to inform you that my country has already paid our contribution in full. Secondly, we should like to thank all member countries who have made any kind of payment to the Organization this year. This includes Member Nations who have paid in full and all the nations who have made only a partial payment. We think to receive one dollar is better than nothing. Thirdly, we make a strong appeal to Member Nations who have made no payment at all in 1988 to pay as soon as possible in order to enable our Organization to fulfill its mandate.

Fourthly, my delegation would like to draw your attention to the fact that yesterday the Director-General informed us that this year our Organization had to make new cuts, new savings, abolition of posts, the elimination of another 50 meetings and more than 80 publications. On this

occasion, I should like to say that most of our concern is the elimination of more than 80 publications. We consider that the FAO publications provide great benefit to small and poor countries such as my country. We need them badly.

As regards this method, I believe that although the 80 publications were eliminated it does not mean that the Organization had to abolish all the posts which used to produce all those publications.

To stop publication means that some of that staff will work less. Do we want this staff to be idle? Therefore, I am ready to support the Director-General in borrowing money in order to maintain the publication for the member countries.

Finally, I should like to say that to borrow money is not the wrong thing to do - it is not a sin. We all know that the successful businessmen always borrow money to run their firms. The problem may occur concerning the utilisation of the loan. I believe strongly that the Director-General knows how to utilize the loan and to get the maximum benefit for member countries. However, my delegation hopes that all the member countries who have not paid their contribution will listen to this appeal.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie tous les Honorables Délégués qui ont bien voulu enrichir le débat sur cette question très importante et très préoccupante; je propose à Monsieur le Directeur général de bien vouloir autoriser Messieurs Crowther et Shah, à donner les réponses aux questions posées par un certain nombre de délégués, en particulier le Canada, le Royaume-Uni, le Japon et je leur demanderai de bien vouloir donner les informations utiles afin de compléter la connaissance des dossiers par les Etats Membres.

Dean K. CROWTHER (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department): There were several countries who asked for specific information to be provided. Perhaps I can address those countries jointly.

First, there was the question concerning the possibility of providing our financial results in a • different form and format, namely, that of providing a listing by programme. The same information was provided to the Conference a year ago and was found by some countries to be useful. Certainly, we appreciate that request. There are some problems in producing it rapidly. We have a number of unfilled posts and a number of shortages which make it difficult for us to do the special analysis. It is not the form and format we normally keep our accounts and records in. We are guided, of course, by the basic text and by Conference Resolutions that require the accounting system that we do maintain.

On the other hand, we provide such information annually to the Programme and Finance Committee. It makes a specific breakdown by programme. While we appreciate the request that has been made in terms of this Council I should say it would be extremely difficult for us to take staff from their present assignments and put them on those specific assignments in order to provide the information at this Council. I would also like to say in this connection that the Finance Committee and the Programme Committee regularly reviews this kind of information.

The Council will recall that one of the basic purposes for setting up the Finance Committee is shown in the basic text under the general rules. It states "The Finance Committee shall assist the Council in exercising control over the financial administration of the Organization". There may be some gaps in reporting that the Council may wish to provide. If so, the Council may wish to ask the Finance Committee or the Programme Committee to extend their reports in some fashion to incorporate the type of material that the Council may wish. However, it is difficult for the Organization to provide the additional information that is requested at short notice. I should also mention that because of the shortage of staff it is difficult to make a number of changes. I should like to add that much of the reductions and slowdowns have had an impact on administrative facilities. At the same time we have been attempting to automate a number of our accounting systems and personnel systems which, when they are complete will provide a facility with which we can much more rapidly produce such information. At the same time as attempting to automate we have many vacancies caused by the necessary slowdown in expenditure and this makes it very difficult to comply with this specific request.

Secondly, there was a request to make a cash forecast for 1989. I think we all understand very well the value and necessity for that type of information. In normal years that would probably have been something that we could have done quite rapidly. But for the benefit of members I should like to recall that during the last two biennia we have had a very erratic contribution schedule. It is not known in advance when each of the countries are likely to pay. The Director-General

requests in his original call for contributions the schedule and pattern of payment of each country. Normally we do not receive such information. Particularly in 1989 we have a number of major unknowns of when people are likely to pay. It is very heartening to hear the statements made by Council Members here that a number of efforts will be taken to pay as early as possible. That will assist us greatly in trying to arrange to schedule the 1989 contributions.

At the same time, when the 1989 call for contributions goes out we shall be very careful in asking again that each member country should advise us of their schedule of payments - time and amount -that they will make.

It was very heartening to hear from the United States that in the forthcoming request for budget for next year the present United States administration would request full funding for all UN agencies. Certainly that would be helpful but, as I am sure all of you can appreciate, the United States is not in a position at this point in time to tell us what the reaction of Congress is likely to be, nor when such information may be made available. Knowing neither the amount nor the timing of the largest contributor's payment next year, nor whether we shall experience the same erratic payments in 1989 as we experienced in 1988 (which resulted from many of the contributors of the major countries changing their pattern of contribution) made cash management almost impossible last year. If that same pattern occurs in 1989 we have no way of telling when the contributions are likely to come. For those reasons I do not know how we can prepare a logical, reliable and practical plan for 1989 receipt of contributions. It is necessary to project the cash flow. In the very short term we can say that the receipt of US\$25 million from the United States, which is most welcome, will enable us to progress through January, beyond that we are not able to say because we do not know who are the other member countries who will pay - certainly in the first quarter. As soon as we obtain the information we will certainly review it with the Finance Committee in great detail so that the best management can be exercised.

There were some questions raised with respect to forward cover of lire. There may be some misunderstanding on what it is, and how it works and also on the basis for taking the decision. First, I should like to explain that the Director-General took the decision, shortly after he was elected to his first term, to appoint an Investment Advisory Committee. It is the only United Nations organization with such a Committee. The Committee was appointed to assist him in establishing a basis on which he can realistically use the best banking facilities available to accrue the greatest amount of miscellaneous income. After the plans are discussed and information obtained from the members of the Investment Advisory Committee they are reported to the Finance Committee. I should say that this Committee is made up of very renowned experts from the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the Central Bank of Italy, the Commercial Bank in Europe, and the International Bank of Settlements, and also from the bank that handles two of our investments for compensation plan and for our separation payment plan. These experts are in a position to provide us with a great deal of guidance. They did recommend that we entered into contracts for forward cover of lire. This plan was also described to, and discussed with, the Finance Committee on two occasions and is included in the report before the Council today.

The forward cover of lire is a device that was both important and necessary to avoid the problems created by the rapid fall in the dollar that we experienced in the prior biennium. If we had had both the information and knowledge during the prior biennium that is available to us now it may be that we could have avoided at least some of the exchange loss which amounted to almost US\$29 million and charged either to the Special Reserve Account or to the budget for the prior biennium. The Director-General took the decision after advice he had received to enter very carefully into lire/dollar contracts for forward cover by looking very carefully, month by month, at the needs we would have for lire. you will recognize that a large percentage of our expenditures (roughly 60 percent of our total expenditures) are made in lire. That means since our budget is assessed in dollars and is collected in dollars the major part must be converted to lire.

That is where the conversion loss may occur, or conversion gain, depending upon the weakness or the strength of the dollar. The budget rate was set in November a year ago at 1235 lire per dollar. At that point in time the Director-General authorized entry into contracts for forward lire for 1988 month by month. We went out to tender for a number of banks and their quotations based upon spot rates for that particular day and were able to obtain contracts in every case substantially above the budget rate of 1235. That provides an insurance policy that there would not be a loss on exchange resulting from the direct exchange from dollars to lire. To the degree that there is a profit that results from that, because there is another element that you must also understand, that profits then would be ultimately credited to the Special Reserve Account. Mr. Shah will go into a little greater detail on the Special Reserve Account itself.

With respect to the forward lire cover, in addition to the Finance Committee, the Advisory Committee on Investments, the experience that has been gained by other UN organizations, the World Bank and IMF, and now ILO, who also enter into forward contracts, the ACABQ was here last March and had a great deal of interest in it. It was discussed with them and they commented that at the moment that

was an excellent idea and wondered why other UN agencies did not enter into it. I do not want to deviate too far on this but we have a unique situation in Italy where the interest cost on lire happens to be higher than the interest cost on dollars. And the same is true on investments. With that differential we are able to enter into contracts for forward lire without the cost of any commissions or any other costs related to handling. The interest differential in our case is positive going from dollars to lire. Therefore we are able to enter into such contracts without cost and with a protection to the agency. The Organization should therefore benefit to the degree that after we have entered into a contract at a specific price for delivery of lire the dollar happens to go up above that contract price there could be a small incremental loss during that period. The base gain, however, between the budget rate and the rate at which we delivered the contract price would otherwise have been lost had we not entered into the contract. Therefore if there is a nominal loss in any one month, overall there is a net gain. So in total I think the Organization stands to gain and the governing bodies stand to gain because we will not have to offset additional cost by virtue of the fact that we have very little money in the Special Reserve Account to settle any exchange losses at this point.

There were a few other specific questions that I would like to address. The question was raised as to whether or not the Organization could enter into arrangements for receipt of contributions from small Member Nations by using instalment plans. Here I think we are guided specifically by the Basic Texts. Financial Regulation V requires that payment of contributions be made upon the receipt of official notification of amounts due in January of each year. Only the Conference can change this. All countries are encouraged to advise the Organization as to the timing and amount of their payment and we certainly welcome such information and if a country decided that their economics said that they would make a payment each month or something and notified us so that we could plan accordingly even that information would be helpful. There is no way that the Organization at this point in time can authorize payments other than as is called for in the Basic Texts. So our specific answer must be that we must comply with the Basic Texts and encourage all Member Nations to pay within 30 days of the receipt of the bill which would be due in January of each year.

One additional question was raised with respect to having bank accounts opened separately for the Regular Programme and Trust Funds and whether or not this would create a degree of rigidity and inflexibility that would complicate cash management in Treasury. It is quite the opposite. In an effort to be as accurate as we possibly can and make certain that there is no co-mingling whatsoever of funds we have found that it is not only important but necessary to set up individual bank accounts and carefully account for both the investments and interest from Trust Funds directly into those accounts, as opposed to all the transactions that occur in our various Regular Programme bank accounts. It provides an extra means of internal control, each of which of course are carefully monitored and audited by the External Auditor.

I think I have complied with the requests for both specific information and reports. If I have missed any I would be happy to extend them further, but I believe that Mr. Shah has a couple of further clarifications.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie M. Crowther de ces informations précises et précieuses et je donne la parole à M. Shah.

V.J. SHAH (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): Mr. Chairman, I will address myself only to a couple of questions on which I might offer replies. First, the delegate of the Federal Republic of Germany queried the necessity for the replenishment of the Special Reserve Account and suggested that the Finance Committee look into the matter. His suggestion was based on the stated assumption that since the forward purchase of lire protected the Organization with regard to the budget rate there was no need for a Special Reserve Account. I regret that I must clarify that that assumption is not valid. The Special Reserve Account according to Conference Resolution 13/81 was established not only to deal with the extra costs due to movements of currency exchange rates. The Special Reserve Account has two other functions. The other established functions are, firstly, to finance budgetary expenditures pending receipt of contributions from Member Nations whenever the Working Capital Fund is insufficient and, secondly, to finance unbudgeted costs, extra costs, of approved programmes, with the prior review and approval of the Programme and Finance Committees. These two important needs are unaffected by any forward purchase of lire.

I would also indicate that in fact the needs of the Special Reserve Account have to be looked at in a broader context, on which we intend to consult the Finance Committee and on which in due course the Finance Committee will of course report to the Council.

The other question which was raised was about the cost of the Review. It was stated, again by the same delegate, that the cost of the Review should not be a charge to the Special Reserve Account. Mr. Chairman, this matter will be coming up for your consideration when you examine the Progress Report on the FAO Review, and with your permission I would keep my reply for that occasion. It would be more appropriate to respond to it at that time.

Saihou SABALLY (Gambia): I am sorry to come late but I think this topic is extremely important. It is important because without regularizing the financial situation we are in trouble for any other agenda items that we may want to discuss.

I want to make two concrete proposals. One is that in view of the balance of payment problems affecting some of the developing countries, particularly in Africa, is it not possible for the Secretariat to consider the possibility of using part of our contributions in local currency to be utilized by your country representatives? If that is possible I think that will ease the burden of bank transfer and it would be a saving because transferring money from the Gambia, for instance, to Rome we pay interest charges and maybe the same amount, or half of that amount, is transferred from Rome to your Banjul Office. So if there could be a mutual arrangement for the Gambia to pay part of our balance which is deposited in the Central Bank to your representative in Banjul that would ease the burden of the balance of payments for the Gambia and will also save you from bank charges. So if this is in accordance with your regulations perhaps it would be a good idea to start to introduce that.

My second proposal is that in view of the importance of this matter and in view of the appeals that came from different delegations in this Conference room to the United States to try and help us to pay their contributions I would like to make a proposal that this Council agrees to send a small delegation to Washington, to leave the time with the Chairman and the Director-General, as an expression of the seriousness of the financial situation and as an expression of our concern for this situation to be redressed. The Council would perhaps like to manifest this by sending a small delegation to Washington to speak directly to the US Administration. I believe in dialogue and I think that the possibilities are there for them to see this in its real gravity if there is a small delegation from the Council to the US Administration.

These are two concrete proposals that I would like to bring to the Council. I am sorry to bring them late but I think they are important.

Paul BRYDEN (Australia): Mr. Chairman, I will be very brief and seek your guidance on the request from the Special Joint Session of the Programme and Finance Committees that the Council approve the measures set out in paragraphs 1.10 to 1.12 in document CL 94/4. I think it is an issue which appears to require a decision of some kind.

LE PRESIDENT: Je vais déjà répondre à cette question très importante. Je crois que nous examinerons cela dans le cadre d'un autre point, le point 14. Il s'agit d'une question très importante et je vous remercie de l'avoir posée.

Sra. Maria Eulalia JIMENEZ (Observador de El Salvador): Le pido disculpas Sr. Presidente, pero mi delegación esperaba que usted invitara a los Observadores a hacer uso de la palabra. Tengo una pequeña intervención que hacer, para lo que solicito su venia.

La grave situación económica por la que está atravesando nuestra Organización ha sido expuesta en forma muy clara por el Director General en su discurso inaugural. El nos ha indicado cómo ha sido necesario reducir actividades y servicios de la FAO los cuales, en muchos casos son fundamentales para países como el mío que no cuentan con facilidades de información, por ejemplo, con las que sí pueden contar los grandes países desarrollados. Para ellos que no se envíe a sus Ministerios de Agricultura la revista CERES o UNASYLVA, carecerá de importancia. Para mi país es una fuente de información importantísima. Esto para mencionar sólo uno de los muchos recortes que ha sido necesario efectuar. La reducción de misiones de evaluación técnica de los programas de capacitación, son todos aspectos que van minando el trabajo eficiente de la Organización, con consecuencias funestas para los países en desarrollo, para los países donde sí se sufre el hambre. No deseamos, y así se lo pedimos al Director General, se hagan más recortes a nuestros Programas de

Labores y Presupuesto. Este fue aprobado por la Conferencia y todos los Estados Miembros tenemos el deber de defenderlo, y para hacerlo debemos, en primer lugar, cumplir con nuestras obligaciones; todo, claro está, en la medida de nuestras posibilidades.

Mi país, por ejemplo, no ha podido hasta el momento pagar la cuota de 1988, pero realizo grandes esfuerzos, grandes sacrificios para pagar la de 1987. Nuestro grano de arena pues, lo hemos aportado, aunque sabemos que un pago como el nuestro ayuda en muy poco a nuestra Organización, hemos querido con este esfuerzo demostrar nuestro total respaldo a la FAO en estos difíciles momentos. Decía, 24 mil dólares, nuestra cuota, no ayuda en mucho; 100 millones de dólares, sí. Esos son fundamentales para la vida de la FAO.

Ser miembro de una organización internacional implica deberes, y obligaciones los cuales deben ser atendidos sin condiciones, sin contrapartidas, es una obligación establecida y debe ser respetada.

Permítame, Sr. Presidente, para concluir, manifestar el agrado de mi delegación de verlo presidir nuevamente nuestro Consejo y felicitar a los Vicepresidentes que fueron elegidos.

James AITKEN (United Kingdom): Thank you very much, Chairman. Very briefly, through you, I would like to remind the Secretariat that in our intervention yesterday we did ask for some detail about the rationale behind the selection process for the items which were deferred. I do not think this was in fact covered in the Secretariat's response. I do not want to pull on this debate, but I do think it would be useful to have some information when we come to discuss the report of the Programme Committee under item 13.

LE PRESIDENT: Peut-être peut-on demander d'ores et déjà à M. Shah de bien vouloir répondre à cette question précise.

V.J. SHAH (Assistant Director-General. Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): Certainly Mr. Chairman. I think the distinguished representative of the United Kingdom has given the answer in his statement just now, that the programme adjustments which have been made this year were considered by the Programme Committee at its session in May. The views of the Programme Committee are covered in its report, which comes to you under item 13 of the agenda, and that is exactly where we would give every further clarification that may be needed, and I believe that is satisfactory to the representative. Thank you, sir.

RIGHT OF REPLY

DROIT DE REPONSE

DERECHO DE REPLICA

Fred J. ECKERT (United States of America): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Earlier in the debate on this agenda item, about the financial position of FAO, the delegate of Colombia, Mr. Bula Hoyos, claiming to speak on behalf of the Government of Colombia, called my country arrogant and referred to our President as a most unfortunate memory, and characterized the election of George Bush as cause for anguish and sadness. Mr. Chairman, Mr. Bula Hoyos thinks he is funny. He is not: he is foolish. He has once again insulted my country, and demeaned this Organization and, once again, his conduct is an embarrassment to his own country. He should have been ruled out of order.

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Bula Hoyos claims to speak for Colombia. I do not think that is true. Mr. Chairman, fellow delegates, I challenge him to produce any evidence, any, that the Government of Colombia wishes its representative to insult the United States of America. Mr. Chairman, I challenge Mr. Bula Hoyos, to produce any evidence, any, that the Government of Colombia wishes its representative to refer to my friend and our President, Ronald Reagan, as an unfortunate memory. Mr. Chairman, I challenge Mr. Bula Hoyos, to produce any evidence, any, that the Government of Colombia views the election of my friend, George Bush, as cause for anguish and sadness. Mr. Chairman, Mr. Bula Hoyos cannot do that. He was faking it yesterday, as he so often does. He does not understand the difference between being funny and being foolish.

Mr. Chairman, Colombia has a good government and a good President. Too bad that that great country and that good President and the good people of Colombia are so poorly served here. Thank you.

Gonzalo BULA HOTOS (Colombia): Deseamos expresar nuestro más sincero deseo por que pronto el Embajador Eckert recupere su voz y pueda hablar on mejores términos.

Como se podrá constatar en las actas del Consejo, donde aparece nuestra declaración, en ningún momento hicimos referencia a los nombres del Presidente saliente Reagan ni del Presidente electo Bush. En ese momento, ni siquiera nombramos a su país por su propio nombre. Actuamos de esta manera, Sr. Presidente, porque estamos basados en la profunda convicción de que no obedece a prejuicios nacionales porque el Gobierno de Colombia mantiene las mejores relaciones con los Estados Unidos, ni a prejuicios personales porque nosotros tenemos el honor de creer que somos amigos de la gran mayoría de los Representantes de Estados Unidos.

Hemos insistido en nuestro punto de vista porque pensamos que así, y esto lo decimos sinceramente, sin ironía, ayudamos también a quienes como el Embajador Eckert -nos han informado- está preocupado porque su país honre los compromisos pendientes.

Como lo dijo ayer el Reino Unido, el Gobierno de Colombia desea también que los Estados Unidos vuelvan a ser aquel gran país que durante cuarenta años ha contribuido con su importancia y significación, y su riqueza también, a la solución de muchos problemas de la cooperación internacional.

Si en este Consejo nadie dice nada, si en nuestro Informe no aparece ninguna referencia a la situación que está padeciendo nuestra Organización, cuando nuestros colegas representantes de Estados Unidos regresen a Washington, podrán decir que su actitud puede seguir inmodificable, que nada está pasando, que nadie ha protestado. Este es el sentido de nuestra intervención, Sr. Presidente. Dar a los propios Representates de Estados Unidos, y repetimos que sabemos que el Embajador Eckert está interesado en mejorar esta situación, que tengan un instrumento para que presenten nuestras inquietudes ante el Gobierno de ese importante país.

Hace ya treinta años, presenté mis Cartas Credenciales ante la FAO, primero como modesto Agregado Agrícola en el año 1959 y después como Embajador hace diez años, en el año 1979. Creo que esas Cartas Credenciales son un título legítimo que garantiza el hecho de que yo represento verdadera y legítimamente al Gobierno de Colombia. Si el Embajador Eckert tiene algún documento posterior a esas Cartas Credenciales, puede presentarlo y así el Consejo decidirá si yo puedo seguir o no sentado en este sitio. Oportunamente, enviamos al Director General de la FAO la nota que acredita a la Delegación de Colombia. Pudiere ser que entre los representantes de mi país esté el modesto nombre del señor Bula Hoyos. Las observaciones que acaba de hacer el Sr. Eckert, lejos de inquietarme me llenan de complacencia, Sr. Presidente, porque yo quiero mucho a la FAO y vivo muy feliz en esta ciudad.

En casi todas las ocasiones en que yo hago comentarlos como estos, la Administración de los Estados Unidos envía quejas al Gobierno Colombiano y el resultado es que me confirman en mi cargo y me amplían las responsabilidades y la confianza de mi país. De manera que hoy estoy sumamente satisfecho. Quién sabe si podré estar aun otros treinta años aquí en el seno de esta Organización.

Fred J. ECKERT (united States of America): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I do not wish to prolong the discussion, but I will point out that the remarks of the United States of America in no way criticize Mr. Bula Hoyos, or anyone, for differing with the policies of the Government of the United States at any time. This is a free body of sovereign countries, and the view is that public policies of the American Government are open to discussion and debate and criticism, and that is perfectly legitimate. At no time, at no time, did I criticize anyone for criticizing us on a policy, nor would I ever. That is what we are here to do. Nor would my comments about a country's policy be in any way a criticism of the country's people or its administration. Mr. Bula Hoyos repeatedly crosses a fine line. As you recall at the Conference, the Chairman of the Conference publicly, from the forum in the other room, made precisely the same criticism I made when derogatory remarks were made about his country Kuwait, and his country's region, the Middle East, by Mr. Bula Hoyos. I am making remarks of the same nature that the Chairman of the Conference made about that same point, and that we have made before.

I did not say Mr. Bula Hoyos was not properly accredited here as a representative. I challenged whether the views that he expressed are views shared by the President of Colombia, whom he serves. I know from what I know of that President, and what I know of that country, and what I know of its people, that they, the Government of Colombia, does not have a view of our President that was expressed by its country's representative here. I know that the Government of Colombia does not have a view of Mr. George Bush.that was expressed here. I know and you know and everyone knows it is just plain foolish and silly to pretend when you refer to it that, because you do not name the outgoing President or the incoming President, no one knows it is Ronald Reagan and George Bush.

Mr. President, I do not like having to make these points. I felt that our country should have made them yesterday. I was not here; I was in the United States on my way to Rome. Had I been here, I would have made them last evening. I make them today to try to make a point which I think is in the best interest of the Organization. We have differences. There are many countries which have differences between one another but there is a fine line to be aware of and we should conduct ourselves on the policies, and to make repeated demeaning remarks - and Mr. Bula Hoyos I must tell you in all candidness that your country is an easy shot for demagogic rhetoric in my country because of the problems that your government faces on the very sensitive subject of drug trafficking and we could make jokes, insulting remarks but I know that your Government has engaged in many courageous activities that are poorly understood. I know that your people are struggling with a difficult problem and doing it well and so I will speak in no way disrespectfully of the problems you face in your country; in no way disrespectfully of your administration; in no way disrespectfully of your people and I expect the same.

LE PRESIDENT: Je vais donner la parole au Représentant de la Colombie, mais je souhaiterais que nous puissions ensuite arrêter la discussion.

Gonzalo BULA HOTOS (Colombia): Hace poco, cuando salí de esta Sala y me acerqué al Documents Desk observé que del corredor que conduce al Nordic Lounge, salía un señor un poco corpulento, vestido de azul a rayas, con una calvicie ligeramente incipiente, con los ojos rojos encendidos, las pupilas un poco desorbitadas sobre las cejas, la boca espumosa llena de saliva espesa...

Yo le pido que me permita el derecho de réplica, Sr. Presidente.

Como esos son síntomas inconfundibles, por lo menos eso me han dicho, solo esas condiciones podrían justificar la declaración que acaba de hacerse, porque las más altas autoridades no sólo del Gobierno de Colombia sino de muchos otros países han demostrado que el problema de la droga no es la producción sino el consumo a alto nivel en la sociedad de los Estados Unidos.

Fred J. ECKERT (United States of America): I did not expect Mr. Bula Hoyos to exceed his own level of foolishness! I thought that was a standard hard to match.

Mr. President, enough foolishness, enough silliness. I make the point. I hope Mr. Bula Hoyos does not speak again. If he does, I will not speak again because I think every time he opens his mouth, he insults his country. It is finished.

LE PRESIDENT: Je donne encore la parole à M. Bula Hoyos mais j'arrêterai ensuite la discussion car nous n'allons pas continuer indéfiniment.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Yo no puedo dejarme insultar por quien cree que puede asumir la vocería de mi propio país. Creo que es lamentable este incidente, Sr. Presidente, y que no debe repetirse en el seno de este Consejo.

LE PRESIDENT: Je regrette beaucoup cet incident, et j'exhorte encore une fois tous les délégués ici présents à avoir devant eux au cours de nos débats les problèmes de fond que nous avons à traiter. Nous pouvons exprimer nos points de vue, tout en essayant, dans la mesure du possible, de garder à nos débats la sérénité et le recul nécessaires pour faire face à nos obligations.

Nous allons donc de l'avant et nous reprenons notre sujet qui est capital pour l'Organisation. Je suis persuadé que tous les délégués ont présent à l'esprit que la situation financière de la FAO est vitale, et j'espère vivement que pour cette question et les questions à venir nous concentrerons tous nos efforts sur le fond du sujet. Personnellement je veillerai à éviter tout débordement.

En ce qui concerne l'item que nous traitons aujourd'hui je dirai, pour résumer le débat, que le Conseil est particulièrement préoccupé par la situation financière, très grave et sans précédents, à

laquelle se trouve confrontée notre Organisation, la FAO. Cette situation est due à des retards de versements de plusieurs pays, dont le principal bailleur de fond, et à des incertitudes quant au montant et aux dates auxquelles seront réalisés des versements ultérieurs.

Cette situation est grave, malgré l'effort consenti par notre Organisation jusqu'à présent qui a permis de réaliser des compressions de ses activités, compressions qui ont quand même terni, il faut le dire, son efficacité et son rayonnement dans les Etats récipiendaires.

Dans ces conditions le Conseil exhorte vivement les Etats Membres qui ont des retards de versements, et également le principal contributeur, à prendre les mesures nécessaires pour effectuer les versements des arriérés, et suggère au principal contributeur, dans l'esprit de la déclaration présidentielle de septembre 1988 fixant les engagements de ce pays à l'égard de l'ensemble du Système des Nations Unies, de procéder au règlement de sa contribution.

Je crois comprendre que la majorité des membres du Conseil considère que des réductions ultérieures de programme seraient dommageables pour les activités de la FAO et que le niveau actuel de réduction a atteint un point qui ne saurait être dépassé.

Le Conseil ne pourrait pas consentir à une nouvelle réduction de programme pour 1989 et il appartient au Directeur général, dans le mandat qui lui a été confié par la Conférence générale, de prendre les mesures financières qu'il estime utiles pour faire face à la situation dans les conditions les moins dommageables.

D'autres pays ont souhaité que le niveau des dépenses tienne compte du niveau de recettes. Cela ressort de nos discussions.

Mais je crois qu'il m'appartient de joindre ma voix à ceux qui ont demandé vivement que tous les délégués ici présents, qui sont des ambassadeurs de leurs pays, usent de leur influence pour montrer combien il est important que notre Organisation puisse accomplir son travail pour le plus grand bien des êtres vivants.

Tous ici connaissent le travail de la FAO et son importance pour l'ensemble des pays du tiers monde en particulier, et il est essentiel que nous puissions compter sur l'influence des représentants des différents pays pour améliorer le niveau et la cadence des versements des contributions.

Nous allons maintenant passer au point 4 de notre Ordre du jour.

II. WORLD FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SITUATION

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

II. SITUACION MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

4. State of Food and Agriculture 1988

4. Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture 1988

4. El estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación, 1988

LE PRESIDENT: Nous allons aborder maintenant le point No 4 sur la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture en 1988. Ce point sera divisé en deux grandes parties:

- Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture en 1988 - Document CL 94/2, et son supplément 1;
- Situation africaine en 1988 en perspective pour 1989 - Document CL 94/2, Supplément 2.

Je souhaiterais, avec votre permission, que nous traitions ces deux parties séparément: en premier lieu la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture en 1988, puis cette discussion terminée nous aborderions la situation africaine compte tenu de son importance pour un grand nombre de pays, notamment en Afrique et en Asie.

J'invite donc Monsieur Hjort, Directeur de la Division Analyse des politiques, à bien vouloir présenter la première partie de ce point.

H.W. HJORT (Director, Policy Analysis Division): I shall be introducing the first two documents that the Chairman has mentioned, those being CL 94/2 and CL 94/2 Sup. 1.

This year we have once again seen the major impact that natural events - droughts, floods, hurricanes, locusts, and so forth - can have on agricultural performance, in the most developed and poorest countries alike. FAO's initial estimates of food and agricultural production during 1988 place world agricultural production only fractionally above 1987, when it registered a slight decline. The relatively small increase in 1988 world food production was about the same as the prior year decline, so on a global basis food production this year was essentially at the 1986 level. Therefore, the modest increase in world food consumption over the prior and current seasons has come entirely from a drawdown of stocks. The Director-General has also called attention to the cereal situation, noting that cereal stocks are expected to be drawn below the minimum levels required to maintain world food security this season. According to current estimates, in 1989 global cereal output must increase by over 220 million tons, or 13 percent, to maintain consumption trends and replenish stocks to the minimum level required for world food security.

Food and agricultural production in the developed countries declined in 1987 and by an even larger percentage in 1988. The decline this year was concentrated in North America where a severe drought led to sharply lower crop yields from a planted area that had been curtailed by government programmes. Restrictions on plantings for 1989 cereal crops have been relaxed in the United States and, although income and price support levels have been reduced in that country, higher market prices are expected to induce a significant increase in North American plantings of cereals and oilseeds. This should lead to an increase in output provided weather conditions remain normal. Although 1988 was a higher production year than 1987 in most of the other developed country regions, the increases since 1986 have been quite small; food production in Eastern Europe and the USSR may have remained below the 1986 level.

Both food and agricultural production in the developing countries as a group were well above the 1987 level, but the increases in the Asian centrally planned economies and Latin America and the Caribbean region were small compared with the prior year. Recovery from the sharp 1987 decline in the Far East region was most pronounced. The African region also experienced a marked increase from a reduced 1987 level, with the growth rate about the same as in the Near East. Nevertheless, the increase in food production over the past two years has been smaller than the increase in population for most of the developing country regions and countries. There were declines in per capita food production in 78 of 108 developing countries in 1987 and in 58 of the 108 countries this year, including two-thirds of the African, 54% of the Latin American and the Caribbean, 44% of the Near Eastern and one-third of the Far Eastern countries.

The overall economic climate in 1988 is more favourable to the consumption of agricultural products in the developed countries and in the Asian region. Growth in the production of goods and services is stronger, consumer price increases are relatively small, trade volumes have continued to grow and the terms of trade have improved a little. In contrast, the economic and financial situation continues to deteriorate in Latin America and the Caribbean - regional per capita output is declining, price inflation has become more severe, net capital outflow continues and the debt-service ratio has risen even though growth in export volumes is stronger and growth in import volumes is slightly slower than in 1987. Economic and financial conditions remain difficult in Africa and the Near East, where per capita output is declining and the terms of trade have worsened.

In general, the most difficult economic circumstances are found in the heavily-indebted and the oil exporting countries as well as the majority of low income countries. Crude oil prices have declined, and external debt continues to climb to ever higher levels, with the increase in lending mainly from official sources. Developing countries, especially the heavily indebted and, geographically, in the Latin American and Caribbean region, have been paying more in amortization, interest and transfer of investment income abroad than their capital inflow since 1984. The net outward transfer, according to the United Nations, exceeded \$ 20 billion in each of the past three years, and the limited information available so far for this year suggests a further increase.

A second major constraint on the performance of the world economy is structural imbalances. The need to correct the imbalances among the industrialized countries has become increasingly evident, in view of their negative impact on the international economic environment. As the Director-General stressed, many developing countries have undertaken major economic adjustments, often at high economic and social costs. They have not seen their efforts adequately rewarded in the form of sufficiently increased export earnings and restructured or reduced debt so that economic growth and social progress could resume. The search for solutions to debt-related problems has focused more on the low income countries than on the middle income debtor countries.

Another major policy issue concerns trade liberalization, particularly in agriculture. Besides their adverse effects on farm trade, the current agricultural policies of the majority of the industrial countries are having a negative impact on world-wide economic growth and on merchandise trade as a whole. It is, therefore, to be hoped that the forthcoming mid-term review of the Uruguayan Round will show significant progress.

Nevertheless, the world economy is growing faster in 1988 than anticipated earlier, and this has stimulated growth in world trade. Among the developing regions, Asia continues to record the strongest growth in trade, although export growth is well below the exceptional rates for 1987 and 1986 and below the rate for imports this year. Trade growth is improving compared to 1987 for the other developing regions and the industrialized countries, but there has been a sharp deterioration in the terms of trade for the Near East. Africa has also experienced a decline in the terms of trade and trade growth is negligible. The gap between export earnings and outlays for imports has widened in Latin America and the Caribbean, where the debt-service burden is extreme.

Document CL 94/2, the Sup. 1 - which was just recently tabled - presents the latest agricultural trade estimates which are for 1987. It reports that, against a background of a vigorous expansion of total merchandise trade, agricultural trade was also buoyant. World exports of fishery and, to a lesser extent, forestry products, showed the most dynamic expansion. However, it is mainly the developed and some Asian countries that benefited from the expansion in agricultural exports. Export earnings from agriculture declined in a large majority of developing countries. While depressed prices of several important commodities largely explained this setback, many countries - particularly in Africa - also faced supply-related problems that reduced the volume of their exports. On the other hand, lower international prices enabled a majority of developing countries to increase the volume of their food imports in 1987. However, in the current season, as a result of the rise in prices coupled with an expected large decline in food aid, many low-income food deficit countries are likely to face difficulties in financing food imports.

For this year, it is expected that growth in the value of world agricultural trade will at least equal that of 1987; however, this growth would arise almost entirely from the increases in price, rather than volume; and in food and feed products, rather than beverage crops and raw materials. The terms of trade and purchasing power of agricultural exports sharply deteriorated last year in developing countries, more pronouncedly in Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean.

Incomplete data prevent an accurate estimate of the changes in terms of trade and purchasing power of agricultural exports for the whole of 1988. However, recent trends in agricultural prices suggest that for most major agricultural commodities prices are likely to exceed the average levels of 1987. Trade prices are considerably higher than a year ago for most non-fuel commodities such as metals, cereals, oilseeds and vegetable oils, and less so for coffee. The main exceptions include crude oil, cotton and cocoa prices.

Mr. Chairman, the two documents also discuss recent trends in external resource flows to agriculture. Concessional multilateral commitments in 1987 rose considerably above the previous year's low figure. In a longer term perspective, however, this welcome development appears less encouraging. Concessional multilateral commitments in real terms were only slightly higher in 1987 than the average of the previous three years. Also, non-concessional commitments sharply fell in 1987 from the exceptionally high level of 1986. On the positive side, we must welcome the sharp increase in soft loans to agriculture by the IDA in 1987 and 1988, and the considerable increase of the World Bank's total authorized capital, which will benefit agricultural investment in the future. Mr. Chairman, document CL 94/2 also contains an assessment of the food and agricultural performances in the different developing and developed regions, and a review of issues of specific relevance to each of them. In the interest of time, I will only touch on the highlights among the developing country regions. In Africa, significant policy reforms have been initiated since the launching of the UN Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery two years ago. However, the success of the programme will depend as much on the external environment as on internal policy measures. The poor and erratic monsoon of last year badly hit agriculture in large areas of the Asian and Pacific region, although, as previously noted, a good recovery has been achieved this year. China is facing a critical transitional period in its attempts to give markets a larger role in its economy. In Latin America and the Caribbean, the protracted economic and financial crisis has engendered a reappraisal of past development strategies and the role of agriculture within them. Prospects for agricultural-based growth in this region are constrained by slow growth in domestic demand for and external constraints on exports of agricultural products. In the Near East, sharply reduced export earnings in oil-exporting countries and structural adjustment programmes in several non-oil countries are imposing consumption and import restraints and low levels of investment. Even so, the oil-exporting countries continue to subsidize farm activities while non-oil countries have introduced various measures to improve producer incentives and favour agricultural investment.

In concluding, I wish to remind the Council of changes in the preparation and scheduling in the two documents before you that comprise The State of Food and Agriculture, as reported in CL 94/4, that includes the report of the 55th session of the Programme Committee.

At the last session of the Programme Committee held in September, we apprised them of changes proposed by the Secretariat and approved by the Director-General to make the SOFA a more attractive, readable and timely document. The proposals were that SOFA should revert to its earlier role of

being a Conference or Council document in its own right, and to be published in July. In addition, it would be updated and revised by two discussion papers finalized in July and October respectively, which would be cross-referenced to it and would highlight trends and issues which emerged since the preparation of the main report. The main SOFA would continue to include a special chapter on a selected topic. Information would be more timely and presented on a continuing rolling basis. The SOFA would be produced by the same means as before but exploiting to the maximum the opportunities offered by modern technology, so it would be presented in a way more likely to be used as a source reference by policy fora and the media.

In welcoming these proposed changes, the Programme Committee noted that they would be introduced in 1989. Therefore, with the concurrence of Council, the SOFA documents before you represent an intermediate stage. They, and the special chapter on natural resource use and sustainable development, will become SOFA 1989 which will be published in July of that year. In turn, SOFA 1989 will be revised and updated by two discussion papers produced in July and October 1989, and following their discussion by the Conference, will form the basis of SOFA 1990.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie M. Hjort, Directeur de la Division de l'analyse des politiques, de sa communication introductive.

Avec votre permission et avant de lever la séance, je vais donner la parole à M. Trant, Directeur Exécutif du Conseil mondial de l'alimentation.

Gerald Ion TRANT (WFC): I am pleased to have the opportunity to address the ninety-fourth session of the FAO Council under the item "The state of food and agriculture". As well reported in the Council's documentation (CL 94/12) the fourteenth ministerial session of the World Food Council, held in Nicosia, Cyprus, from 23 to 26 May, adopted significant conclusions and recommendations which, in my view, represent an important contribution to the activities of the international community in its global fight against hunger and malnutrition.

These conclusions and recommendations reconfirmed the general concern expressed last year in the Beijing Declaration regarding the untenable trends of growing hunger and malnutrition. May I draw your attention especially to the "Cyprus Initiative Against Hunger in the World", which was adopted by consensus as the main outcome of the Council session. The Secretary-General of the United Nations, last July, expressed his personal support for this Initiative and called on governments and international organizations to cooperate fully in its implementation. Later on, the Conference of Ministers of the Non-Aligned Movement held in Cyprus in September of this year and the Conference on Absolute Poverty in Latin America held in Colombia in August 1988 also welcomed the Cyprus Initiative and called for its support by all concerned.

Ministers of the World Food Council had considered at length a proposal for an International Hunger Initiative based on increased concessional food transfers from the then above normal stocks of food-surplus developed countries and the efforts by developing countries to alleviate hunger and poverty. The proposal met with widespread interest and support, but it was observed that food "surpluses" and hunger were separate problems. It was felt that the proposal represented a limited contribution to the much broader efforts required to address hunger problems. Keeping in mind that past policies and programmes have not succeeded in reducing hunger and malnutrition, that future progress will depend on a better understanding of the reasons for our lack of success and that more studies will not feed hungry people, the Council decided unanimously to launch "The Cyprus Initiative Against Hunger in the World". The Initiative calls "for an urgent review and assessment of the efforts made to-date in hunger reduction and the identification of ways of improving current policies and programmes and of pragmatic, feasible and potentially effective new initiatives towards meeting the Council's fundamental objective: the elimination of hunger and malnutrition." The Council's President, Eduardo Pesqueira, was asked to present a full action-oriented report at the Council's fifteenth ministerial session in mid-1989.

At a meeting with the representatives of the World Food Council members, held in New York at the United Nations Headquarters on 19 October this year, the WFC President as requested by the Council's ministers has established an informal ad hoc consultative group which will assist him to:

(a) review and assess the policies and instruments at present available to combat chronic hunger and malnutrition in developing countries, particularly in low-income food-deficit countries, and identify the reasons and obstacles which may have hindered their greater impact; (b) consider concrete and realistic measures that could make existing policies and instruments more effective; (c) identify workable initiatives; (d) recommend a course of action to combat hunger more effectively

The members of the consultative group are: Madagascar, Somalia and Zambia for Africa; China, Cyprus, Japan for Asia; Colombia, Uruguay, Honduras (to be replaced by Guatemala in January 1989) for Latin America and the Caribbean; for Western Europe and other states: Australia, France (supported by EEC), United States of America. The socialist States of Eastern Europe have still to confirm the names of the countries which will participate in the Consultative Group, but we expect an answer from them shortly.

Following the Council session, the WFC President and I have had a number of contacts and consultations with member governments and the heads of United Nations and other international organizations concerned in order to obtain relevant information and advice regarding the work to be undertaken by the consultative group. In this context we are particularly pleased with the support given by the Director-General of FAO after the Cyprus session as well as the FAO statement made during the debate at the United Nations General Assembly on the Council's report.

The Cyprus Initiative Against Hunger in the World is being taken, as our friend Howard York observed, at a time when development prospects do not call for optimism in any part of the world when world grain harvests have been reduced and supplies are tight. Economic and social objectives are in conflict and austerity programmes are contributing to the deterioration of the living conditions of millions of people who are already affected in their daily life.

The first meeting of the consultative group will be held in Paris on 19-20 December 1988 at the OECD Headquarters. It will take a hard look at both the short or immediate-term objectives and link them to the medium- and long-term development process which should give increased attention to the social aspects affecting the world's population.

The role of the consultative group in dealing with these issues will be of great importance. Action at the economic and social level can be taken only if the highest national authorities are behind it. Since it is they who will have to seek ways and means to reconcile social and economic priorities within their national development plans. The international community - donors and agencies alike - for their part will have to adjust their assistance programmes more adequately to the real needs of the developing countries and also seek for improved coordination in their support.

As the political organ of the United Nations system regarding food issues, the World Food Council will not try to do what other organizations are doing or should do, but will consider and recommend at its forthcoming session in Egypt, May 1989, some concrete measures which should include a series of economic, social and technical measures for action by nations and the international community supported, hopefully, by a more determined political will. The WFC member countries will have to be fully involved in the preparation of the implementation of the Cyprus Initiative and contribute energetically to the proposals which should mobilize the international community to translate them into real action. These will be presented to the fifteenth ministerial session of the Council in Cairo.

FAO has a major role to play in the preparation of the implementation phase of "The Cyprus Initiative Against Hunger in the World" which should embody all the priorities as reflected at both national and international level, so new directions can be drawn up by all concerned to speed up action against hunger and poverty in the world.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie M. Trant de sa communication.

Amin ABDEL MALER (Liban) (langue originale arabe): Je voudrais une précision en ce qui concerne la procédure que nous allons adopter. On nous dit que le criquet pèlerin porte préjudice à l'agriculture et l'alimentation. Pourrions-nous donc faire des commentaires sur les deux questions en même temps? Je pense que ce serait préférable et que cela nous permettrait de perdre moins de temps.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous pourrions effectivement entendre la deuxième communication sur l'invasion acridienne et permettre aux délégués d'intervenir sur une question et sur l'autre. Mais j'aimerais que nous ne perdions pas de vue l'acuité et l'importance politique du problème acridien pour les Etats africains et asiatiques, pour tous les Etats dévastés. Il est bon que l'on sache urbi et orbi que le Conseil a traité la question.

Je veux bien que l'on fasse les deux communications en même temps mais j'aimerais que le problème acridien prenne sa place dans nos débats. Les pays qui sont menacés par une invasion sans précédent ne comprendraient pas que le Conseil de la FAO se soit réuni et n'ait pas abordé cette question. Nous pouvons très bien examiner les deux questions ensemble - et je suis à la disposition du Conseil pour le faire - mais je dois vous dire que ce ne sont pas les mêmes personnes qui, du podium, répondront à vos questions sur les acridiens; ce seront d'autres personnes.

Pour la commodité du débat, nous pourrions peut-être terminer l'examen de cette question, puis appeler M. Brader et les autres experts du problème acridien, après leur avoir permis de bien se préparer, car le problème acridien est vraiment important.

Ma réaction personnelle, c'est que si le Conseil en convient, nous pourrions examiner les deux questions à part parce que la deuxième question est d'actualité et n'est pas moins importante que la première. Voilà donc ma proposition car, politiquement, c'est une question très importante pour les pays d'Afrique et d'Asie.

Juan NDIRY SANCHEZ (Cuba): Yo estoy de acuerdo en como ha dividido usted la cuestión, Sr. Presidente, así que espero para cuando se entre en un debate general.

The meeting rose at 12.45 h.

La séance est levée à 12 h 45.

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.45 h.

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 94/PV/4

Ninety-fourth Session

Quatre-vingt-quatorzième session

94º período de sesiones

FOURTH PLENARY MEETING
QUATRIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
CUARTA SESION PLENARIA

(16 November 1988)

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

- II. WORLD FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SITUATION (continued)
- II. SITUATION MONDIALE DE L'ALIMENTATION ET DE L'AGRICULTURE (suite)
- II. SITUACION MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)
- 4. State of Food and Agriculture 1988 (continued)
- 4. Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture 1988 (suite)
- 4. El estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación, 1988 (continuación)

LE PRESIDENT: Honorables délégués, nous reprenons le cours de nos travaux en ouvrant le débat sur le Point 4: Situation mondiale de l'Alimentation et de l'Agriculture.

Comme je l'ai dit ce matin, nous allons diviser ce débat en deux parties. La première partie portera sur l'alimentation et l'agriculture proprement dite, la 2ème sur les problèmes posés par le criquet pèlerin. Je demanderai donc aux délégués de prendre la parole sur la première partie de ce débat et de laisser pour la séance spéciale réservée au criquet pèlerin la partie de leur intervention relative aux sauterelles. A cette occasion nous aurons un film et une discussion complète sur ce sujet. Il était d'ailleurs tout à fait normal que la FAO s'intéresse à ce problème dans les circonstances actuelles.

Ms. Maria GALVOLGYI (Hungary): Mr. Chairman, having the floor for the first time, let me welcome you wholeheartedly in the chair and express my belief that under your wise guidance and deliberations we will come to tangible results. At the same time I want to congratulate the three Vice-Chairmen on their election to this high post and assure all of you of the support of my delegation in fulfilling your responsible task.

Our Council meets at a time when both political and economic developments may give rise to some optimism in the political scene. The growing recognition of needs for joint action, the turn from confrontation to cooperation, can be considered as the most positive signs. It is now the shared responsibility of all sober-minded politicians that these favourable tendencies continue and become irreversible.

In addition, we think that the problems themselves due to their global character exclude individual actions and call for communal efforts. In this respect an important part can be played by the multilateral fora, the UN system, including the FAO. Recent economic performance may also elicit some relief, though the conditions for achieving these results are still rather fragile and developments differ from region to region and from country to country.

In this respect we highly appreciate the Secretariat's paper CL 94/2 prepared on the state of food and agriculture 1988. Its May findings are realistic. The report sums up the most important issues the world agriculture is faced with. However, Mr. Chairman, allow me to call your attention to two aspects of the document which could be given more emphasis. First, in our view the questions of trade in agricultural goods deserve more attention, since the recent agricultural protection in the development of market economies is for many developing countries a more significant barrier to export diversification and expansion than industrial protection. Secondly, we consider that developments and reforms introduced in the Eastern European countries should be treated in a more differentiated way.

Let me, Mr. Chairman, make some additional remarks on what has been said on my country in the paper. As to the Hungarian food economy as a whole, this year's performance might be the best of the 1980s. In spite of the drought we faced this summer, our wheat harvest is really good, but the maize production is less than expected. Regarding the volumes, the total grain production is about 15 million tonnes. The total output of animal husbandry shows the decreasing tendency as a consequence of the changing market situation.

As it is measured in the document, the Hungarian Government has already started the so-called tri-annual stabilization programme which became operational on 1 January this year. Our programme and comprehensive reforms are aimed at making the Hungarian economy more flexible and open to the world market requirements and to improve its ability to adapt itself to market conditions. Within these general objectives in our agrarian policy it is important to improve the foreign trade balance by maintaining domestic food supply at an appropriate level.

The production policy for agricultural management can be considered as a programme of quality, where the quantitative aspects have rather been pushed into the background. It goes together with the necessary structural reforms of agricultural production. Meanwhile, environmental aspects are not neglected either.

As a continuation of these reform measures a unified tax law on entrepreneurialship will be introduced from the beginning of next year. The Hungarian Parliament has already adapted the law of economic associations, and another new law on investment protection is under preparation. On the basis of these new laws, free capital flow will be among the different sectors of food production, and we do hope that, with this help, favourable conditions could be created for international capital investment in Hungary.

Mr. Chairman, let me come back to the trade issues in agricultural goods. The Secretariat's paper referred to before, especially in paragraphs 83 and 88, mentions two basic viewpoints of future trends for agricultural trade policy. May I call your attention to the efforts of the so-called Cairns Group, of which my country is also a member, which aims at over-bridging the different standpoints and tries to come to a reasonable compromise in agricultural trade policy issues. We are convinced that the liberalization of international agricultural trade is a major issue of the world's economy as a whole.

Reducing or eliminating subsidies and other barriers to trade would improve the export prospects of developing countries and reduce pressure on the government budgets. Hungary has also alerted interest in the success of these efforts. Our annual price losses amount to some 200 to 250 million dollars to world market prices distorted by export subsidies. Like other members of the Group, we cannot compete with the subsidization of richer countries or with their agricultural protectionism. In our view, domestic production cannot be isolated from the world market. Thus the solution lies in the hands of those countries which, through distorted policies, have created this unfavourable situation.

In this respect we fully share the view expressed by Mr. Mitterand, who said that cows might be forced to eat also grass not only subsidies.

The Cairns Group which, on the invitation of my Government, had its ministers' meeting in Budapest, Hungary, last week reaffirmed its support for their comprehensive set of proposals calling for immediate short-term and long-term actions for the elimination of obstacles to agricultural trade and expressed the hope that the Mid-Term Review in Montreal would give further impetus to negotiations over the remainder of the Uruguay Round.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, let me assure you of the further active participation of my country in FAO programmes. May I recall that the EC/FAO Symposium on Biotechnology held in Hungary last June was successfully concluded. We intend hosting such important symposia also in the future. Thank you very much, Chairman.

Antti NIKKOLA (Finland): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Firstly, I would like to thank the Director of the Policy Analysis Division for the introduction of this item. I would also like to thank the Secretariat for the excellent documents before us, CL 94/2 and Supplement 1. The governments give us a comprehensive picture of the recent state of food and agriculture in the world.

Mr. Chairman, agricultural export markets, from the point of view of the exporting developing countries, have been extremely depressed since the beginning of the 1980s. The reality prices of agriculture against other products, or the so-called net barter terms of trade, declined in developing countries last year for the third consecutive year. Their agricultural terms of trade on average were 20 percent below those of 1979/81; especially the poorest region, Africa, suffered.

It is to some extent encouraging that this year the overall terms of trade for agricultural exports seem to have decreased. The problems of international trade are being dealt with in the GATT Uruguay Round, which has now lasted almost two years. At the beginning of December, in a few weeks' time, the GATT Ministers will gather in Montreal for the Mid-Term Review of the Uruguay Round.

The picture of the trade negotiations in Geneva is very unclear. Without doubt the field of tropical products is extremely important to the developing countries. My country supports the idea that the Uruguay Round negotiations on tropical products should be brought to a successful conclusion as soon as possible. The implementation of the results of the negotiations could begin already before the end of the whole trade round. This procedure was applied in the former GATT negotiations, the Tokyo Round in the 1970s.

The position of the poorest group of the developing countries, the least developed countries, should especially be taken into account in the Uruguay Round. Finland has its own GSP system given a more favourable position to these poorest countries.

Mr. Chairman, it is really encouraging that the external resource flows to agricultural and rural development in the developing regions have shown positive development in 1987 and this year. The concessional multilateral commitments rose last year by 50 percent from the previous year's undoubtedly low figure.

The rapid expansion of the World Bank activities in early 1988 is an encouraging sign. Commitments by IDA in the first six months of this year have already exceeded the amount committed for the whole of 1987. Due mainly to the higher international cereal prices, the food aid shipments, however, show a very disappointing trend. The volume of cereal shipments in 1988/89 seems to decline by 25 percent compared with the level of the previous season. My own country has increased its food aid sharply during the last years. An arrangement like that applied in the food aid convention where food aid commitments are given not in money terms but in tonnage terms, would isolate food aid flows against the various enterprises.

Gerard Phirinyane KHOJANE (Lesotho): Since this is the first time we take the floor, Mr. Chairman, let me first tell you how happy we are to see you chairing the deliberations of this 94th Session of the FAO Council.

We wish to join those who have welcomed the USSR as an observer to this Council Session and hope that this is the first step in preparing to join FAO as a permanent member.

The Director-General of FAO in his opening statement gave us a well thought out analytical view of the State of Food and Agriculture in 1987/1988. The contents of this statement will no doubt be a useful guide in our deliberations.

It is absurd that despite the otherwise encouraging outlook on trade, associated with the strengthening of commodity prices, as reflected in Doc. CL 94/2, and as highlighted in the statement of the Director-General and introductory remarks of the FAO Secretariat, the problem of external debt still remains the main obstacle for the resumption of such effective economic growth in most developing countries, particularly in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean.

We, of course, most welcome the fact that distressed countries in the sub-Saharan Africa have benefited from a number of initiatives, such as long-term rescheduling by the Paris Club, more resources through the IMF Structural Adjustment Facility, the Special Action Programme by the World Bank and additional data relief for low-income countries created at the Toronto Summit. We, however, cannot ignore another important factor, that the effects of the continuing rising interest rates compared with export receipts for the past number of years have caused long-term recovery problems which will take a little while to resolve, even with the above-mentioned relief measures in place. The Committee on World Food Security has already expressed its deep concern and regret for the situation whereby the world food production has declined resulting in consumption exceeding production for the first time in four years. It is even more disheartening that the decline in cereal production constituting the most important aspect of food production in developing countries was most significant, while on the other hand, prices have soared, rises of forty to fifty percent, putting a brake on imports by the poor countries. The situation is exacerbated by the anticipated large decline in stocks held by the developing countries. My delegation would therefore wish to support the observations and recommendations of the Committee on World Food Security that the highest priority should be accorded to the development of the food and agricultural sector of the low-income food deficit countries and for the formulation of a suitable policy framework to assist it.

Of particular importance to my delegation is that in the formulation and implementation of food and agricultural policies environment issues should be taken into account. The Lesotho Government places the highest priority to maintaining the environmental balance through conservation of soil and water.

We also welcome the FAO Director-General's sense of responsibility and support his appeal that in envisaging structural adjustments in agricultural economies the IMF or the World Bank or industrial governments should seek intervention of FAO for independent opinion backed by long years of experience. We hope the governments of the 35 countries whose agricultural policies are to be reviewed by the World Bank will heed this advice which is in their own long-term interest.

During the period of formulation of suitable policy framework and while technological improvements to raise production are being put into place there is no doubt that food aid will remain an extremely important stopgap and measure. We are obliged therefore and welcome the initiatives of some countries to improve their food aid policies and programmes, to integrate food aid with the development plans of the recipient countries. Those donor countries which have not yet done so are also invited to copy this good example. We are, however, still concerned by a continuing trend of

the developed assistance committee centers of food aid flows, which in our opinion deviate from the expressed faith in the multilateralism. While it is appreciated that there is a constant flow of food aid to the developed countries, the tendency to rely on bilateral channels, which in most cases involves some restrictive conditions, cannot be supported.

We are happy to note that in response to the appeal of the United Nations Programme of Action for Africa's Economic Recovery there was a marked increase in multilateral concessional lending to the developing countries of Africa in 1987, such lending being 25 percent more than the average for 1984/86 at constant 1980 prices. The proportion of IDA lending to Africa we are told increased to 29 percent of the total agricultural lending compared to 23 percent in the three-year period 1984/86. We are also told that preliminary figures for the first 6 months of 1988 also indicates an increase at current prices in IDA lending to Africa compared to 1987. The African Working Fund lending increased by an impressive 93 percent in 1987 compared with the three years average at constant prices, representing 42 percent of multilateral lending to Africa. While these are most welcome developments, we hope that such flows will be equally distributed.

Since you have indicated that we should not mix or include locust questions in our interventions, we reserve our right to intervene on desert locusts at a later stage.

Amin ABDEL MALEK (Liban) (langue originale arabe): Je voudrais tout d'abord remercier le Secrétariat pour son excellente présentation du Document 2, sur l'état de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture. C'est un travail vraiment excellent.

Nous sommes tous préoccupés par l'état de l'agriculture, surtout suite à ce que nous avons entendu hier de la part du Directeur général. En fait, nous étions trop optimistes, car au lieu d'assister à une augmentation de notre production, celle-ci a fléchi en 1987... Espérons qu'elle remontera en 1988.

L'augmentation démographique mondiale n'a pas été compensée par une augmentation parallèle de la production; il faut faire de notre mieux pour arriver à un équilibre et nous savons que l'Organisation fera tout ce qu'elle peut pour améliorer l'agriculture et assurer le ravitaillement.

Néanmoins, le budget étant faible, l'Organisation a été obligée de réduire ses activités dans plus d'un domaine, ce qui a évidemment eu des effets néfastes dans le domaine agricole.

A la lumière de ce que nous avons entendu hier et aujourd'hui, il est difficile d'être optimiste étant donné que certaines délégations tiennent à la croissance zéro du budget, sinon à une croissance négative, ce qui ne manquera pas, à l'avenir, d'avoir de graves conséquences sur la production agricole et alimentaire dans le monde.

A cause du déficit budgétaire, une grande quantité de postes professionnels ont été congelés. Un sombre avenir nous attend. Par exemple, 50 postes professionnels ont été congelés dans le Département des pêches, alors que nous voyons décroître la production halieutique mondiale. Nous sommes sûrs que l'une des raisons principales de cette situation est le manque de personnel. C'est le cas, notamment, en ce qui concerne le problème du criquet pèlerin.

Nous ne pouvons que remercier l'Organisation pour ce qu'elle fait mais nous ne pouvons pas lui demander davantage; nous ne pouvons pas demander qu'elle nous donne plus que ce que nous lui donnons.

J'espère que la préparation du Programme de travail et budget pour 1990/91 permettra à ceux qui contribuent à l'Organisation de prendre leurs responsabilités en main en tenant compte de ces problèmes.

Gonzalo BULA ROTOS (Colombia): Siguiendo sus instrucciones, Sr. Presidente, vamos a limitar ahora nuestra intervención a los documentos 94/2 y Sup. 1 y mis adelante, si usted nos lo permite, nos referiremos al Sup. 2.

En primer lugar, queremos expresar nuestro apoyo a las declaraciones que han hecho los colegas de Hungría, Lesotho, y Líbano particularmente, y también expresar nuestra satisfacción por la forma positiva y altruista como el colega de Finlandia se refirió a la Ronda de Uruguay, a la necesidad de que se concluyan rápida y convenientemente las negociaciones de los productos agrícolas. Nos llena de satisfacción, como corresponde siempre a la tradición generosa de los países nórdicos, que dentro del sistema general-de preferencias de Finlandia se tengan en cuenta los intereses y las necesidades de los países en desarrollo.

Cada vez que discutimos en este Consejo, El Estado Mundial de la Agricultura y la Alimentación, las conclusiones son siempre las mismas, con mayores síntomas de agravamiento y tal como lo confirmó en su excelente presentación el Sr. Hjort y como lo ha actualizado también el Sup. 1 en el cual, tan sólo 3 elementos describen esa situación, como son el hecho de que la de 1988 fue otra mala temporada agrícola. La producción mundial de cereales disminuyó un 3%; descenderán por debajo de los niveles mínimos necesarios para mantener la seguridad alimentaria mundial la existencia de cereales. Casi dos tercios de los países en desarrollo obtuvieron menos ingresos de la exportación de productos agropecuarios.

Los documentos, por lo demás, registran feliz crecimiento económico en los países desarrollados: 3 por ciento en 1987, resultados inesperadamente positivos, dice el párrafo 8, a costa de los más bajos precios del petróleo, de los tipos de interés, y de la reordenación de las relaciones cambiarias.

El párrafo 9 dice: que el crecimiento económico en las regiones en desarrollo arrojó "resultados muy inferiores y desiguales". En América Latina y el Caribe apenas ese crecimiento estuvo a la par del crecimiento demográfico que fue superior en África y hasta negativo en el Cercano Oriente. Sigue diciendo el documento que en 1988 se preveía para todas las regiones en desarrollo, a excepción de América Latina y del Caribe, una aceleración del ritmo del crecimiento económico.

Aun antes de pasar a otras referencias sobre la región a la cual pertenece nuestro país, Colombia, aparece evidente el hecho de que el área más afectada por la crisis económica ha sido América Latina y el Caribe. Por lo tanto hubiera sido lógico y coherente esperar que el Análisis Mundial de la Coyuntura Económica que precede este documento, en el caso de nuestra región, se hubiese basado en el Estudio de la FAO titulado: "Potencialidades del desarrollo agrícola y rural en América Latina y el Caribe", Estudio que se presentó a la última Conferencia Regional. En cambio, lamentamos que a ese Estudio, apenas se le dedica una nota al pie de la página 41 del texto español.

La producción agrícola y alimentaria ha sufrido un descenso general, naturalmente con más acentuadas consecuencias negativas en los países en desarrollo, sobre todo África y Cercano Oriente. Los precios de algunos productos básicos se recuperaron levemente pero, como dice el párrafo 4 del documento básico: "las relaciones comerciales siguen estando dominadas por el proteccionismo".

Los Representantes de Colombia queremos apoyar firme y decididamente los conceptos que acaba de expresar la primera oradora sobre este tema, la distinguida Sr. Galvolgyi, de Hungría, país con el cual Colombia, asociado a otros países desarrollados y en desarrollo, formamos parte del grupo CAIRN. Como lo ha dicho la colega de Hungría, el grupo CAIRN celebró la semana pasada una reunión en Budapest, a la que Colombia estuvo representada a muy alto nivel y seguimos propugnando un comercio libre que permita la exportación de nuestros productos a los mercados de los estados desarrollados.

Dentro de esas inquietudes, Sr. Presidente, quisiéramos que cuando usted lo considere oportuno, permita al observador de la Comunidad Económica Europea que nos hable sobre el alcance de la política de estabilizadores, que parece que va a poner, o ha puesto en práctica la Comunidad, porque deseamos saber si esa política de estabilizadores va a terminar con los subsidios, o volverá a permitir que esos subsidios se sigan aplicando. En nombre del Gobierno de Colombia, deseo reconocer a la Comunidad Económica Europea, el hecho positivo de hace dos semanas, según el cual la Comunidad ha permitido de nuevo la exportación de algunos productos agropecuarios colombianos a los mercados de esos doce países, particularmente la carne.

El párrafo 30 se refiere a los porcentajes correspondientes a la Comunidad Económica Europea, Estados Unidos y Japón, en relación con todas las exportaciones agrícolas provenientes de los países en desarrollo, para concluir, lánguidamente en el párrafo 31, con la afirmación de que: "si no se contrarresta con alguna medida comercial o de política, la disminución de las importaciones de la CEE, y la reducción del ritmo de la correspondiente a los EE.UU., no hará sino reducir las perspectivas de una recuperación basada en el comercio de muchos países en desarrollo exportadores de productos agrícolas". Tenemos alguna duda y por eso preguntamos a la Secretaría, si acaso habrá contradicción entre el párrafo 31 y lo que se dice en el párrafo 29. Citamos, en relación con la mayor importación de productos agrícolas de países en desarrollo a países industrializados, dice el párrafo 29: "esto sólo ha ocurrido en los Estados Unidos, que incrementaron sus exportaciones agrícolas". Si en realidad tenemos razón, si se trata del mismo problema, convendría que se hiciera justicia a Estados Unidos y se le situara en su lugar adecuado en relación con el incremento de sus importaciones agrícolas de países en desarrollo. No sé si se trata de dos asuntos diferentes, o si usted o el Sr. Denwey, Representante de Estados Unidos, puedan confirmar las informaciones favorables que tiene el Gobierno de Colombia, sobre esa actitud positiva del comercio norteamericano.

De todos modos, Sr. Presidente, por lo que se refiere a la necesaria e indispensable acción concertada de los países industrializados, para mejorar la difícil situación económica del Tercer Mundo, nos parecen demasiado optimistas, ya el colega Abdel Malek, del Líbano, también usó ese mismo término "optimismo" que aparece en el párrafo 5; las consideraciones que se hacen en este documento, al hablarnos de nuevo de Cumbres cuya importancia reconocemos, de Jefes de Estado y de Gobiernos, pero cuyos resultados siguen siendo siempre los mismos: palabras, declaraciones, comunicados; ningún hecho concreto, todo música celestial. Nosotros sabemos, Sr. Presidente, de la buena intención de esos países. Estamos seguros de que son sinceros en sus propósitos de corregir esta difícil situación, pero seguimos esperando que todo esto se traduzca en realidad en hechos concretos.

Es por lo menos curioso, Sr. Presidente, observar que la parte específica de este documento sobre América Latina y el Caribe, que empieza en el párrafo 143, al hacer referencia a: "La Experiencia de los Años 80", Cuadro 7, que tiene por título: "Algunos Indicadores de las Regiones en Desarrollo, por Grupos de Países, 1980-87", que allí en esa sección se haya situado la frase, cito: "Es cada vez más evidente, que los años 80 serán un decenio perdido", decenio perdido, dice el párrafo 143, en lo que respecta al progreso socioeconómico. Pudiera así darse la impresión de que el decenio perdido fuese solamente para los países de América Latina. Nosotros creemos que, en realidad ese decenio ha sido perdido para la gran mayoría de los países en desarrollo que han sido víctimas del deterioro continuo y progresivo del multilateralismo. En la FAO ese decenio perdido de que habla el párrafo 143, está dejando una huella dolorosa como lo comprobamos ayer tarde y esta mañana.

Finalmente, Sr. Presidente, nos preocupa el hecho de que la producción alimentaria y agrícola descienda en forma peligrosa. El párrafo 34 nos dice que ha disminuido en casi un 1 por ciento en 1987, el peor resultado del decenio actual. Se ha reducido la tasa de crecimiento de la producción en los países desarrollados, y esa misma producción se ha estancado o reducido también en los países en desarrollo.

La FAO prevé que la producción mundial de cereales disminuirá considerablemente. Las perspectivas de abastecimiento alimentario en los países en desarrollo son heterogéneas.

El párrafo 44 contiene las: "importantes consecuencias" y los hechos "sumamente serios" que vamos a afrontar pronto. La producción mundial será inferior al consumo por segundo año consecutivo. Las existencias se reducirán aún más al final de 1988-89, para llegar al volumen de sólo 319 millones de toneladas. Así las existencias cerealeras bajarían del mismo nivel mínimo que la FAO considera necesario para salvaguardar la seguridad alimentaria, situación que ya se presentó en los años 80 y 81, y que la segunda mitad de los años 70 determinó la convocatoria de la Conferencia Mundial de Alimentación. Si esos datos, que se refieren a la situación en general de las existencias, nos preocupan, deben ser consignados en nuestro informe. Más grave e inquietante, a juicio de la delegación de Colombia, es la distribución de esas existencias, cuya parte correspondiente a los países en desarrollo ha venido disminuyendo constantemente, pasando del 44 por ciento en 1983/84, al solo 28 por ciento en 1987/88. Es la configuración acentuada y progresiva de la inaceptable y dolorosa paradoja, a través de la cual las existencias de cereales siguen concentradas en los grandes países productores, al tiempo que el hambre y la malnutrición afectan a millones de seres humanos.

Para tratar de contribuir a corregir esa tremenda y permanente injusticia, el Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación adoptó en mayo pasado la iniciativa de Chipre contra el hambre. Recientemente, como lo dijo aquí nuestro colega López Portillo de México, y el pasado 19 de octubre el Presidente del CMA, Secretario de Agricultura y Recursos Hidráulicos de México, convocó una reunión en la Sede de las Naciones Unidas y se constituyó un grupo consultivo, del cual forma parte Colombia. Sobre esto profundizaremos cuando lleguemos al tema 10, como se combinó en la sesión inaugural.

La delegación de Colombia piensa, Sr. Presidente, que todos estos aspectos negativos que se desprenden del análisis de este documento, deberán ser consignados en nuestro informe.

En cuanto a América Latina y el Caribe, a la luz de esta situación esperamos, Sr. Presidente, el Gobierno de Colombia confía, en que la FAO en el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para el bienio 90/91, aun dentro de las prioridades que seguimos reconociendo deben acentuarse en favor de otras regiones en desarrollo gravemente afectadas como el África Subsahariana, deberá, sin embargo, considerar la FAO la posibilidad de asignar mayores recursos para América Latina y el Caribe.

Apoyamos lo que ha dicho nuestro colega Abdel Malek, de Líbano, sobre la necesidad de frente a esta situación grave y difícil, a la FAO se le suministren los recursos indispensables para que pueda contribuir a modificar esa situación insostenible.

João Augusto de MEDICIS (Brazil): Document CL 94/2 along with the statement delivered by the Director-General yesterday, and the extremely important presentation of this item by Mr. Hjort, the pertinent parts of which we would like very much to be included in our report, especially those parts relating to Latin America depict very well the troubles faced by agriculture in the world today. Even though hope is expressed in both that initiatives like the Uruguay Round may help to ameliorate the unbearable situation in developing countries, the fact remains that certain policies, such as protectionism, unfair trade practices and high interest rates amongst others, still hamper the path of developing countries to development. The gap between rich and poor is widening every day. Hunger is spreading, not because of lack of food but due to the impossibility to buy adequate rations fostering death as a consequence of malnutrition, particularly among children.

Unfortunately, while developing countries place their hope on the Uruguay Round, measures taken by some developed countries clearly show their intention of breaking the political commitment of standstill with the admitted purpose of enhancing their negotiating positions in the Round. In this context I could refer to unilateral and coercive trade measures recently taken against Brazil. Those measures threaten the very foundations of the Uruguay Round negotiations and should be condemned by the international community if multilateralism is to survive.

In the same line I want to draw the attention of this Council to paragraph 4 of the document which deals with questions which my delegation considers of paramount importance, namely, the accumulation of foreign debt by developing countries, which remains unsolved and affects all fields of activities in those countries. The present situation tends to deteriorate still further if a solution is not found soon. We are convinced that a political rather than a technical approach is needed. Therefore, we ask the international community, particularly the developed countries, to adopt concrete measures to eliminate protectionist regulations and practices, restricting trade of commodities exported by developing countries. We ask them also to ease the servicing of the external debt and facilitate the flow of resources and investment needed to accelerate economic and agricultural development. It is worth recalling that similar feelings have been expressed at length by many countries during the 20th FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean held last month in Brazil.

In line with those efforts the Cairns Group, of which Brazil is a member, advocates a more equitable environment for the international trade of agricultural products including the principle of differential and more favourable treatment for developing countries. At its last Ministerial Meeting held in Budapest, the Cairns Group Minister urged "other participants in the Uruguay Round to enter into immediate and substantive negotiations to ensure the successful outcome on agriculture in Montreal and thereby provide a sound basis for negotiations over the remainder of the Round."

Paragraphs 143 to 158 of the document well summarize the dramatic situation of agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean. The very first phrase of paragraph 143 is the essence of the issue, and even though shocking should be kept in mind by all members of this organization so as to avoid its repetition in the next decade. It says "the experience of the 1980s shows growing evidence that the 1980s will be a lost decade in terms of socio-economic progress". Paragraphs 143 to 158 are an extract of the FAO Study "Potentials for rural development in Latin America and the Caribbean presented and discussed at the 20th Regional Conference. Member countries analyzed those questions thoroughly during the Conference and their views are reflected in the Declaration of Recife and in the report of the meeting. I can therefore refrain from commenting further on the subject.

Finally the Brazilian delegation hopes that initiative such as the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations, the reform of the system of finance of the EEC and the reform of its common agricultural policy, the question of protectionism, subsidization and other unfair trade practices and barriers will be tackled seriously so as to allow our countries to have equal chances to achieve development and better living conditions for their population. The time is ripe for a mature approach and multilateral goodwill to deal with poverty, hunger and malnutrition in a most sensible and unselfish way if we are to enter a new century with less suffering for mankind.

F.A. Shamim AHMED (Bangladesh): At the outset, let me say that it is a great privilege for me to attend this 94th Session of the FAO Council under your Chairmanship. I would like to join other delegates in congratulating you and the three elected Vice-Chairmen.

I would also convey our thanks and felicitations to the Director-General, Mr. Edouard Saouma, for the very important statement he made yesterday. He touched upon the vital issues concerning the organization and also the important items on the agenda of this Session. His statement has set the tune of this Session in motion which will facilitate our deliberations in the coming days. In this connection I would like to put on record our appreciation for his total dedication to upholding the charter of the FAO and his efforts in strengthening the Organization as an instrument for providing succour and assistance to the needy.

Coming to the agenda item under discussion we express our commendation for the excellent document prepared by the Secretariat. The document is comprehensive in respect of delineating all relevant items but at the same time the presentation is very clear and concise.

In the backdrop of the declining trend in the world economy in the past years for slow and depressed growth rate, stagnating trade because of growing protectionism, low commodity prices, increasingly deteriorating terms of trade for developing countries, worsening debt problems and persisting fiscal and trade imbalance of developed countries, the situation of world economic environment of 1988, as described in the beginning paragraphs of the document, seem to evoke some optimism. There are references to some positive and hopeful events during the current year. There was some dynamism of trade in 1987 and a strengthening of commodity prices; debt crisis which is the main problem affecting reality of the South was discussed and debt relief need was recognized.

The apparent optimism and hope prove to be ephemeral when we look into the real picture obtaining in the world economy particularly in the context of the developing and least developed countries of the world. Too many discussions have been going on in respect of international debt crisis but the problem of external debt will remain the major obstacle to the economic growth in most developing countries. The short-term developments in world trade cannot make any dent in the profound international payment imbalances. Although fears of recession in industrial countries receded, concern shifted towards a possible resurgence of inflation. In spite of some strengthening of commodity price, fundamental disequilibria continue to beset the world economy. Protectionism will plague trade relationship. There is still wide uncertainty about the result of Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade negotiations.

On the Food and Agriculture side, which is the major concern of FAO, the present situation and outlook is not at all satisfactory. The world cereal production in 1988 will be about 4 percent less than last year's below-average harvest. There will also be a substantial reduction in cereal supplies in 1988-89 and a sharp rise in wheat and coarse grain price on the International market. The import needs of many low-income food-deficit countries are expected to grow. The higher prices and the prospect of reduced food availability will increase the difficulties and problems for a good number of developing cereal importing countries.

The critical food situation in many low-income food-deficit countries is evident from the fact that at present the emergency food assistance of WFP is in operation in as many as 35 countries of different regions of the world.

In most of the least developed and developing countries agriculture is predominantly dependent upon weather conditions. Natural calamities like droughts, floods, cyclones are the common phenomenon of many of the developing countries which not only affect their agriculture alone but the economy as a whole. In this connection it may be mentioned that there were serious crop damages in many Asian, African and Latin American countries during the current year because of natural disasters. The FAO Special Report on Food Crops and Shortages contains the details of the crop damages caused by natural disasters. May I take this opportunity to inform the distinguished delegates about some of the effects of recent floods in my country. About 3/4 of the country was flooded affecting more than 40 million people, of which 30 million were left homeless. There were losses of human lives, live-stock, fisheries, crops, dwelling structures, transportation and communication network. Apart from other losses the estimated crop loss was about 2.25 million tons. In this connection my delegation recalls the sympathy, support and cooperation of the international community towards Bangladesh for which we are grateful. The timely assistance and pledges of assistance received from different bilateral donors as well as multilateral agencies helped us in facing the problem with courage and resilience.

The Secretary General of the United Nations has convened a special meeting of the donor countries today the 16 November 1988, in New York, for assisting Bangladesh to overcome colossal loss and damages from the floods. President Hussain Muhammad Ershad will address the meeting.

The natural disasters in many parts of the world not only have direct effects of losses and destructions; they also adversely affect the whole economy. They not only create emergency situation but also pose a challenge to the concept of sustainable development which is being talked about widely.

Mr. Chairman, may I take this opportunity to draw the attention of the distinguished delegates to the resolutions adopted recently in New York and Geneva on the need for continued and increased support and assistance for the emergency and rehabilitation requirements of Bangladesh after the devastating floods. Natural disasters have almost become recurrent in many other developing countries also including my own country. It would be only befitting for this august body to reiterate the need for increased assistance and support for these countries. I would like to urge upon the distinguished delegates to pledge their supporting hands by reinforcing their assistance towards all these countries frequently affected by natural disasters. I hope our position as well as the forthcoming pledges would take place in the final report of this Session.

Bashir EL MABROUK SAID (Libya) (Original language Arabic): Allow me at the outset to express our thanks through you to Mr. Hjort, the Director of Policy Analysis on his excellent presentation of this document relating to the state of food and agriculture in 1988. This document is considered to be of great importance to us because it reflects faithfully the economic situation prevailing in the world - its positive and negative sides and its impact on agriculture. I shall confine myself at this stage to making a few points because the positive and negative impacts are referred to in this document. However, in spite of our happiness at the developments of the economic situation in 1988 in a more regular manner compared with previous years, this happiness is uncertain because of the economic imbalances which still persist in many developing countries due to policies which we consider unjust and inappropriate, followed by some big powers and their monopolies and this is really regrettable and can never be acceptable.

The policy of protectionism and the problem of indebtedness of third world countries is in addition to the decline in the prices of many commodities produced by developing countries, especially raw materials, this is against a sharp increase in finished articles, especially in agricultural inputs and this is a very serious development. In spite of the limited optimism of the Toronto Summit which was held in June 1988 and which we hope will have a positive impact on the trade negotiations and in alleviating the debt burden on the developing countries, however, my delegation believes that the increasing debt burden on the shoulders of developing countries year in year out until the debts of African loan exceeded US \$ 218 billion and the service of debt in Sub-Saharan Africa rose from 26.1 percent in 1984 to 43.3 percent in 1987 of the value of exports of this poor region. This means that the debt service takes about half the export revenue. This is an obstacle in the way of the development of the agricultural sector which we in Africa consider a basic sector in development.

From this august assembly we do call upon industrialized countries to create the appropriate environment and to create economic relationships that are more just and will alleviate the burden of external debt and would limit the spread of hunger, malnutrition and death to millions of people. This called upon the Council during the past two days to call upon states to pay their contributions considering the fact that FAO contributes to the alleviation of hunger and malnutrition in developing countries.

Angel BARBERO MARTIN (España): España como miembro de este Consejo y también de la Comunidad Europea solicita de Ud. que tenga a bien conceder la palabra al Sr. Schiratti, Director de la Dirección General de Agricultura en la Comisión de las Comunidades Europeas que, en representación de la Comisión y en nombre de los Países Miembros de la Comunidad, desea realizar una declaración.

Monsieur le Président, la Commission des Communautés européennes n'est pas un pays membre et nous lui passons la parole; cela correspond à une demande présentée par l'Honorable délégué de la Colombie.

Giaupiero SCHIRATTI (CEE): Je vous remercie de bien vouloir me donner la parole pour vous présenter le point de vue de la Communauté sur cet important point de l'ordre du jour.

Je voudrais tout d'abord souligner la qualité du document réalisé par le Secrétariat de la FAO et tout particulièrement celle du Document CL 94/2 qui donne une vision claire et exhaustive des problèmes de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture en 1988. La politique de la Communauté y est mentionnée dans plusieurs chapitres et plus particulièrement dans les paragraphes 210 à 218.

Pour compléter l'exposé du Secrétariat et également conformément aux souhaits exprimés par le délégué de la Colombie, je développerai la partie du document qui se réfère à la Communauté et vous expliquerai le contexte dans lequel les réformes de la politique agricole commune et ses résultats doivent être lus.

L'évolution de la production mondiale des produits agricoles, et par conséquent la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture dans le monde, dépendent d'une part des facteurs naturels qui en grande partie échappent au contrôle de l'homme comme viennent de le démontrer plusieurs catastrophes naturelles survenues au cours de ces derniers mois, et d'autre part des politiques agricoles suivies dans chaque pays, ainsi que de leur interaction au niveau international.

Mon exposé portera sur les objectifs de la réforme de la PAC, sur les mesures prises dans ce contexte par la Communauté au cours de ces derniers mois, sur les résultats obtenus à ce jour, puis je vous ferai part de quelques réflexions sur la contribution que la Communauté peut apporter au développement de l'agriculture dans le monde, et en particulier dans le Tiers monde.

La réforme de la PAC: les aménagements apportés à la politique agricole commune au cours de ces dernières années l'ont été autour des trois objectifs principaux suivants:

- la maîtrise de la production et des dépenses,
- la préservation du modèle européen de l'agriculture, et enfin
- la concertation internationale.

En ce qui concerne la maîtrise de la production et des dépenses, les mesures adoptées depuis 1980 vont dans le sens d'une politique des prix conçue de façon à permettre aux signaux du marché de mieux jouer leur fonction, une intervention des pouvoirs publics moins permanente et, plus limitée et enfin de la garantie d'une limitation du soutien par la fixation de quotas et de seuils de garantie contraignants, renforçant la coresponsabilité des producteurs communautaires.

S'agissant d'atteindre un meilleur équilibre entre l'offre et la demande, la Communauté, dans un premier temps, a privilégié l'action sur les prix. Deux résultats seulement pour illustrer mon propos. Les prix de soutien, c'est-à-dire les prix institutionnels, ont été réduits en termes réels de 17% dans les dix dernières années. Les prix à la production, quant à eux, ont diminué au cours de la même période d'environ 25%. Ce décalage entre prix institutionnels - à savoir les prix fixés par les autorités publiques - et les prix effectivement touchés par les producteurs, ce décalage qui s'est amplifié ces dernières années illustre bien l'impact de l'action indirecte sur les prix.

Jusqu'à présent, cette réforme a été appliquée en priorité dans les secteurs des céréales, du lait et des oléagineux. Comme nous le verrons dans la troisième partie de mon exposé, cette réforme a déjà donné lieu à des résultats positifs et permis la limitation de la production et des dépenses de soutien. Malheureusement, cette réduction des dépenses et cette limitation, ont été occultées en partie par la présence sur les marchés communautaires de stocks agricoles accumulés dans le passé.

A la lumière des résultats obtenus, la Communauté a décidé de renforcer les stabilisateurs existants - il s'agit d'instruments destinés à limiter la production communautaire - et d'en introduire d'autres dans les secteurs où les mécanismes de marché ne suffisent pas à assurer la maîtrise souhaitée de la production.

La réforme de la politique agricole commune a connu trois grandes étapes au cours de ces dernières années: 1984, instauration dans le secteur du lait des quotas de production; 1986 et 1987, limitations imposées au soutien des marchés dans les secteurs des céréales, des oléagineux y inclus l'huile d'olive et des produits laitiers; 1988, mise en place de stabilisateurs dans les organisations des marchés de céréales, des oléagineux et protéagineux accompagnés de dispositions budgétaires très strictes assurant la maîtrise de la production de ces produits dans la Communauté.

En ce qui concerne la préservation du modèle européen de l'agriculture, celle-ci a été poursuivie par une politique cohérente tenant compte notamment de la nécessité de maintenir les revenus agricoles à des niveaux acceptables, ainsi que du modèle d'exploitation familiale.

A cet effet, des mesures d'accompagnement appropriées ont déjà été adoptées en particulier sur le plan socio-structurel.

En ce qui concerne la concertation internationale, celle-ci s'impose naturellement à la Communauté qui, au niveau mondial, est le premier importateur et le second exportateur de produits agricoles; dans les documents de la FAO on voit la part extrêmement importante que l'importation en provenance des pays en voie de développement représente pour la Communauté: environ 50% des produits agricoles sont exportés vers la Communauté, et celle-ci absorbe environ 26% des exportations de produits agricoles des pays en voie de développement. Il est bien évident que la Communauté a conçu la réforme de sa politique agricole de façon à contribuer à l'assainissement et à la stabilisation des marchés internationaux.

Cet assainissement et cette stabilisation ne seront toutefois poursuivis que si les autres pays producteurs, notamment les pays développés, prennent également des mesures pour adapter - de manière concertée - l'offre à la demande, en réduisant leurs propres mesures de soutien à l'agriculture.

En ce qui concerne les derniers mois, il faut rappeler que d'importants aménagements ont été décidés dans de nombreux secteurs (depuis fin 1986) mais l'inertie en matière d'alimentation et d'agriculture est telle que souvent les tendances profondes de la consommation et de la production ne peuvent changer facilement dans des délais courts. Ainsi, la Communauté a poursuivi ses réformes dont les dernières datent de février 1988. A cette époque, le Conseil européen a arrêté de nouvelles mesures pour assurer un meilleur ajustement de l'offre à la demande. En particulier, il a décidé dans la perspective d'une approche globale de l'ensemble des produits agricoles, de l'introduction de stabilisateurs agricoles pour freiner le développement de la production et des prix dans les secteurs des céréales, des oléagineux et des protéagineux, du vin et du tabac; de

plus, une décision a été prise de mise en jachère des terres par le versement d'une prime aux agriculteurs qui accepteront de geler au moins 20% de leurs terres arables pendant un minimum de cinq ans; on a également décidé d'apporter des aides à la pré-retraite et aux revenus pour faciliter l'ajustement structurel; de même a été décidé le principe de l'opportunité de l'utilisation non-alimentaire de matières premières agricoles; enfin, on a fixé un taux maximum, d'accroissement des dépenses du budget pour les années à venir et qui doivent être égales et non supérieures à 74% de l'augmentation du PNB communautaire.

Pour ce qui est de la discipline budgétaire, deux chiffres illustrent les efforts qui ont été décidés par la Communauté. Entre 1975 et 1987 les dépenses de budget communautaire de soutien dans l'agriculture ont augmenté en moyenne de près de 8% par an. Désormais, l'augmentation maximale possible est plafonnée à moins de 2% par an.

Quant aux stabilisateurs, ils impliquent que tout dépassement quantitatif d'un seuil déterminé entraînera désormais une réduction du soutien proportionnelle au dépassement.

Un mot également sur le retrait des terres. La version communautaire du "set aside" se présente non en tant qu'alternative mais en tant que complément d'une politique restrictive des prix. Le "set aside" ainsi conçu se traduit par un soutien aux revenus des agriculteurs qui n'ont pas la capacité de rationaliser leur entreprise ou qui travaillent sur des terres marginales. Il ne fournit en aucun cas un alibi pour accroître le soutien du marché.

Enfin, dans le même esprit, la Commission des Communautés européennes - l'organisme qui fait les propositions en matière de mesures à entreprendre - a fait des propositions au Conseil - l'organisme qui prend la décision - pour l'introduction d'aides directes aux revenus. La logique, à la fois économique et politique de cette proposition résulte d'une constatation très simple: dans la Communauté 20% des agriculteurs assurent près de 80% de la production. Pour les 80% des agriculteurs qui n'assurent que 20% de la production, le soutien assuré par le marché ne peut apporter aucun soulagement réel en termes de revenus à moins d'imaginer des niveaux de prix de loin supérieurs à ceux qui sont actuellement pratiqués dans la Communauté.

La réforme de la Politique agricole commune, engagée depuis plusieurs années est donc poursuivie avec détermination et fermeté. Les mesures prises par la Communauté pour la campagne 1988-1989 et qui se sont traduites par la baisse ou le gel des prix agricoles, et par le maintien, voire le renforcement des dispositifs déjà mis en place, en témoignent.

Monsieur le Président, Madame, Messieurs, on voit déjà les premiers résultats que je vais esquisser: dans le secteur du lait et des produits laitiers, entre 1984 et 1989, le cheptel laitier de la CEE aura été réduit de près de 20%, et 5 millions de vaches auront été pendant cette période abattues; la collecte de lait, la production de lait commercialisé va diminuer entre 1983 et 1989 de 11,3%; la production de beurre sera en 1989 inférieure de 600 mille tonnes à celle de 1983, entraînant une diminution des stocks publics de beurre de 82%.

Quant aux stocks de poudre de lait écrémé qui était d'environ 750 mille tonnes au 30 septembre 1987, ils ont pratiquement disparu.

Dans le secteur des céréales, l'ensemble des mesures prises jusqu'à maintenant nous conduit de 1984 à 1987 à une baisse de prix aux producteurs en termes réels de 25%. Un nouveau mécanisme de stabilisation de la production a été décidé par le Conseil européen en février 1988. La mise en oeuvre de ce nouveau dispositif pourrait conduire pour les quatre prochaines années à une baisse automatique et cumulative du prix des céréales de 3% par an.

A cela, s'ajoutera une coresponsabilité de 3% payée par le producteur, dans le cas où la production dépasserait la quantité maximale fixée par le Conseil. Dans ces conditions, on peut prévoir une stabilisation de la production céréalière de la Communauté au niveau actuel, à savoir 160 millions de tonnes.

En ce qui concerne les oléagineux, il est vrai que la production communautaire a augmenté de façon importante au cours des dernières années de 90% entre 1984 et 1987. Mais la Communauté produisant du beurre et des oléagineux auparavant, il ne faut pas se méprendre sur les pourcentages; les mesures que nous avons prises auront pour effet de diminuer les niveaux actuels de la production.

En effet, les quantités qui ont été retenues comme objectif de production et qui ont été reprises dans la fixation des quantités maximales garanties, se situent à 9,2 millions de tonnes, toutes graines oléagineuses confondues, alors qu'en 1987 la production était d'environ 11 millions de tonnes.

Dans ces conditions, on peut prendre conscience de la réduction; il faut tenir compte des sanctions appliquées en cas de non respect de ces seuils; elles sont sévères: 0,5% de baisse de prix pour chaque 1% de dépassement de la quantité en question.

Il convient de souligner par ailleurs que l'évolution de la production des graines oléagineuses au cours des dernières années n'a pas empêché l'importation de graines oléagineuses et de leurs sous-produits: les tourteaux et l'huile continuent à augmenter; par exemple, l'importation de graines et de tourteaux d'oléagineux a augmenté entre 1984 et 1987 de 15%. Il n'y a pas de raison que cette évolution, grâce à la limitation de la production de la Communauté, ne se poursuive pas à l'avenir.

Dans le secteur du sucre, il existe un régime de quotas depuis l'instauration de l'organisation commune de 1967. La charge financière du soutien de cette production est, dans ce secteur, intégralement supportée par les producteurs. Par ailleurs, la production et la part de la CEE sur le marché mondial sont stables.

Enfin, dans le secteur de la viande bovine et de la viande ovine, la Commission vient de déposer auprès du Conseil des Ministres de la CEE deux propositions en vue d'assurer une meilleure maîtrise de la production et des dépenses dans ce secteur.

Pour conclure, j'ai déjà dit que les mesures prises ou envisagées dans la Communauté en matière de maîtrise de la production ne peuvent qu'avoir un effet positif non seulement sur notre production et nos dépenses mais également sur le commerce international contribuant ainsi à la stabilisation des prix sur celui-ci.

Je voudrais maintenant brièvement faire quelques réflexions sur les événements agricoles survenus au cours de l'année.

L'infestation des vastes zones d'Afrique, notamment du Sahel par les criquets pèlerins, les inondations du Bangladesh et du Soudan, même si les effets ne sont pas aussi tragiques la sécheresse qui vient de frapper l'Amérique du Nord, les catastrophes naturelles qui se sont produites récemment dans le monde illustrent mon propos.

Je crois qu'il faut tenir compte de cette situation et qu'il faut surtout s'inquiéter de ce que pourrait être la situation alimentaire mondiale, et plus particulièrement celle des pays du tiers monde importateurs, si ce phénomène devait se produire. Nous prions pour qu'il ne se produise pas l'année prochaine ni même dans un avenir proche.

Dans ces conditions, la Communauté, tout en étant convaincue de la nécessité de continuer la réforme intérieure, estime qu'il faut que soit renforcée la détermination de procéder graduellement et d'une façon concertée à l'assainissement du marché mondial.

Je voudrais souligner les efforts limités et peut-être Insuffisants que la Communauté a faits pour essayer d'améliorer la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture, notamment en ce qui concerne les pays du tiers monde. Je voudrais citer quelques chiffres qui montrent notre effort et rappeler les mesures prises par la Communauté en faveur des pays en développement, en particulier l'aide alimentaire, les accords de coopération passés avec la plupart des pays en développement et surtout la Convention de Lomé établie entre la Communauté et les 66 pays signataires de cette Convention qui accorde à ces pays une aide d'environ 10 milliards de dollars de 1985 à 1990. Je crois que cela mérite d'être souligné.

Mais il se trouve que le développement du tiers monde, et plus particulièrement son développement agricole, dépend très largement de la remise en ordre des marchés mondiaux des produits agricoles et, par suite, de la réforme des politiques agricoles nationales. Aussi est-il important de noter, comme l'ont déjà fait plusieurs délégations, que dans une autre enceinte Internationale, le GATT, on discute actuellement de la réduction des mesures de soutien et des politiques protectionnistes appliquées partout dans le monde, comme c'est le cas avec l'Uruguay Round, dont mention est faite aux paragraphes 83 à 88 du rapport du Secrétariat.

Dans quelques semaines, à Montréal, tous les pays membres du GATT se réuniront par faire le point sur l'état actuel des négociations et, on peut l'espérer, leur donner un nouvel élan. Ces négociations auxquelles la Communauté est très attachée et qui prendront fin en 1990 sont d'une très grande importance pour les pays en développement.

C'est la raison pour laquelle je suis particulièrement fier de vous annoncer que le Conseil des Communautés européennes, après avoir examiné les résultats des négociations du GATT, est convenu qu'entre autres, "la Communauté devra continuer à tenir compte, comme elle s'est efforcée de le faire dans le passé, des intérêts des pays en développement, qu'ils soient exportateurs ou importateurs nets".

Gerhard LIEBER (Germany: Federal Republic of): Thank you very much, Mr Chairman. First of all let me thank through you, Mr Chairman, Mr Hjort, for his very informative and thorough introductory statement. My delegation would also like to thank the Secretariat for its documents on the state of food and agriculture 1988 which are, as usual, rich in substance and concise. We fully support these documents.

As the representative of the European Community has just pointed out, the Community made important contributions towards stabilizing world markets. I will not repeat what he has just explained. I would just like to underline that my government attaches utmost importance to these decisions.

Back to the documents. I particularly welcome the fact that the documents state frankly and bluntly what ought to have been achieved during the years since the World Food Conference in 1974 but what is, however, still a concern to us to date. To use the shortest formula, it is above all the serious concern about food security in many, if not the majority, of developing countries.

Today we are unfortunately again faced with a stagnating world-wide agricultural food production which is accompanied by economic bottlenecks in many food importing developing countries. FAO gave and gives warning signals by stating that the per caput food production was declining in 78 out of 108 developing countries and these countries include those with a high-population density such as India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nigeria and Ethiopia. Into the same direction unfortunately tends the statement that the world cereal stocks are meanwhile below the minimum level necessary to safeguard world food security.

We also share FAO's concerns about environmental degradation and in particular sustained deforestation. In this connection, allow me to refer to the statement of our Federal Chancellor on the occasion of the IMF/World Bank Meeting in Berlin and the results of the recent conference on global changes in climate which was held in Hamburg, also in connection with the progress in degradation of tropical rain forests. My delegation will comment on that in detail under Agenda Item no. 7.

There is only small comfort when the report points out that the commodity prices show an upward tendency and a number of low-income countries are somewhat better-off due to debt-relief or rescheduling.

For my government there is no doubt that the world community is called upon once more to improve the general economic conditions. Food deficit countries must be enabled to produce more for their own people and/or to create sufficient purchasing power to buy the necessary food from abroad.

My government tries hard to achieve progress in this respect. We endeavour to keep our market open for commodity imports because exports from developing countries are undoubtedly the most important and reliable source for foreign exchange earnings for these countries. Let me point out that the Federal Republic of Germany is one of the world's biggest importers of agricultural commodities in per caput terms and developing countries realized in their food-commodity trade with my country a net surplus of over 8 billion Deutsche marks. In the first six months of this year, imports from the developing countries increased even more, by over 5 percent.

Moreover, the Federal Republic of Germany gives high priority to its development cooperation policy, to food security and rural development. In this respect also, environmental measures are gaining momentum.

In conclusion, let me express the hope that the structure of economic conditions for developing countries world-wide can be further improved by favourable results of the already mentioned current GATT negotiations. We also hope that the measures agreed upon at this year's World Food Council Session in Nicosia, Cyprus, within the framework of the Cyprus Initiative will be able to identify ways and means to improve the world food situation in a sustained way.

Luka RADOJICIC (Yugoslavia): On behalf of the Yugoslav Government, allow me to congratulate the Chairman and officials elected to guide the work of this session.

Agricultural issues, as an inseparable part of overall socio-economic development constitute an existential issue of the development of the world community. The times we live in are characterized by a grave situation in all segments of society. This decade has started with a deep global recession which has led to an unprecedented crisis in most developing countries. The recession has resulted in a slow-down of development, great monetary instability, a growing trade imbalance and stepped-up protectionism the impact of which is particularly pronounced in agricultural markets. For developing countries, these are exceptionally hard times. Their internal circumstances and impotence with regard to the overall global environment have led to stagnation in their economic

standards. A large number of countries are, today, at the threshold of the XXIst century grappling daily with the problem of hunger. It is consoling that the situation has improved somewhat in respect of the overall world food situation, but we must not lose sight of the fact that we cannot indulge in complacency as long as there is a single hungry person anywhere in the world, while enormous quantities of food are being produced elsewhere.

The agricultural sectors of developing countries, viewed on the whole, have registered visible progress in the quality of nutrition and to a smaller extent in food production also, although there are considerable variations by country and continent. Asia has given a decisive contribution to the overall advancement in this area. However, the situation in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, although somewhat better than last year, still warrants great concern. Output growth in these regions has barely offset the population increase, and not even that in the case of the Near East region. This clearly attests to the need for urgent joint action.

International organizations are exerting great efforts to improve the food and agricultural situation, particularly in the developing countries. However, in spite of these efforts, poverty, hunger and malnutrition have not been significantly reduced. It is indispensable to create a more favourable general and international economic environment, that is to enable greater access to the markets of developed countries, reduce protectionist barriers, ensure debt servicing relief, conclude commodity agreements and increase the volume of developmental and other aid to encourage the all-round development of developing countries, which will, given the existing global interdependence, also benefit the developed countries.

This is why we consider the debate on issues related to the policy and commitments of world agriculture in the forthcoming period to be extremely important and timely. We hope that the discussions at this session will produce substantive guidelines for the faster resolution of crucial problems.

Allow me briefly to describe the results attained and the problems encountered in the development of agriculture in Yugoslavia. My country has very favourable climatic and ecological conditions for agricultural production, significant natural resources, good production potentials, relatively sound processing capacities, noteworthy scientific and technological achievements, know-how and tradition.

Nevertheless, in spite of the accelerated development of agricultural production, the economic position of Yugoslav agriculture has considerably deteriorated in recent years.

This year has been exceptionally unfavourable for Yugoslav agriculture. The areas sown in the autumn of 1987, particularly under wheat, increased by 4 percent, which coupled with the greater use of improved high quality seed and fertilizers, represented a sound basis for the record wheat harvest of 6.3 millions tons in 1988, which was 20 percent higher than in 1987. However, during the vegetation period of spring crops in July and August 1988, there was a long dry spell with exceptionally high temperatures, resulting in considerably lower yields of maize and industrial crops in particular. According to initial estimates, the maize yield will amount to some 7.5 million tons, that is 16 percent less than in 1987, which was an exceptionally poor year, or 41 percent below the record harvest in 1986. The situation is similar with respect to the production of industrial crops. Due to the smaller areas sown under these crops and the drought, their yields are significantly lower: of sugar beet by about 32 percent, sunflower by about 29 percent and soybean by some 26 percent. On the basis of these initial figures, and bearing in mind the tendencies manifested in production and in the market of agricultural products, as well as in view of the losses due to the exceptionally long dry period, the physical volume of overall agricultural production in 1988 is estimated to be below the 1987 level.

Our society is currently addressing the main issues of its future development. Constitutional changes and an economic reform are under way. The main aim of the economic reform is to effect structural changes, in line with principles of an open economy with a strong and resolute market orientation, to encourage technological inventions, know-how, environmental protection, to achieve top quality agricultural production and to foster active international trade and cooperation.

Apolinaire ANDRIATSIATAJATO (Madagascar): Je voudrais avant tout remercier M. Hjort de son excellente présentation des documents soumis aujourd'hui à l'attention du Conseil.

La délégation malgache a examiné attentivement les documents CL 94/2 et CL 94/2/Suppl.1 et 2 traitant de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture en 1988. Elle félicite le Secrétariat pour la qualité de ses documents en dépit de leur concision.

En fait le sujet est très vaste. Chaque chapitre abordé pourrait justifier la production d'un document indépendant et être discuté dans des comités spécialisés, ce qui est d'ailleurs le cas pour les forêts et la pêche. Ma délégation s'abstiendra donc de les commenter, ayant déjà apporté sa modeste contribution lors de l'examen des points concernés dans les comités compétents.

Dans ses commentaires, la délégation malgache essaiera de relever les éléments positifs de la situation qui a prévalu durant la période concernée et de mettre en exergue les éléments négatifs. Elle tentera de formuler des suggestions en s'inspirant bien entendu des conclusions et recommandations élaborées par le Secrétariat.

Beaucoup d'éléments positifs autorisent un certain optimisme. Je me contenterai de les énumérer pour éviter d'allonger outre mesure ma déclaration: reconnaissance par les grands pays industrialisés du fait que la dette représente un grave obstacle au développement économique de l'Afrique, (sommet de Venise et sommet de Toronto, paragraphes 100-111 du Document), entrée en vigueur du Fonds commun pour les produits de base, appui de la Banque mondiale et du Fonds monétaire international aux pays africains engagés dans la réforme de leur économie par des accords de confirmation des accords élargis et par la création de systèmes de financement appropriés, de facilités d'ajustement structurel, augmentation de plus de 90% du volume des prêts offerts à l'Afrique par le Fonds africain de développement (paragraphe 49), prise en main vigoureuse de leur économie par les États africains au risque de provoquer des troubles sociaux très graves.

Il faut dire aussi l'importance que nous attachons à la dimension sociale de ces efforts d'ajustement économique afin que l'on fasse tout le possible pour en réduire les effets néfastes sur les couches les plus vulnérables de la population.

La Communauté économique européenne a défini à cet égard une approche originale et réaliste qui place le développement au centre même des politiques d'ajustement et l'homme au centre même de ce développement. Je suis très heureux au nom de mon Gouvernement de féliciter le Représentant de la Communauté économique européenne pour son exposé que nous avons écouté avec beaucoup d'intérêt et de patience.

Il est évident que cette énumération n'est pas exhaustive. Son seul mérite serait d'avoir attiré une fois de plus l'attention du Conseil sur quelques faits positifs qui méritent d'être encouragés. Le Conseil souhaitera certainement voir ces actions se renforcer et se développer dans l'avenir.

Malheureusement, les phénomènes négatifs n'ont pas manqué de ternir le tableau et menacent même d'anéantir les acquis si l'on n'y prend garde.

Nous faisons nôtres les avis qui ont été exprimés dans ce sens par les distingués collègues de la Finlande, du Lesotho, du Liban, de la Colombie, du Brésil et de la Libye. Je me contenterai également de commenter ces aspects négatifs très brièvement.

D'abord la dette extérieure. Pour l'Afrique, elle est passée de 152 milliards de dollars en 1984 à 218 milliards de dollars en 1987. Le service de cette dette absorbe presque la totalité des recettes d'exportation. Elle reste, comme le précise le document au paragraphe 24 "le principal obstacle à la reprise d'une croissance économique satisfaisante dans la plupart des pays en développement". Cela est du reste souligné dans la très importante déclaration d'ouverture de M. le Directeur général de la FAO.

La dette n'est actuellement pas gérable, précise le Ministre malgache des Finances, car le système de rééchelonnement actuel ne permet à aucun pays en développement, voulant se développer rationnellement, d'élaborer un quelconque plan à long terme, et même à moyen terme. Le système de rééchelonnement avec le taux d'intérêt porté sur le montant rééchelonné crée un phénomène d'accumulation insupportable de la dette. Tous comptes faits, les résultats de cette politique sont dérisoires par rapport à une dette dont le fardeau ne cesse de s'alourdir. Il faut arrêter le processus et appliquer l'une ou l'autre des solutions préconisées à la réunion de Berlin des Gouverneurs de la Banque mondiale et du Fonds monétaire international en septembre 1988, à savoir annulation du tiers de la dette et pour le reste rééchelonnement sur 14 ans, réduction des taux d'intérêt de 3,5% et rééchelonnement sur 14 ans aux conditions de marché, rééchelonnement sur 25 ans aux conditions de marché. Voilà les 3 alternatives qui ont été proposées et que je sou mets à l'attention des distingués membres du Conseil.

Ensuite, blocage manifeste et machiavélique des exportations des principales matières premières des pays en développement vers les pays industrialisés, les quantités des principaux produits de base se trouvant réduites à leur plus simple expression (cacao, vanille, etc.)

D'autre part, d'autres phénomènes plus au moins naturels sont venus aggraver la situation, criquet pèlerin en Afrique, inondation en Asie, sécheresse dans plusieurs autres régions.

Enfin la diminution importante des réserves mondiales de céréales pour la sécurité mondiale alimentaire ne manque pas de nous inquiéter. D'une part, on prévoit une baisse sensible des aides alimentaires en céréales, et d'autre part une flambée des prix qui empêchera les pays à faible revenu et à déficit alimentaire d'importer les compléments indispensables à leurs besoins minima (paragraphe 44).

M. le Président, nous voudrions lancer un appel aux pays donateurs pour leur suggérer de modifier, si possible, leur façon de fixer l'aide alimentaire. Il faudrait à notre sens déterminer les quantités d'aides à fournir, les quantités des denrées à fournir, au lieu de s'en tenir à un montant de crédit d'aide inamovible. En effet, dans ce dernier cas, lorsque le prix des denrées augmente, la quantité se voit automatiquement réduite. Voilà une suggestion, M. le Président.

Je voudrais clore mon intervention en souhaitant que le Conseil puisse concentrer ses travaux sur ces éléments sensibles de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale et j'espère également qu'il n'hésitera pas à formuler des recommandations pragmatiques pour la résolution des problèmes de la dette, de la détérioration des termes de l'échange, de la baisse des recettes d'exportation, du soutien vigoureux à assurer aux pays qui procèdent à des mesures d'ajustement structurels de leur économie, de transfert de capital des pays en développement vers les pays industrialisés, car malheureusement, depuis une décennie déjà, à tous les rassemblement mondiaux, ces problèmes sont inlassablement évoqués, mais ne trouvent pas de solution appropriée et deviennent même d'une acuité inégalée. Les mesures à prendre s'avèrent ainsi très importantes pour l'avenir.

Li ZHENHUAN (China) (Original language Chinese): Yesterday morning, the Director-General gave a full account of the global state of food and agriculture. This morning, Mr. Hjort gave an introduction to document CL 94/2 and the two supplements which will facilitate our deliberations on this item.

Mr Chairman, frankly speaking, the global state of food and agriculture over the last two years has become all the more complicated. First all, production tends to stagnate or decline. The world cereal production declined by 4% for two consecutive years for the first time in 40 years. The fall of cereal production in the major developed producing regions or countries is even more serious. Although the growth in the developing regions has maintained the momentum of steady increases, the general growth rate has been slowing down.

Secondly, trade has become increasingly difficult. There is no substantial improvement in the terms of agricultural trade so far, and developing countries do not enjoy equal opportunities or conditions for their agricultural products to enter in the international market, or no necessary differential terms have been given to their commodities. The global trade volume is stagnating. Market prices are unpredictable and demand is weak.

Thirdly, the size of stocks is declining. According to FAO data, stocks at the end of this year are estimated to have fallen below the minimum level considered by FAO to be necessary to safeguard world food security. This level should be around 17% or 18%. Equally, the uneven composition and distribution of stocks still exists. Here I would like to elaborate on the following points. One, agricultural development is closely linked to the other economic elements. We are of the view that the prevailing issues of debt, inflation, commodity prices and a trade order as analysed in document CL 94/2 are adversely affecting the world's agricultural development - especially that of the developing countries. Therefore, the improvement of the economic environment is a very important task in our efforts to obtain a breakthrough in the world's agricultural development.

Actions which have been taken to develop world agriculture should be expanded to all related fields. In this respect we believe that efforts made by the developing countries are indispensable. At the same time the developed countries should live up to their unshrinkable duty to take realistic actions to create a favourable economic environment for agricultural development in the world. Agricultural and rural development are closely linked. Poverty and underdevelopment are inseparable. Agricultural development, particularly that of cereal production, should be integrated with overall rural development.

In the process of agricultural development, developing countries should replace lopsided monoprodukt economy with diversification and rationally utilize their agricultural resources creating rural employment opportunities to increase farmers income. This will lead to a solid foundation for the development of agriculture. Rural prosperity and agricultural development go hand in hand. This has been borne out by the development of agriculture in our country in recent years. The food problem in low-income food deficit countries has always been the focal point of the world food problems. This problem should be solved through their own agricultural development efforts and improving production capabilities. In recent years these countries, and the international community, have made great efforts in this regard. While creating and maintaining a good

ecological environment natural agricultural resources should continue to be rationally exploited through increased physical and technical inputs by the countries concerned and the world community, as well as through the adoption of proper policies.

Under the present circumstances it is important to mobilize external financial resources and assistance for agricultural development in order to solve the food problems of low income food deficit countries. The above three issues constitute the main elements of the UN Programme of Action for the African Economic Recovery during 1986-1990. This Programme is now being implemented. However, there is a big gap between the achievements obtained and the envisaged objective.

I fully agree with paragraph 112 of the document under discussion that the success of the Action Programme depends as much on external global factors as on policy decisions taken within the hard pressed African countries themselves. Therefore, we should make further efforts for the fulfilment of the Programme.

In document CL 94/2 we find a description of Chinese agricultural production. In relation to this I wish to make a few additional remarks. Ten years have passed since the introduction of rural reforms. During this period remarkable progress has been made in China's agricultural production and rural economy as a whole, with cereal production rising by 33 percent, cotton by 96 percent, and oil and sugar bearing crops, as well as most other cash crops, by 100 percent. The structure of farm production is becoming rationalized. Township enterprises are developing in stronger strides and farmers living standards have improved steadily. Facts indicate that the reform has been necessary and the planned market economic system that we have instituted is in conformity with the Chinese circumstances.

At the present time the highest priority facing us is still the food problem. Since 1984, when it reached record level, China's cereal production has been at stagnation point. This year, due to serious natural calamities in some areas, the production of cereals and oil bearing crops will experience a drop to varying degrees, while cotton production will be maintained at last year's level. The development of other cash crops is satisfactory.

With full cognizance the Chinese government has adopted positive measures to solve the problems in agriculture, and in particular the food problem. In this connection the Government has decided to reduce the investment scale for capital construction while increasing inputs for agriculture, strengthening rural infrastructure and raising the purchasing prices of cereals and oil in an effort to mobilize farmers initiative for production.

In the course of deepening rural reform efforts will be directed towards building up socialized service networks, improving the contract responsibilities system, strengthening agricultural research education and extension so as to guide farming with science and technology and substantially increase cereal production. At the same time attention will be made to upgrading the production of cash crops and the level of animal raising, and guiding township enterprises onto a road of more sound development with a view to bringing about steady and coordinated growth of the rural economy.

Juan NUIRY SANCHEZ (Cuba): En nombre de la Delegación cubana, queremos agradecer al Sr. Hjort su presentación de este fundamental y complejo tema del estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación, por lo que ésta representa, fundamentalmente para los países en desarrollo de Africa, Asia y América Latina. Dicha presentación fue clara, precisa, documentada y objetiva.

Sr. Presidente, el documento CL 94/2, presentado por la Secretaría, contiene amplia información sobre el estado de la agricultura y la alimentación, información que resulta de gran interés. Ella nos permite reflexionar y aumentar nuestra preocupación de país en desarrollo. Todos los acuerdos que se tomen, cualquier medida a que lleguen los principales países industrializados de Occidente respecto a la deuda externa del mundo en desarrollo, serán infructuosos mientras no se comprenda que esa deuda es impagable. Muchas voces se han pronunciado ya en este sentido en el día de hoy y, más recientemente, la de la ilustre Delegación de Madagascar.

Cualquier análisis que se haga sobre la economía internacional demostrará que la nica solución para los problemas económicos internacionales que estancan a las economías y detienen los avances radica en convertir en consumidores reales a los cientos de millones de seres humanos que viven en el Tercer Mundo en condiciones de aislamiento del mercado. Debe eliminarse esa marginación y llevar a más de 120 millones de personas que, según las estadísticas, padecen una miseria crítica, a la condición de compradores de las mercancías producidas por los países industrializados. Mientras no se enfrente con decisión y temeridad la implantación de un nuevo orden económico internacional más

justo y equitativo, los países en desarrollo continuaremos haciendo esfuerzos inauditos por salir del subdesarrollo; continuaremos desangrando nuestras economías para cumplir los compromisos del pago, no ya del principal, sino solamente de los intereses de esa deuda externa, que, de hecho, nos han convertido en transmisores netos de capital hacia los centros financieros internacionales, a donde se han enviado más de 125 000 millones de dólares en los últimos años.

Y ¿cómo se ha logrado esto? Restringiendo las importaciones, que anulan las posibilidades para el desarrollo económico y social y que condenan a una mayor miseria a los sectores más humildes de nuestros pueblos. Y ¿qué decir de los productos básicos del mundo en desarrollo? Permítaseme, en este sentido, hacer referencia a la asamblea anual del Grupo de Países Exportadores de Azúcar de América Latina y el Caribe que, en su declaración, condena la tendencia proteccionista y manifiesta que, de continuar la actual política azucarera, se reducirán aún más las importaciones del producto en la Región, con la consiguiente ruina para la mayoría de los países productores.

En el documento hay un análisis sobre las regiones que nos conduce a conclusiones pesimistas respecto al futuro, pues nos preocupan sobremanera las reformas emprendidas bajo recomendaciones del Banco Mundial y del Fondo Monetario Internacional. Los países en desarrollo conocemos bien en qué consisten estas recomendaciones: son los llamados "ajustes estructurales" que imponen esas instituciones financieras para conceder financiamientos, y, como muy bien expresara el Director General, no tienen en cuenta las experiencias acumuladas ni la valiosa información de la FAO en el sector agrícola. Los países del Tercer Mundo, que enfrentan esos llamados ajustes estructurales, deben prestar atención al reclamo del Director General para hacer efectiva la participación de la FAO en el proceso, que redundará en beneficio de esos países.

Referente a América Latina y el Caribe, la reciente Conferencia Regional de la FAO celebrada en Recife, Brasil, debatió ampliamente, tanto en el informe principal sobre la situación de la agricultura y la alimentación en la Región como en el plan de acción de la FAO. Y en la declaración de Recife, que recoge los aspectos más acuciantes de la situación que atraviesa, se destaca la urgencia de convertir el largo proceso de deterioro económico, así como de recuperar la capacidad de crecimiento en un modelo de desarrollo sólido, equitativo y sostenible a largo plazo. La Conferencia Regional reiteró la condena al uso de los alimentos como arma de coacción política, el bloqueo económico o el embargo comercial, hechos que este Consejo debe denunciar fuertemente.

Sr. Presidente, todos los factores que se aúnan para sumir en el hambre y la depauperación a cientos de millones de seres humanos deben ser eliminados, para resolver definitivamente la situación de la agricultura y la alimentación mundial, y exhortamos a que este 940 período de sesiones del Consejo de la FAO se pronuncie con toda su energía, profundidad y valor a este reclamo.

Preaananda TRIPATHY (India): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for giving us this opportunity. In accordance with your directive I will try to be brief and pointed, since we are running against time. I must frankly mention that document CL 94/2 provides us with an overview of the world economic environment in a very comprehensive manner in the context of greater agriculture and food production in the world economy. However, the document says that while there have been some positive indications in 1987, like an overall decline in debt/service ratio several factors of disequilibria continue to dominate the scene particularly so far as they were relevant to the developing countries. These include imbalances in trade and international payments and the worsening situation of quite a few developing countries in debt repayments. Trade relationships continued to remain plagued by protectionism and quota restrictions, Undoubtedly these had their deleterious effect on agricultural production and productivity.

I must mention here that hunger and malnutrition are global problems and should not be considered in isolation. In this background the Indian delegation believes that these problems which beset the world community could be solved by suitable reorientation of the approach amongst the Member States. Indeed a true appreciation of the aims and objectives of FAO and implementation of these objectives in a cooperative approach and in a spirit of give and take would go a long way in solving these problems that are facing us.

In this context we would like to mention that India has always welcomed any move amongst Member Nations in technical cooperation in agricultural production and productivity. Mr. Chairman, you might be aware that while my country faced one of the worst droughts of the century during 1987 the decline in production was only about 4 percent as against about 20 percent such reduction in similar situations in the past. My country has been consciously engaged in perfecting drought-proofing techniques and fashioning adequate strategies for drought management. In this sphere we are prepared to share our experience with our brothers in the Member Nations, should they consider it necessary and should you, Mr. Chairman, so desire.

Mr. Chairman, you will be happy to know that my country has been continually reviewing policy measures and implementation modes to ensure higher productivity in agriculture and food. Of late we

have set up what we call technology missions to improve production and productivity of oilseeds, dairy products, etc. We have launched a special programme known as the Special Foodgrains Production Programme from the current year with special attention to be paid to identified focus crops, like rice, wheat, maize, grams. Some 169 districts offering immediate possibility for increase in production and productivity have been chosen under the Special Foodgrains Production Programme. The main thrust would be adequate and timely supply of seeds and other inputs, stocking and supplying fertilizer in adequate quantities, even in remote and inaccessible areas and the provision of comprehensive pest management, besides a comprehensive crop insurance scheme. Particular emphasis has been given to augmentation of irrigation facilities in the short run through provision of dug wells and tube wells to be provided to small and marginal farmers. We do hope that with our special efforts and a favourable monsoon so far we will be able to exceed the best year's production in our country so far by over 15 million tonnes.

A very vital point referred to in the document is the weakness in demand, not only foreign demand but also domestic, for the agricultural commodities. So far as internal demand is concerned, accessibility to food is as important as production. Through provision of statutory minimum support price, adequate arrangements for procurement and distribution through state-owned corporations and national level cooperative federations we have tried to give a boost both to production and to even distribution of foodgrains amongst all sections of the population. Provision of employment-generating works of a very large magnitude under what we call integrated rural development programme, national rural employment programme, rural labourers employment guarantee programme, integrated tribal development programme, drought-prone areas programme, watershed development programme and the like, and provision of concessional supply of foodgrains to the economically weaker sections, particularly the tribal population, through public distribution system has been improving accessibility to food in a very large measure.

The Executive Director of the World Food Council referred in his talk today to the Cyprus initiative on elimination of hunger in the world. We fully subscribe to and support such a view. The Non-Aligned Summit held in Harare last has already supported a move of this type and I have a feeling that no nation would ever like to defer from a laudable objective of this nature.

Our country attaches a lot of importance to improving accessibility to food and toning up domestic demand so that per capita consumption of food increases where it is still low. In this context we urge that notwithstanding the present resource crunch in the FAO which we think will soon be over under your able stewardship, Mr. Chairman, and that of the Director-General, the core programmes of relevance in this sphere should not be curtailed and a larger share of such programmes should be given to countries where accessibility to food and per capita availability of food has been less than desirable.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for giving us this opportunity.

Sibide OOSSEINI (Niger): Monsieur le Président, j'ai le plaisir de vous faire part de la communication du Secrétaire d'Etat à l'Agriculture et à l'Environnement du Niger portant sur le document à l'examen. C'est vraiment un plaisir pour moi de souligner la qualité des documents soumis à notre examen et l'excellente présentation faite par le Secrétariat.

Cependant, avant de vous livrer certaines de nos analyses, je me permets de rappeler un souhait, qui est celui de disposer à l'avance des documents qui font état de nos analyses et de nos recommandations.

Dans le cadre de nos remarques d'ordre général, il y a lieu de souligner le titre du document qui n'est pas explicite quant à son contenu car il s'agit bel et bien de la production agricole de 1987, de la situation alimentaire en 1988 et des perspectives pour 1989. Si tel est le cas, certaines analyses comparatives auraient été mieux appréhendées avec des données complémentaires telles que le prix à la production, l'évolution des prix des céréales et les prix des produits de base.

De même, à notre humble avis, certaines informations et idées issues des réunions sectorielles ou de celles des comités et sous-comités internes de la FAO auraient gagné à être fondues dans ce document pour une raison d'harmonie et pour en faciliter l'analyse. Je citerai, par exemple, les points intitulés "Forêts", "Contribution de la foresterie" et "Le Plan d'action forestier tropical" ainsi que le rapport du Comité des forêts.

S'agissant de la dette, nous souhaitons qu'il soit mentionné ici que l'optimisme suscité par la bonne volonté et la sagesse qui ont prévalu tant à Venise qu'à Toronto doit être tempéré. Les solutions préconisées jusqu'à ce jour n'ont visé que l'assainissement financier afin de payer une

partie de la dette; mais tout, par contre, concourt à compromettre les possibilités d'investissement pouvant assurer une sécurité alimentaire et une relance économique réelle pour un développement socio-économique stable. Les pesanteurs subsistent et risquent de perdurer en ce qui concerne, notamment, l'alourdissement de la dette, la détérioration des termes de l'échange, la fluctuation des taux d'intérêt, les politiques monétaires inflationnistes et le rétrécissement des possibilités de financement sous forme de dons à des conditions de faveur. Le problème, donc, demeure entier et nous devons le mentionner ici.

De même, du fait de remarques très pertinentes aux paragraphes 24, 25, 26 et 27 du document CL 94/2, il y a lieu de relever la nécessité de privilégier, dans le cadre du financement de l'agriculture, les dons et subventions accordés notamment aux pays à très bas revenu endettés et frappés régulièrement par des calamités naturelles. C'est pourquoi nous ne pouvons passer sous silence le geste du Gouvernement italien, à savoir sa contribution supplémentaire de 30 millions de dollars américains au PCT. Qu'il en soit vivement remercié.

Au titre de l'environnement et des forêts, il aurait été souhaitable de disposer des données comparatives sur la production et les échanges de bois tropicaux, sur l'apport respectif des plantations et des forêts naturelles tel que mentionné dans le document du Comité des forêts. Il est important de mentionner ici que la forêt est aussi une source d'alimentation très importante tant pour l'homme que pour les animaux. Le concept social doit désormais prévaloir au niveau de la foresterie.

Enfin, dans le souci de mettre en place un plan intégré d'aménagement et de gestion des ressources naturelles pour un développement viable, la production animale mérite une place de choix dans le cadre de l'agro-pastoralisme. C'est le moment, d'ailleurs, d'émettre un souhait que nous confirmerons au point 6 relatif à la globalisation du problème de la dégradation de l'environnement.

Au chapitre des pêches, il n'est donné aucune information chiffrée sur la pêche continentale et la pisciculture, qui ont une importance capitale pour les pays ne disposant pas de littoral marin. C'est aussi le lieu, tout en relevant l'importance de la production mondiale et en particulier les capacités technologiques des producteurs, de tirer une fois encore la sonnette d'alarme au sujet du pillage inconsidéré des ressources halieutiques, de leur destruction par la pollution et de l'urgence d'adopter non seulement des mesures et des réglementations rigoureuses mais aussi des stratégies pour leur protection et leur exploitation rationnelle. En effet, malgré le dynamisme des échanges internationaux de poisson et de produits de pêche, les pays qui sont propriétaires légitimes de ces ressources n'ont guère enregistré leurs retombées.

Mais nous reconnaissons que, moyennant les précisions et amendements demandés et suggérés par les uns et par les autres, le document présenté, fruit d'un travail de synthèse incommensurable, est de très bonne qualité. En conséquence, nous voudrions féliciter les collaborateurs du Directeur général de la FAO qui ont contribué à son élaboration.

Raul LOPEZ-LIRA NAVA (Mexico): A nombre del Secretario de Agricultura y Recursos Hidráulicos, Licenciado Pesqueira, mi delegación desea agradecer al Sr. Trant, Director Ejecutivo del Consejo Mundial de Alimentos, por su amplio y constructivo informe, y al mismo tiempo solicitar el apoyo de este Consejo a la iniciativa de Chipre. Deseamos, igualmente, agradecer el apoyo que la FAO ha venido proporcionando a dicho Consejo y solicitarle que lo siga otorgando, e incluso se incremente proporcionando información sobre proyectos y programas concernientes.

Permítame, Sr. Presidente, agradecer al Sr. Hjort por su brillante y precisa introducción del tema que nos ocupa, y apoyar las sugerencias del distinguido Embajador Medicis, en el sentido de que los párrafos que se refieren a los países en desarrollo y a los países latinoamericanos se incluyan en nuestro informe.

Deseo señalar la preocupación de mi delegación de que este Consejo haya prestado mayor atención a las cuestiones meramente administrativas, en lugar de a las cuestiones sustantivas, sobre todo cuando el problema del hambre y la malnutrición a nivel mundial no sólo persiste, sino que incluso se ha acentuado en el presente decenio, ello no debido a la escasez de alimentos sino a la falta de acceso a los mismos y al manejo político que se hace de ellos. En efecto, los documentos que se nos presentan ofrecen por enésima ocasión una perspectiva muy desalentadora.

Los principales obstáculos que enfrenta la agricultura y la alimentación, derivados de injustas estructuras económicas internacionales, se han visto agravados por la crisis económica actual, en particular por la baja de los precios de las materias primas, la pesada carga de la deuda externa, cuyo servicio en 1988 ha vuelto a elevarse; el deterioro en los términos de intercambio, el proteccionismo, así como las políticas desleales que distorsionan el mercado internacional, lo que ocasiona una reducción de los ingresos y de los suministros alimentarios de los países en desarrollo y un aumento de la pobreza y la malnutrición a nivel mundial.

Consideramos muy grave que la existencia mundial de cereales haya caído por debajo del volumen que la FAO estima como número necesario para salvaguardar la seguridad alimentaria.

Asimismo observamos con gran preocupación la disminución de las corrientes de ayuda oficial de préstamos privados externos a la agricultura, particularmente el descenso de los recursos que se ofrecen en condiciones de favor.

El deterioro en el comercio agrícola mundial es un grave problema que no observa signos que alienten una mejoría a corto plazo. En este sentido manifestamos nuestra preocupación porque a pesar de los enormes requerimientos mundiales, la demanda internacional de alimentos se ha visto disminuida, debido por una parte, a los aumentos en la producción de algunos países tradicionalmente importadores y, por otra y, principalmente, a las dificultades económicas que experimentan los países en desarrollo, lo que ha lesionado su capacidad para producir y/o adquirir alimentos.

Las nuevas tecnologías que se están introduciendo en la producción de alimentos a nivel mundial - ingeniería genética y biotecnología - determinan cambios que obligan a los países en desarrollo a integrarse a una acelerada dinámica que les permita ser competitivos en el mercado mundial.

Uno de los principales objetivos de la tecnología aplicada a la agricultura y a la alimentación, debe ser el aumento de la productividad, utilizando para ello medios que no agraven las fluctuaciones de la producción, no reduzcan la posibilidad del medio para sostener en lo futuro los ritmos productivos y que, además, contribuyen a aumentar los ingresos rurales, siendo necesario para ello la elaboración de estrategias que permitan a los países en desarrollo introducir, en la medida de lo posible, estas nuevas tecnologías, a fin de que se beneficien de las mismas y de que el rezago no pese a su futura participación en el mercado mundial.

Es necesario que los países desarrollados examinen sus políticas agrícolas, particularmente las proteccionistas de tal manera que no obstaculicen la comercialización de estos productos. Una de las formas para que los países en desarrollo sientan las bases de un crecimiento sostenido es a partir de un financiamiento que les permita romper el círculo vicioso que produce y reproduce su rezago y dependencia.

Nos pronunciamos por la necesidad de crear un adecuado entorno político que permita el diálogo y la concertación dirigidos a reformar las injustas estructuras económicas, toda vez que los países en desarrollo no estamos en condiciones económicas de mantener indefinidamente la situación que prevalece.

Llama nuestra atención el concepto de desarrollo viable, descrito por la Comisión Mundial sobre el Medio Ambiente y el Desarrollo. Su configuración es interesante, si bien no acabada, para el manejo de alternativas que pudieran optar los países desarrollados y en desarrollo en vías a un orden mundial equilibrado y armónico. Advertimos que la viabilidad del concepto, si bien estará en función de la voluntad de cada uno de los Estados, no lo estará menos en relación a la salud de las relaciones políticas y financieras internacionales.

En particular el panorama puede mejorar a la luz del avance en procesos cruciales concretos, como es la Ronda de Uruguay de negociaciones comerciales multilaterales.

En el análisis por regiones, el documento refiere que los años ochenta, serán "un decenio perdido" para América Latina y el Caribe en lo que respecta al progreso socioeconómico. Se puntualiza que el PIB del sector agrícola aumentó con mayor rapidez que el del conjunto de los sectores, pero no lo suficiente como para compensar el crecimiento demográfico y la demanda. Las perspectivas para mejorar la demanda son especialmente difíciles de calcular en el actual período de incertidumbre económica. Los mercados de exportación siguen siendo un componente importante de la demanda total que condiciona la tasa de expansión de la producción y de los ingresos del sector agrario.

Convenimos con el documento en que las perspectivas podrían mejorar espectacularmente si las actuales negociaciones comerciales multilaterales posibilitan una liberalización del acceso a los mercados de los países industriales y a una reducción de la competencia subvencionada en los mercados productivos.

Para terminar, Sr. Presidente, permítame añadir los desastres naturales que han azotado nuestro Planeta y que han mermado las zonas agrícolas de nuestros países, como son los huracanes, las inundaciones, las sequías y como la plaga de la langosta en África.

Nusjirwan ZEN (Indonesia): Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen. First of all, allow me on behalf of the Indonesian delegation to compliment the Secretariat for the comprehensive report on the state of food and agriculture 1988 which is now before us for discussion. Statistics have shown that the world food and agriculture situation continues to be characterized by ample supplies at a global level, with widely differing conditions in individual countries ranging from abundant surpluses to serious shortages. The depressed commodity prices in the international market, combined with mounting protectionism and foreign debts, have greatly increased the difficulties of the developing countries in financing essential imports of food, and/or of imports for their agricultural development purposes. In this respect, the Indonesian delegation supports the idea for improving the world agricultural trade through the Uruguay Round of GATT multi-lateral trade negotiations as suggested in the document under discussion.

Allow me also to touch upon the very important issues confronting us, that is Sustainable Natural Resources Development. Our delegation strongly supports the proposal for follow-up to the International Conference on Trees and Forests, Sylva 1986, as well as follow-up to the Tropical Forest Reaction Plan. We are all aware of the grave consequences of further deterioration of tropical forests that can hamper the base for sustained agricultural development. Let us further translate this awareness into concrete action and develop the most effective form of co-operation in which FAO should play the central co-ordinating role in its implementation.

Mr. Chairman, our last comment is concerning reports on fisheries. Also Indonesia is not reported as a major fishing nation. Our delegation feels that fishery as a sector is continuously considered to be very important for at least three reasons: first, for its contribution to employment; second, for its contribution to the national food supply; third, for its increasing role in generation of earnings.

Fish production has reached the level of 2.5 million tons in 1986 in Indonesia and expects to become 2.9 million tons in 1988. Using 1986 figures, the maritime production level only accounted for 30 percent of total fish resources estimated at maximum sustainable yield of 6.5 million tons. Aquaculture and practised water culture in particular has been substantially emphasized and included priorities to increase exports of non-oil commodities, employment in fisheries, engaging about 1.7 million fishermen and 1.3 million fish farmers. In addition, the subsector provides jobs for hundreds or several thousands of persons for fish processing, handling, transport and marketing, as well as related upstream and downstream industries that support fisheries development. It is estimated that 3 million persons, equivalent to 5 percent of Indonesia's labour force depend directly or indirectly on fisheries for their livelihood. Fish and fishery products provide 62 percent of total national animal protein supplies.

In terms of fish consumption, it increased constantly. The national average increased from 13.7 kg. per caput per year in 1983 to 14.7 kg. per caput per year in 1986. The distribution of the consumption by region and income group was, however, quite unbalanced.

I do hope that in the future, FAO's report on fisheries will also cover the fisheries situation in Indonesia.

Abdoul Karim CAMARA (Guinée): M. le Président, la délégation guinéenne intervenant pour la 1ère fois saisi l'occasion pour féliciter les trois Vice-Présidents élus et pour exprimer sa satisfaction de revoir M. le Ministre Ben Osman présider notre Session.

Nos félicitations s'adressent au Secrétariat pour l'élaboration d'excellents documents et nos remerciements à M. Hjort pour la présentation concise et claire des questions.

Le document CL 94/2, objet de notre examen, a abordé brièvement mais de manière substantielle la situation qui prévaut dans le domaine alimentaire, et notre attention a été particulièrement retenue par le chapitre III, à partir de la page 25: "Situation région par région".

Concernant la région Afrique, il y a là un examen critique fort intéressant. La délégation guinéenne, tout en s'inquiétant de ce qui caractérise la situation analysée à la page 27, apprécie l'objectivité qui caractérise les différents rapprochements. Ainsi, dans le dernier alinéa du Tableau 7 page 27 11 est précisé que "la croissance reste faible dans les pays de l'Afrique australe". A ce propos, je rappellerai qu'une étude avait été demandée sur les conséquences de l'apartheid sur la situation alimentaire dans les pays de l'Afrique de la ligne de front.

Concernant l'évolution du Programme d'action des Nations Unies pour le redressement économique de l'Afrique, l'obstacle majeur à cette évolution a bien été souligné: la dette. La Banque mondiale dit à ce propos (page 28 paragraphe 98) "que les perspectives sont sombres pour les 22 pays

africains surendettés". Or, comme le relève si justement la fin du paragraphe 101 à la page 29 "Sans une réduction substantielle et rapide du fardeau de la dette, il sera impossible de relancer la croissance économique et d'éviter de nouvelles pertes sur le plan social".

Quant au problème fondamental des réformes dans nos pays, le bref examen qui en est fait dans les paragraphes 103 et suivants est d'une pertinence exemplaire et mérite tout notre appui, surtout quand on dit que les réformes font souvent ressortir des objectifs difficiles à concilier. Mon pays y est présentement confronté avec beaucoup de contraintes.

Enfin, la conclusion tirée de cet examen d'ensemble figure fort justement à la fin du paragraphe 112 page 31 où il est noté que le succès du Programme d'action des Nations Unies dépend autant des facteurs externes de caractère mondial que des décisions prises par nos pays.

Ainsi donc l'amélioration de la situation alimentaire mondiale ne sera une réalité que lorsque les pays développés se présenteront en partenaires loyalement solidaires des pays en développement.

Thana THONGTAN (Thailand): My delegation would like to extend sincere thanks to Mr. Hjort for the excellent preparation and explanation of this document on which we have nothing to comment for your update information. I wish to present to the Council through you the highlight of the State of Food and Agriculture in 1988/89 on Thailand as follows: the outlook for 1988/89 is for a near record production and export for almost all our agricultural commodities because of the favourable monsoon and the very favourable farmgate prices.

The monsoon started two months earlier than average and it continued into early November. The main rice crop is forecast to be more than 18 million tons of paddy or about 18.5 percent higher than last year, than 1987/88. The planted area increased 11.5 percent and the average yield 7 percent over last year. For maize production, it increased to 5.2 million tons or 86 percent greater than 1987 or 1988. The maize planted earlier has increased by 11 percent and the average yields by 67 percent over last year. Thailand will export more than 4 million tons of milled rice in the current year 1988, this despite a pessimistic forecast earlier and the rice export outlook for 1989 is also excellent and also expected to exceed 4 million tons.

Thailand continued to maintain its unique position as one of the small handful of nations, both lesser developed and lesser developed in a large net surplus of world food and feed for export, while particularly all Thai citizens enjoy an ample diet of high-quality nutritional food. The proportion of the Thai population below the poverty level continues to decline.

Thailand could readily produce more food and feed for export if the world market were more open, less heavily protected, especially by the most-developed industrial nations and world prices are favourable to the production.

Thailand presently is in the state of reviewing and revising its mid-term of its current 5 Year Plan for social and economic development. The national growth in 1988 will exceed 8 percent and the outlook for the economy in 1989 and beyond is very encouraging.

Philippe PIOTET (France): Pour traditionnel qu'il soit, le point 4 de l'Ordre du jour du Conseil sur la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture a toujours été considéré par la France comme l'un des points les plus importants des travaux du Conseil.

Aucune institution n'est en effet mieux placée que la FAO pour informer la communauté internationale, sensibiliser les gouvernements et les opinions publiques de nos pays sur les problèmes, les tendances, les perspectives de l'alimentation et du développement agricole dans le monde.

Or, dans ce domaine la situation est changeante et il est parfois bien difficile, au-delà des fluctuations annuelles aux causes souvent multiples, de distinguer les évolutions profondes et les tendances à plus long terme. C'est pourtant cette vision prospective qui est essentielle pour fonder des politiques agricoles efficaces.

L'année dernière prédominait encore la tendance à l'accumulation d'excédents dans les pays développés et l'on s'inquiétait à juste titre des conséquences de cette évolution sur la stabilité des marchés internationaux. Dans le même temps, la production agricole dans les pays en développement progressait à un rythme beaucoup trop lent et nous déplorions une situation alimentaire mondiale paradoxale et inacceptable.

M. le Président, qu'en est-il aujourd'hui? Les tendances des dernières années ont-elles profondément changé? La délégation française s'interrogeait déjà, lors de la dernière Conférence en novembre 1987, sur un possible renforcement des tendances, alors que rien ne laissait encore prévoir une réduction de la production de céréales aussi importante que celle qui ressort des dernières statistiques.

Il est à l'évidence nécessaire, dans une telle évolution, de faire la part entre les phénomènes conjoncturels, notamment d'ordre climatique, et les tendances plus profondes qui résultent des politiques volontaristes telles que le retrait des terres ou la mise en place d'autres mécanismes correcteurs visant à promouvoir un meilleur équilibre entre l'offre et la demande.

La situation des pays en développement est toujours préoccupante. Les documents du Secrétariat le mettent bien en évidence et la plupart des délégués intervenus avant moi l'ont également bien souligné.

La Délégation française n'insistera pas sur les mesures prises pour réduire les excédents dans les pays développés. Ce sujet a été abordé en détail par le Représentant de la Communauté européenne qui a pu donner toute indication utile sur la politique communautaire en la matière et sur les résultats déjà obtenus dans les divers secteurs.

Par contre, M. le Président, nous voudrions ici mettre l'accent sur l'intérêt pour la FAO de poursuivre plus avant les réflexions sur les conséquences des modifications des disponibilités cerealieres sur la sécurité alimentaire mondiale.

Le paragraphe 44 du document CL 94/2 qui aborde précisément cette question insiste sur deux points particulièrement importants: la hausse des cours internationaux des céréales et la modification du volume, de la composition et de la répartition des stocks.

S'il est vrai tout d'abord que la hausse des cours des céréales réduit - et on peut le déplorer - la capacité des pays importateurs, il ne faut pas oublier pour autant que l'existence de prix agricoles trop bas constitue un frein au développement agricole. Les paragraphes 105 et 106 du document précité mettent à juste titre l'accent sur l'intérêt des réformes entreprises par les pays qui ont relevé les prix à la production, encourageant ainsi les agriculteurs à produire au-delà des besoins de leur seule autoconsommation.

La France appuie pleinement les efforts des pays, en particulier les pays africains qui comme l'indique le paragraphe 112 que je cite "ont beaucoup modifié parfois même radicalement leur politique des prix et de commercialisation des produits agricoles." Il s'agit de mesures courageuses qu'il est important de souligner.

La question des stocks évoquée au paragraphe 44 mérite également des réflexions approfondies en ce qui concerne leur volume, leur localisation, ou la nature des produits qui les composent. On cite à cet égard les capacités de mobilisation et de reconstitution rapide des stocks, par exemple par la remise en culture des terres momentanément mises en réserve. Nous pensons que ces mesures constituent certainement pour la sécurité alimentaire mondiale des éléments aussi importants que l'observation instantanée du niveau des stocks.

La France pour sa part, dans le cadre notamment des travaux des comités techniques qui font rapport au Conseil, est prête à apporter son concours aux réflexions de l'Organisation sur ces questions qui, à notre sens, resteront certainement au premier rang des préoccupations des responsables de la conception et de la mise en oeuvre des politiques agricoles.

Meeting rose at 17.45 h.

La séance est levée à 17 h 45.

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.45 horas.

council

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

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

consejo

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 94/PV/5

Ninety-fourth Session

Quatre-vingt-quatorzième session

94º período de sesiones

FIFTH PLENARY MEETING
CINQUIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
QUINTA SESION PLENARIA

(17 November 1988)

The Fifth Plenary Meeting Was opened at 09.45 hours

Lassaad Ben Osman, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La cinquième seance plènière est ouverte à 9 h 45.

sous la présidence de Lassaad Ben Osman, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la Cuarta Sesión plenaria a las 09.45 horas.

bajo la presidencia de Lassaad Ben Osman, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

- II. WORLD FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SITUATION (continued)
- II. SITUATION MONDIALE DE L'ALIMENTATION ET DE L'AGRICULTURE (suite)
- II. SITUACION MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)
- 4. State of Food and Agriculture 1988 (continued)
- 4. Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture 1988 (suite)
- 4. El estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación 1988 (continuación)

LE PRESIDENT: Honorables délégués, nous reprenons le cours de nos travaux. Le programme de notre séance a été ainsi organisé par le Secrétariat: l'achèvement de l'étude du point 4: Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture; puis la discussion du point 5: Rapport de la treizième session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale; et dans toute la mesure possible le point 6 sur la neuvième session du Comité des forêts.

C'est un programme très chargé, et pour respecter le calendrier provisoire, il est proposé au Conseil de travailler de la manière suivante. Nous terminerons d'abord l'étude du point 4 (18 orateurs inscrits), puis nous aurons la séance spéciale sur l'invasion acridienne; il est suggéré dans toute la mesure possible que les délégués tiennent compte de la contrainte de temps afin que nous puissions avancer dans nos discussions. Et nous envisageons, avec votre autorisation, de faire ce soir une séance prolongée afin, en tout cas de terminer le point 4 et le point 5 dans leur intégralité.

Nous suggérons à Messieurs les délégués de prendre toutes leurs dispositions pour une séance prolongée jusque vers 19 h 30 - 20 h.

Ainsi, nous espérons pouvoir respecter le calendrier car comme vous le savez des questions très importantes nous attendent sur la réforme du Comité financier, la réforme du Comité du programme et, bien que cette année le Conseil dure une journée de moins que d'habitude, nous voudrions, dans toute la mesure possible, respecter le calendrier provisoire.

Stanley Munkindia GUANTAI (Kenya): My delegation wishes to convey its appreciation of the secretariat documents which are exhaustive and detailed. Their presentation of the subject yesterday was very clear, well presented and augmented the opening remarks of the Director-General.

The world economic scenario, which in the short term is shown to be expanding moderately, shows optimistic anticipation. However, as indicated in the supplementary documents, the developing countries continue to face deteriorating economies. The commodity prices are shown to be improving. However while this is a welcome development for the exporting countries, unfortunately it is a source of major concern for the importing countries which are predominantly the food deficit developing countries, particularly as the commodities involved are mainly grain food crops. The traditional export commodities from the developing countries - primarily coffee, cocoa, tea, sugar and fibre crops - are unfortunately experiencing deteriorating prices resulting in reduced export earning capacity which consequently reduces purchasing power for food items and imports needed to expand food supply and increase productivity.

In contrast the inputs (including fertilizers) are highly-priced and at times not affordable by the average farmer in developing countries. With the prevailing world grain economy the emphasis on attaining quick recovery of productivity and stocks should be directed to the developing countries, many of which offer comparative advantages in agricultural production.

Furthermore, increased assistance needs to be intensified in order to support domestic production efforts to achieve higher levels of food self-sufficiency so as to overcome the continued external situation affecting developing countries.

Hunger and poverty continue to rear their heads in many developing countries, particularly in Africa where food self-sufficiency has become elusive. The factors responsible are many, including inadequate institutional and infrastructural framework, fragile and deteriorating environment, and declining potential agricultural land along with a limited alternative on which to seek a livelihood. These factors have been compounded by adverse natural disasters, such as droughts, floods and now the locust plague. In view of these factors my delegation believes balanced attention must be given both to the micro- as well as the macro- factors. Institutional and technological development and also research are important ingredients to revitalize agriculture in the developing countries.

In Africa the Programme of Action on agriculture and economic recovery adopted by the United Nations was expected to accelerate recovery and reverse declining trends. While some progress is reported significant recovery is still far from a realization. It is necessary, therefore, to remove the remaining constraints and increase efforts to ensure that the action programme achieves its objectives. A number of the constraints include the prevailing trade balance, declining commodity prices, for the traditional export crops from the tropics, worsening external debt and debt servicing, increasing high prices, machinery and other inputs and also policy guidelines that are not always geared to accelerating the agricultural sector. A number of developments including steps being taken by the World Bank, the GATT negotiations, and the recent Summits in Toronto, Venice and Berlin give some hope and are welcome. We urge that they be accelerated in recognition of the worsening situation and increasing number of poor and under-nourished in the world.

In trying to achieve better policies, many developing countries have adopted structural adjustment programmes, which, in the short term, have had traumatic effects in some countries. We urge that these shortcomings should be recognized and provision for contingencies to assist countries experiencing such difficulties should be adopted. We agree that there is merit in cooperating with FAO whenever appropriate to facilitate the Organization's wide expertise to help the countries undertake structural adjustment programmes.

The decline in per capita food production in many countries is a cause for serious concern. Steps to alleviate this trend should be adopted by the individual member countries as well as the international community.

In Kenya our focus on agricultural and rural development has helped the country to recover quickly from the recent drought. Since then considerable expansion in food production has been achieved which has helped the country to remain broadly self-sufficient in basic foodstuffs notwithstanding the high population growth rate. We have now an effective National Population Control Programme which has already started to show results.

Due to scarce potential of agricultural land we will need to continue to import wheat and rice despite increasing domestic production. The per capita production for calorie and protein requirements as per WHO recommended daily allowance shows Kenya's ratios of production at 1.21 and 1.67 for calories and protein respectively. While there are distribution problems in some areas of the country, the country has surplus exportable commodities in coarse grains and the forecast for 1989 indicates another record crop. This situation shows positive growth and a foreseeable domestic food supply. In our case, and indeed in many other developing countries, storage facilities, rural roads and handling facilities continue to be a constraint.

The Executive Director of the World Food Council introduced the Cyprus Initiative which was adopted during the last Ministers' Council held in Nicosia. The principal of the initiative is a very important development which should be welcomed to expand efforts aimed at the elimination of world poverty and hunger. In addition to the initiative, my delegation wishes to underline the continued requirement and important role of food aid and in particular the necessary services of the World Food Programme. We urge that the appeal made by the Director-General during his opening remarks be heeded and more food aid commodities be supplied. My delegation maintains that diversification of food aid resources, including monetization will play a significant role in increasing the development resources required by many developing countries.

Looking at the documents prepared by the Secretariat my delegation is quite happy with the detailed information available, particularly concerning grains. However, we feel that further analysis of livestock and livestock input contribution would enrich the document. We would also welcome the inclusion of some of the traditional staple foods and their contributions in the analysis.

Datuk Puvanarajah THIAGARAJAH (Malaysia): The Malaysian delegation wishes to express its delight in seeing you in the chair again. We also wish to congratulate the three Vice-Chairman on their election. In the same breath we wish to compliment the Secretariat for the excellent document on the subject, and the lucid and erudite presentation by Mr. Hjort. We are generally in agreement with the findings of the study and with the various comments made by the previous speakers. I do not wish to repeat the findings of the study except to highlight certain points.

The progress that has been made in the field of agriculture and food worldwide has been somewhat stultified. Vagaries of nature aside, and the reasons behind these are mainly man-made. The food supply situation in developing countries was severely affected by adverse external economic factors, namely, restriction to market access, trade protectionism, heavy external debt servicing, low prices, deterioration in terms of trade, food substitutes and the like.

Allow me to elaborate on one important point which is in line with the points raised on page 22 of document CL 94/2. In the overall global trading regime, agriculture remains the most serious and urgent area in need of reform. It is presently characterized by a proliferation of protectionistic and trade distorting policies. Malaysia, as a member of the Cairns Group, is in full agreement with the call for an early action to be taken at the GATT Ministerial Mid-term Review of the Uruguay Round in December in Montreal. Such progress would contribute to the momentum of trade liberalization and would slow down the further decline into protectionism. We must aim for agricultural reform where trade distorting influences will be progressively reduced and eventually eliminated. Needless to say we subscribe to the idea of standstill and rollback.

The global benefits of trade liberalization are too well known. A recent study revealed that comprehensive agricultural liberalization in the major industrialized countries would benefit both agricultural exporting and importing countries. First, liberalization would increase income in developing countries by some US\$26 billion. Secondly, for every US\$1 worth of liberalization the benefit to developing countries is equal to US\$2 of aid. Thirdly, in low income developing countries this benefit is equivalent to US\$6 worth of conventional aid. The Cairns Group, as well as others such as the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, and the World Bank, can however act only as catalyst for progress towards liberalization. Meaningful agreement in the multilateral trade round will require flexibility on the part of the participants particularly the industrial majors. They should adopt a more flexible and enlightened approach to agriculture with tangible efforts in the dismantling of trade barriers and disarmament of farm subsidies. We fail to comprehend why some industrial majors persist in protectionism. Food assistance programmes, export subsidies and import restrictions whilst enriching farmers nevertheless drain the financial resources of even rich majors. The OECD estimated that in 1981 alone these protectionist programmes of rich majors represented 3 percent of GDP of almost all of these countries and yet protectionism which places a tourniquet on agricultural prosperity worldwide still persists.

May I now turn to the points raised in paragraphs 24 and 25 in document CL 94/2 with respect to the external debt situation in some developing countries. Although there has been some relief from the long-term rescheduling by the Paris Club, more resources inflow through the IMF structural adjustment facility, special programmes of the World Bank and relief agreed at the Toronto Summit, nevertheless the recent upward pressure on interest rates in industrial majors does not augur well for a reduction in the servicing of external debts.

May I now reiterate what my delegation suggested at the last Conference - and I quote. "The problem of debts faced by some developing countries is because of fixed interest obligations regardless of performance." Perhaps it is time that a study be undertaken, say by FAO, on the implementation of venture risk sharing between developed and developing nations. This of course will be in addition to the structural adjustment policies which have been instituted to avoid any recessive implication. Mr. Chairman, I thank you for your attention.

Omer ZEYTINOGLU (Turquie): Je voudrais commencer en exprimant notre appréciation du document CL 94/2 préparé par le Secrétariat. Dans son ensemble, ce document brosse un tableau clair et met l'accent sur les points saillants de la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture en 1988 et contient des observations qui touchent au développement économique mondial et au commerce agricole. Je remercie en même temps M. Hjort de son excellent exposé introductif.

Parmi les observations contenues dans le document en question, j'ai l'impression que celles qui sont négatives l'emportent sur celles qui sont positives. Malgré un certain nombre de récents développements encourageants, nos préoccupations relatives à l'environnement économique international restent au fond les mêmes.

Il est vrai que le pire que l'on attendait après la crise boursière d'octobre 1987 ne s'est pas produit. L'économie mondiale a évolué d'une façon normale et les marchés monétaires et financiers sont restés calmes. Mais les problèmes essentiels profonds sont toujours là, à savoir les tendances persistantes au protectionnisme, le problème de l'endettement, les taux de change incertains, etc.

Les perspectives d'avenir ne sont donc pas très encourageantes. Le commerce agricole est inévitablement affecté par cette situation. De plus, les problèmes qui lui sont propres ne sont pas de nature à lui faciliter les choses, à savoir le recours dans une large mesure aux subventions et les prix des produits de base qui ne reflètent d'ailleurs pas les prix de revient malgré certains signes de redressement qui restent bas.

Nous croyons que le commerce est l'élément essentiel de la croissance économique et joue un rôle important dans le développement. Nous sommes aussi d'avis que les exportations, en particulier celles des produits agricoles, constituent un moyen de premier ordre pour les pays en développement d'assurer leur croissance. Ces pays doivent prendre les mesures nécessaires pour réaliser leur développement. Dans ce contexte, le rôle qui incombe aux pays développés, au nom de l'interdépendance, c'est d'agir de façon à faciliter les efforts des pays en question. Nous avons la

ferme conviction que l'on ne peut arriver à une solution, face aux problèmes que posent le développement et la croissance, sans une action concertée de tous les membres de la communauté Internationale.

La production agricole en Turquie a enregistré, les cinq dernières années consécutives, un taux de croissance relativement élevé, de l'ordre de 4% en moyenne, ce qui a contribué à relever davantage encore le niveau d'autosuffisance alimentaire. Il apparaît que cette tendance à la hausse de la production agricole deviendra plus prononcée dans un très proche avenir. Lorsque les projections en cours seront terminées, des terres d'une superficie d'1,7 million d'hectares pourront être irriguées. Par conséquent, la production agricole accroîtra. Alors se posera la question de trouver des débouchés à la production excédentaire. De ce fait, nous attachons une grande importance à l'accès aux marchés. Nous pensons qu'il convient de recourir aux mesures nécessaires pour créer un marché agricole prévisible. Cela nous permettra, d'autre part, de planifier à long terme les modalités de la production.

De ce point de vue, les négociations commerciales multilatérales de l'Uruguay Round revêtent une importance particulière. On qualifie ces négociations des plus ambitieuses jamais entreprises jusqu'à présent pour la simple raison, peut-être, que la libéralisation du commerce des produits agricoles fait pour la première fois l'objet de négociations dans une instance internationale. Nous souhaitons que ces négociations aboutissent à des solutions concrètes pour une plus large libéralisation du commerce international, et plus particulièrement du commerce agricole.

Sumiji NAKAZAWA (Japan): I listened with special interest and relief to the excellent introduction given yesterday by Mr. Hjort on the current world food and agricultural situation, which was also touched upon by the Director-General in his opening statement.

According to document CL 94/2 world cereal stocks at the end of 1988/89 are forecast to fall to the level of 16 percent of world consumption volume which is less than the minimum level volume indicated by FAO. This means that the world food supply and demand situation has changed from being excessive.

Under these circumstances the measures for crop production increase, already implemented by several countries, are considered appropriate from the viewpoint of the stabilization of the cereal market next year. While for the world supply and demand of cereals it is recognized that in recent years the structural overproduction and export with subsidy by main exporting countries have decreased the export share of developing countries and that although international crises of staple foods are favourable for import by the developing countries in the short term, they counteract efforts for self-sufficiency and food production increase of such countries in the medium and long terms, eventually heightening instability when the goal is that of food security.

Japan at this stage anticipates flexible measures should be taken reflecting the world supply and demand situation, so that the short-term production increase programme is only for the recovery of world cereal stocks to the necessary level and does not bring about structural surplus on a medium-to long-term basis. My country recognizes the need for monitoring the various aspects of world food supply and demand as there are uncertain factors such as policy changes in main producing and consumer countries, fluctuation of production owing to changes in climate, increase in demand in developing countries due to a rise in the population and/or income. From this viewpoint we anticipate that related fora in FAO, such as Commodity Committees and the Committee on World Food Security, will complement with each other and carry out their roles efficiently and effectively.

For the purpose of helping resolve the food and agricultural issues in developing countries we consider it most important that food-deficient developing countries should give top priority to food and agriculture in every respect and make self-supporting efforts. We also consider it the role of International societies to assist such self-supporting efforts. My country has been promoting through bilateral and multilateral cooperation the financial and technical assistance with this end in mind.

As to the Uruguay Round negotiations, my country considers that this will take on a very Important role in resolving agricultural trade issues, bearing in mind that overproduction and exports by main exporting countries have lowered international prices, that along with low economic development it causes serious problems in international agricultural trade and that it similarly affects the economic development of many developing countries depending in considerable part on foreign income and food security.

My delegation apprehends that African food and agricultural production in 1986/87 decreased in comparison with the average of 1980 to 1985. Moreover, it is pointed out that food production is deteriorating in comparison with non-food production. It should be reviewed case by case whether the exporting crop production should be promoted to increase the export income or staple

food crop production should be promoted for self-sufficiency in food considering the food production and supply situation in each country. In the food-deficient developing countries, production increase of their own staple food would appear to be desirable to achieve self-sufficiency as much as possible, considering that strengthening the dependence of import food or leaving the situation unchanged is problematic from the viewpoint of food security. My country considers that in the UN-PAAERD years ahead countries concerned should be reminded of the philosophy and give top priority to food and agriculture in their policies for development, looking to economic and social development on a medium- to long-term basis.

Finally, my delegation highly appreciates the activity of FAO on their food and agriculture information service and early-warning system, and also anticipates the prompt and continuous distribution of Information. Thank you, sir.

Danilo VALLE (Nicaragua): El documento sobre El Estado Mundial de la Alimentación y la Agricultura 1988 constituye para nuestra Delegación un trabajo de gran contenido analítico que nos permite una visión global de los distintos aspectos políticos y económicos que tienen relación directa con la producción alimentaria y agrícola. Después de varios años de discusión sobre el tema que nos ocupa, la situación de nuestros países continua igual o peor a pesar de haberse discutido en reuniones anteriores las causas que la provocan y haberse enunciado las medidas y acciones necesarias de tomar para buscar cómo remediarlas.

Vemos nosotros cómo la crisis internacional continua afectando nuestras economías al disminuirse los flujos financieros disponibles para el desarrollo, al incremento de las tasas de interés por los préstamos otorgados y a las pérdidas significativas por el deterioro de la relación de precios de intercambio, incidiendo a su vez en la expansión de la deuda externa. El año de 1988 no ha sido nada bueno ni positivo para los países en desarrollo, ni tampoco por el momento, se ven perspectivas de solución. En este sentido, vemos con preocupación la percepción de la mayoría de los países desarrollados sobre el problema los cuales pretenden vendernos la idea de que sólo mediante un mayor crecimiento de ellos mismos podrán progresar los países en desarrollo y contradictoriamente así salir de la crisis. Nada más absurdo ni más alejado de la verdad. Esta posición debe ser rechazada enérgicamente pues mientras los países desarrollados y poderosos se vuelven más ricos a costa de los más pobres, más crecerán los ricos y más pobres seremos nosotros. Pobreza cuantitativa en materia de ingresos nacionales y pobreza cualitativa en materia de atrasos y derechos a la tecnología.

Ante esta situación de crisis creciente y sin un futuro muy halagador, según lo refleja cori bastante objetividad el documento objeto de nuestra discusión, deseo retomar hoy lo planteado por el Ministro de Agricultura Jaime Wheelock Román ante la 20ª Conferencia Regional de la FAO en Recife, Brasil, en el mes de octubre pasado, en el sentido de comenzar acciones concretas en busca de la solución:

1. Cesar el pago de la deuda externa.
2. Condicionar el no pago definitivo de la deuda a la adopción de instrumentos de concertación comercial que establezcan un equilibrio de los términos de intercambio entre el norte y el sur porque aun cuando hubiera condonación de la deuda, si el desequilibrio en los países continúa, muy pronto estaremos nuevamente endeudados.
3. Solicitar a los países desarrollados y a los Organismos Internacionales impulsar una efectiva seguridad alimentaria regional.
4. Trato preferencial a las exportaciones agropecuarias de los países pobres.
5. Suspensión de los subsidios a los productos que han constituido rubros de exportación tradicional como el azúcar, la carne, etc.
6. El establecimiento de un programa integral de financiamiento concesional para fomentar el riego, desarrollo agroindustrial, y en general la producción de alimentos básicos.
7. La adopción de acciones multilaterales y bilaterales para socorrer a miles de campesinos y productores agropecuarios desplazados por las acciones bélicas y que carecen de medio de trabajo, techo, semillas, alimentos y medicinas para sobrevivir.

Nuestro país, Nicaragua, ha sido víctima de un sistema de opresión impuesto por más de cincuenta años de la dictadura somocista. Hemos sufrido un terremoto en 1972 que destruyó nuestra ciudad capital con más de veinte mil muertos y millones de dólares en pérdidas. Hemos sufrido los destrozos causados por nuestra guerra de liberación con un alto costo económico y en vidas humanas. Hemos vivido y vivimos una guerra de agresión por más de ocho años, guerra cruel, injusta, ilegal e inmoral, impuesta unilateralmente por el Gobierno norteamericano que nos ha dejado hasta el momento

más de cincuenta mil muertos y pérdidas por más de 12.000 millones de dólares, la cual reclamamos que cese, por el derecho de todos los pueblos sobre la tierra a la paz y a la vida.

Ultimamente hemos sufrido los daños y la destrucción en nuestras ciudades y en el campo, del huracán Joan que nos ha dejado a más de veintidós mil familias campesinas sin vivienda y sin enseres domésticos, que además de las pérdidas de sus cultivos perdieron herramientas, semillas y animales de patio para su alimentación. Otras cuarenta mil familias fueron afectadas en otras zonas en menor grado que las anteriores. El huracán se presentó en el momento en que nuestra agricultura era más vulnerable. La cosecha de primera de maíz, frijol, sorgo y arroz secano estaba en proceso de recolección. El ciclo de siembra de postrera estaba en período de preparación y los cultivos de exportación, especialmente el café, estaba entrando en su período de maduración.

A solicitud de nuestro Gobierno, una Misión Conjunta FAO/PMA y otra de CEPAL, apoyadas por técnicos nacionales, están evaluando los daños directos en el sector agropecuario estimándose preliminarmente en 124.5 millones de dólares.

Nuestra red vial fue afectada en más de 600 km. de caminos troncales y en 1.500 km. en caminos internos, y más de 36 puentes inutilizados. El daño ocasionado en los recursos naturales al romperse el equilibrio ecológico es incalculable en pérdidas. En Selaya sur, al Atlántico de Nicaragua, se aprecia una extensión de más de 6.000 km. de bosques arrasados, estimándose pérdidas en más de 40 millones de m. de madera. Unos 280.000 quintales de café corren el riesgo de perderse debido a la destrucción de los puentes y caminos. Las pérdidas del café se estiman en unos 14 millones de dólares. En el banano, las pérdidas se estiman en unos 8 millones de dólares. En el azúcar, hay pérdidas por más de 2.7 millones de dólares. En el maíz, las pérdidas ascienden a los 5.6 millones de dólares. En el frijol se contabilizan pérdidas por 373.000 quintales equivalentes a casi cuatro meses de consumo con un valor aproximado de 6.7 millones de dólares.

Un aspecto importante ha sido la pérdida total de la semilla de siembra en poder de los agricultores y en las bodegas estatales. En el sorgo se estiman pérdidas de más de 150.000 quintales equivalentes a un mes de consumo por valor de 150.000 dólares. Del arroz se perdieron 2.800 quintales de semilla. Del maíz se perdieron 14.700 quintales de semilla. De frijol se perdieron 40.000 quintales de semilla y del aceite se espera un déficit de 140.000 quintales para el año entrante. De cacao se perdieron más de 350 hectáreas correspondientes a 5.300 quintales. El plátano fue de los alimentos de producción campesina más afectado. Las pérdidas se estiman en más de 68 millones de unidades con un valor de 6.3 millones de dólares. En el coco hubo pérdidas en alrededor de 1.820 hectáreas con una pérdida actual de 1.3 millones de dólares y futuras pérdidas estimadas en 3.3 millones de dólares. Las pérdidas en ganadería fueron de más de 15.000 cabezas.

El valor de las pérdidas totales se estima en 7.6 millones de dólares. En porcino se perdieron unas 10.000 cabezas y algunas infraestructuras por un valor de 1.3 millones de dólares. Las pérdidas en aves ascienden a la suma de 1.6 millones de dólares. El impacto socioeconómico del huracán en el sector campesino es de sesenta y dos mil familias campesinas con pérdidas totales o parciales de viviendas y bienes de producción y consumo por un valor estimado de 22 millones de dólares. La producción agrícola disminuirá el 13 % en este ciclo mientras la producción de consumo disminuirá en 22% su valor bruto y 7% la de exportación.

La capacidad productiva se vio afectada en 40 millones de dólares. Las pérdidas del sector agropecuario son aproximadamente de 124.5 millones de dólares y se calcula que el daño causado a toda la economía es equivalente a cuatro veces el daño causado por el terremoto de Managua en 1972. Es decir, alrededor de unos 3.200 millones de dólares.

Como han podido apreciar, la guerra y el bloqueo económico injusto e ilegal impuestos a nuestro pueblo por el Gobierno Norteamericano han contrarrestado todos los esfuerzos de nuestro Gobierno para proporcionar una verdadera y digna seguridad alimentaria. Por los efectos del huracán Joan se acrecienta aun más el déficit alimentario y torna aun más crítica la posibilidad de superar esta situación con nuestra propia producción.

Necesitamos el apoyo y la solidaridad internacional para hacerle frente a esta dura situación; solidaridad y apoyo con el cual siempre hemos contado, y estamos seguros que seguiremos contando.

Para concluir, deseo dejar a criterio de este honorable Consejo se considere la posibilidad de crear bancos de reservas de alimentos en varios países del mundo ante la eventual ocurrencia de nuevos desastres naturales como huracanes, maremotos, terremotos, etc., pudiéndose de esta manera socorrer con ayuda en menor tiempo a los países que sufran estos fenómenos.

E. Wayne DENNEY (United States of America): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Having heard the Government of Nicaragua refer to political pressures from the US and other references to American action which they did not deem appropriate, we do not really want to get into a detailed discussion of political items at this meeting. We feel it is not appropriate for FAO to be discussing them. We would urge that we try to get on with the agenda items and not have political items become dominant in discussion of things that are so valuable to our deliberations here. We would ask the Chairman to caution those who want continued support of FAO not to continually put pressure on the Government of the United States for behaving in matters which are discussed elsewhere. Thank you very much.

LE PRESIDENT: Comme je l'ai déjà dit hier matin je souhaiterais que nous puissions préserver dans cette enceinte un climat qui nous permette de concentrer nos efforts sur la FAO et d'aboutir à des conclusions constructives.

Danilo VALUE (Nicaragua): El Gobierno de Nicaragua se dirige al Gobierno de los Estados Unidos cuando estos Gobiernos utilizan grupos paramilitares y utilizan las armas para destruir estructuras productivas, almacenes de alimentos, unidades de producción y el asesinato masivo de familias campesinas dedicadas a la siembra, a la producción y a la seguridad alimentaria. Nosotros continuaremos denunciándolos en todos los foros internacionales y condenando ese proceder y pidiendo que cese la agresión contra Nicaragua porque queremos vivir en paz y tenemos derecho a la vida.

LE PRESIDENT: J'insiste à nouveau pour que notre enceinte puisse vivre dans un climat de détente.

Muhammad Saleem KHAN (Pakistan): Mr. Chairman, thank you for allowing me the floor. As usual, FAO has presented us with a well prepared, informative and balanced document on this agenda item as well. Laying bare the harsh truths and projecting an even-handed picture of the world economy and agriculture and food situation, the document not only warns us about the impending realities, but also offers us a chance to take ameliorative measures. The onus now lies with us, the Member States, and members of the international community as a whole.

If we remain complacent and confined to our respective regional interests, but posterity may never forgive us.

No doubt there are signs of optimism in the increasing growth rates, volumes of trade and values of exports for some of the developing countries. Encouragement can also be perceived from the proceedings of negotiations under the Uruguay Round, the Toronto Summit and the measures adopted by the Paris Club. However, these need to be viewed with a degree of circumspect and as Doc. CL 94/2 rightly points out against a background of unstable market conditions, protectionism, trade imbalances, problems of external debts, climatic inconsistencies and regional disparities.

We cannot be ecstatic when confronted by the reality of a bleak agricultural and food situation. The global cereals production which fell by 4.4 percent in 1987 is forecasted to go down by another 3.2 percent in 1988. The agricultural production in 1987 is said to have fallen to its lowest level in the 1980s. Cereals stocks in 1988 and 1989 are forecasted to deplete to 319 million tons, the minimum level the FAO considers necessary to safeguard food security. Further disconcerting is the mention of the serious drop in the share of the developing countries in the total world cereal stocks which is said to have fallen from 44 percent of the total in 1983/84 to a mere 28 percent in 1987/88. The general economic picture in developing countries also does not give rise to much hope. To quote a few instances, outstanding debts of developing countries rose by 8.5 percent in 1987 and are expected to rise further in 1988. Terms of trade continue to be skewed against developing countries. Their national currencies continued to depreciate in 1987 and the real effective value is said to have declined by 31 percent over a three-year period. Interest in middle-income highly indebted countries, during 1987, rose faster than receipts. Increases in minimum wage rate have lagged behind. Rises in food prices in countries undergoing demand restricting changes and with increasing international prices of cereals due to supply shortages developing countries already facing serious foreign exchange constraints will find it extremely difficult to import the cereal requirements at the requisite levels. To compound further the situation it is not heartening to learn that multilateral commitments in 1987 at constant 1980 prices were 21 percent

lower than 1986, whereas disbursements of multilateral loans are estimated to have fallen by 8 percent in 1987 at current prices.

We all recognize too well that agricultural and food situations are inextricably tied to the economic health of the country. However, the economic situation in developing countries is being compounded by unfavourable terms of trade, coupled with protectionism, tariff and non-tariff barriers and the subsidization of exports by the developed countries. Since developing countries are deeply indebted, debt charges alone take, if not all, almost all, of their export earnings. The document under review identifies external debt as the main obstacle to satisfactory economic growth in most developing countries. If we have the larger interest of humanity before us, these trends have to be reversed. The assessment of the Group of 24 that industrialized countries have to step up debt relief and reverse the perverse flow of resources from developing countries to developed countries cannot but be more emphasized upon.

There is no doubt that developing countries have the capacity and ability to produce more food for themselves and for export as has been demonstrated by the commendable results which have been achieved by some of them. Pakistan itself has been one such fortunate country, to have achieved a reasonable degree of success. Yet we can do more. I have before me interesting data on the yield gap in crop production compiled by the Pakistan National Agricultural Commission. A comparison has been carried out between potential yields of major crops under controlled conditions on research farms and the national average. I quote a few instances. These are figures for 1986/87 and the potential as determined on the research farms under controlled conditions, wheat gave a yield of 6 425 kgs. per hectare, whereas the actual national average production for this year was 1 559, or 24 percent of the potential, leaving a yield gap of 76 percent; likewise paddy, a potential of 9 489 kgs. per hectare was proved, whereas actual yield production was 2 532 kgs. per hectare, that is 27 percent of the potential leaving a yield gap of 73 percent. To quote another example, potatoes gave a potential yield 38 128 kgs. per hectare, whereas its actual average production was 9 823 kgs. per hectare or 40 percent of the potential leaving a yield gap of 60 percent. I have examples of other crops but I think the ones I quoted suffice to prove my point. This is a fair indicator of how much more we can achieve as can so many of our other brethren developing countries. Even if 50 percent of the yield potential can be achieved, we can raise enough food for a further several million people.

We understand that policy reforms, structural adjustment programmes and the adoption of national food strategies are the major steps to reviving agricultural and economic health in the developing countries. However, without adequate finance and human and technical backing, this cannot be possible. We feel there is no sense in producing in developed countries products at high costs when these can be produced more cheaply in developing countries. Not only would such production increase the income of developing countries enabling them to support their own economies but also enhance their capacity to import more manufactured goods from the developed countries. We would not be wrong in saying that the developed and the developing countries need each other and need to work as partners in the developing process.

Before I end, being the representative of a country whose Minister for Food and Agriculture is a Vice-President on the Bureau of the World Food Council representing the Asian Pacific Region, on behalf of my delegation, I take this opportunity to endorse and support the Cyprus Initiative on which the Executive Director of the World Food Council spoke at length yesterday.

Namkolo MUTKUTU (Zambia): Please allow me at the outset to commend the Secretariat for the excellent introduction and high quality of the document on the State of Food and Agriculture for 1988. This document is well written and balanced in approach to the issues discussed in it. My delegation welcomes the recent favourable development in commodity prices for some agricultural produce. We sincerely hope that many more agricultural commodities will soon register higher than average prices in the international markets and thus raise the incomes of many developing countries from their exports of agricultural raw materials. We know, however, that the increases in the prices of these agricultural commodities have been caused by the low level stocks in the developed countries. The permanent solution to stabilize prices on the international scene lies in the liberalization of trade by the developed north.

While it is widely recognized that the key to the rehabilitation and the revamping of the agricultural production in the Third World lies mainly in the commitment and willingness to reform policies, my delegation believes that more attention should be given to small-scale farmers in line with their huge numbers. In our view, they deserve all the support in their efforts to primarily derive a living through the land. In this regard, it is therefore imperative that programmes designed to mobilize smallholder farmers be devised so as to enhance their production capacity and increase their contribution to employment and wealth generation.

Although priority should be given to production of food crops we believe that cash crops should by no means be neglected. This is because, as we all know, they provide not only income for the rural populous that grow them but also serve as a foreign exchange earner. The real issue however lies in the provision of adequate production incentives to farmers including remunerative or realistic producer prices. Recent experience has proved this point in the case of Zambia where there have been tremendous response from farmers to increase agricultural production, particularly of crops such as maize, cotton, sunflowers and rice, to mention only a few.

Given the recurrent droughts which in recent years have severely affected agricultural production in many developing countries, especially in Africa, my delegation believes that irrigation holds the key to successful production, thus the area of agricultural development needs special and urgent attention. In this regard, we call upon multilateral and bilateral agencies to give more support to the development of irrigation infrastructure.

In the field of fisheries, Zambia, like other developing countries, gives a lot of emphasis to the development of this subsector. Much effort is presently being put into the development of the artisanal fisheries as this produces more than 75 percent of the fish consumed in the country.

Fish production in Africa has not been developed rapidly, unlike in other third world countries. This stagnation may be attributed to adverse economic conditions affecting Africa. Most fishermen do not have adequate fishing equipment to exploit fish resources in the fisheries. There is further need to develop programmes which would enable fishermen at both artisanal and commercial levels to acquire better and effective fishing equipment so that they can increase fish growth.

Paul R. BRYDEN (Australia): I would like to complement the Secretariat on providing us with excellent papers for our discussion on this important item. I propose to focus my remarks on an aspect of the situation covered in the documents of particular importance to my country namely the need for improvement in agricultural trade policies, liberalization of domestic agricultural policies.

I also have some detailed comments on the Secretariat documents including updated information on the food outlook in my country which I will pass directly to the Secretariat in order to save the time of council.

Australian agriculture has developed over the past 200 years as a mainspring of our economic development.

While the proportion of exports contributed by the rural sector has declined from around 80 percent just after the Second World War, to about 40 percent today, both the volume and the value of these exports have continued to increase.

Australia presently accounts for 60 percent of the world's trade in wool, we are the second largest beef exporter, the third largest sugar exporter and we are in the top five wheat exporters.

It is quite obvious from this that agriculture has been and still is, vital for Australia's well-being.

Yet the trading conditions facing Australian agriculture have been stacked against us especially in the past few decades.

The world's production potential has grown enormously since the second world war, stimulated by high levels of protection in most developed countries. This growth has been compounded by continuing developments in technology and productivity growth.

By 1986 the result was a massive collapse in world markets and the build-up of stocks to record levels. Since then, we have seen some recovery in prices and reduced stock levels through the effects of improved demand, the quitting of stocks at all costs and the severe drought in North America. Policy adjustments that have already been put in place can take some of the credit for this improvement over the past two years, but this certainly does not mean that the crisis is over and that we can all relax again. It is clear that a slowing of demand and a return to more normal seasonal conditions in the United States would lead to a down-turn as large, if not larger, than in 1986. The market remains fragile and export subsidies and other distorting protectionist practices remain rife. However, international awareness of the problem has grown and there have been moves in some countries to reform their agricultural policies. Under considerable international pressure, Japan has undertaken to commence a positive if partial reform process, and this has been most welcome.

The EEC took some steps in February of this year to put a ceiling on agricultural budgets. Promising as these moves may have been, they represent only a start. What is needed now is for countries to come together with a determination and resolve to consolidate and extend the reform process. When countries agree to act in concert, the possibilities for substantive action are greatly enhanced.

In the first instance, the political decisions are easier to make. Farmers in each country can see that the burden of adjustment will fall on support policies in all countries. Secondly, the actual short-term pain of reductions in income is minimized and can more easily be seen to be offset by trading opportunities in the future.

While the improvement in commodity markets over the last year or so may only be cyclical, it does provide us with the opportunity to begin the important and critical process of agricultural reform. For the past two years, negotiations on agriculture have been carried out in the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations. The mandate under the Uruguay Round calls for the greater liberalization of agricultural trade through the reduction of both import barriers and direct and indirect subsidies on the production and export of agricultural commodities and the minimizing of non-tariff barriers.

In Montreal in three weeks' time, a Ministerial level mid-term review of the Uruguay Round will be held. Agreement upon a substantive interim result on agriculture will be a key if not the key indicator of the success or failure of this meeting. Failure in this area would severely prejudice the chances of a successful result from the Round as a whole. Trade tensions and the level of international disputation would remain high. Such a result would place serious pressure on future economic growth and would add to international tensions in general.

In Budapest last weekend, the Cairns Group of Ministers met to discuss progress to date and to determine the position that they would take at the mid-term review. The message of the Cairns Group is clear: progress on agriculture at the mid-term review is vital, and the majors have a responsibility to come to Montreal with negotiating positions which will enable such progress to be made. Australia's Minister for Trade Negotiations, as Coordinator and Spokesman for the Group, put the position succinctly in his opening statement to the meeting. He said that it is vital that we get the direction and pace of negotiations right at Montreal. This can only be done if the two major agricultural traders engage seriously and realistically in concerted agricultural reform. Yet to date we have not seen any evidence of negotiating flexibility on the part of the majors. For progress to be made, the US must drop its precondition that all countries agree to the complete removal of all trade-distorting agricultural support.

For its part, the Community must come forward with a proposal which explicitly incorporates a commitment to the long-term reform of agriculture and the phasing down of agricultural support. It is clear that the negotiating proposal tabled by the Cairns Group in Geneva in July - which includes recognition of special and differential treatment for developing countries - still represents the best chance of finding common ground between both these positions. The EEC, the US and Japan need to consider carefully all aspects of the Cairns Group proposal. This proposal, in my delegation's view, represents the best chance for substantive agreement. It offers the best way to begin the concerted move to agricultural reform to which the majors have pledged themselves at the last two economic summits.

At the centre of the Cairns Group proposal is the proposition that changes to agricultural policies are needed. Where reform programmes have already been started they must be consolidated, bound and extended. This process must be supported by changes to the GATT rules and disciplines covering agricultural trade and subsidized agricultural production. Cairns Group countries are not interested in purported solutions to the problem of world agriculture which simply entrench the very policies which have led world agriculture to its current state. Australia believes that agricultural trade reform is vital. It is not only vital to Australia and to other members of the Cairns Group, but to all countries which have benefited, and can benefit, from the creation and operation of a liberal multilateral trading system.

Agricultural trade reform is necessary. The next few weeks will show just how sincere the majors - the United States, the EEC and Japan - are prepared to be to commence and entrench the trade reform process. It is our hope that Council will call on all participants in the MTR to grasp the opportunity to make real progress.

Mr. Chairman, we also hope that our own debates in this place will maintain their constructive spirit leaving detailed criticism of members' trade practices to more appropriate fora. The representative of the European Commission has, inter alia, invited other countries to reduce support for agriculture. The Australian Government announced in May, 1988 major reforms to agricultural policies. These reforms included across-the-board reductions in tariffs for agricultural and manufacturing products, removal of the embargo on imports of sugar, a measure that

had, incidentally, been in place for over 50 years; the removal of subsidies on fertilizers; phasing down government support for underwriting prices for agricultural products; and increased emphasis on natural resource management, exotic disease preparedness and agricultural research.

These reforms represent a significant redirection of agricultural policies, and a major reduction in subsidies on trade barriers for agriculture in Australia. They demonstrate our commitment to agricultural trade policy reform, not tinkering at the margins.

Mr. Chairman, Australia is aware of the problems of world under-production during this season at least, and of declining stocks. As a non-stockholding country, Australia is concerned for developing countries in need of food aid or assistance with structural adjustment, and would wish to see careful consideration given to these issues in the renegotiation of the Food Aid Convention due for renewal in 1989. Australia considers that the optimal solution for the problems of developing countries, such as those in Africa, is still the long-term reform of protectionist policies in the major trading powers through the Uruguay Round. As mentioned by the delegation of Malaysia, a recent study coordinated by the Centre for International Economics in Australia has revealed that comprehensive agricultural liberalization in the major industrialized countries would substantially benefit both agricultural exporting and importing developing countries.

The study estimates that, firstly, such liberalization would increase real income in the developing countries by US\$ 26 billion. Secondly, one dollar's worth of liberalization would deliver benefits to developing countries equal to at least two dollars' worth of aid. Thirdly, in the case of the low-income developing countries, benefits would be equivalent to six dollars' worth of conventional aid.

Other Australian research indicates that developing countries would derive the greatest benefit from agricultural trade liberalization if they were to adjust their own agricultural programmes in phase with liberalization in the major industrialized countries. This could involve adjustment by those developing countries which tax their own agricultural production (direct taxes on exports or by holding down domestic prices). This was concluded by the World Bank in its 1986 World Development Report.

In conclusion, I commend this research to Council and in particular to the delegation of Nicaragua who may find the results of this research of interest in the light of their concern with the process of economic development as set out in their earlier intervention.

Víctor Eduardo MACHINEA (Argentina): Nuestra delegación quisiera en primer término agradecer la documentación preparada por la Secretaría sobre el Estado Mundial de la Alimentación y la Agricultura en 1988, documentos CL 94/2 Sup. 1 y 2. Ellos nos informan del panorama agrícola alimentario, tema que parece estar bajo el tratamiento político de todas las Naciones.

Nuestra delegación, Sr. Presidente, quisiera destacar algunos conceptos con el fin de ilustrar claramente la posición asumida por la República Argentina en los distintos foros internacionales.

La reducción del ritmo de crecimiento de la demanda mundial de cereales se debe a la limitada capacidad financiera de los países en desarrollo. Ese factor es el que se debe atacar; ese es el punto que define la capacidad cierta de los países de mantener un nivel de ingesta mínimo de supervivencia.

Resulta claro, Sr. Presidente, que la problemática del incremento de la desnutrición en el mundo no pasa por el riesgo del alza en el precio de los cereales, sino que tiene raíces mucho más profundas como lo son la incidencia de la carga de la deuda externa sobre las economías de los países en desarrollo, la falta de voluntad política efectiva en la eliminación de los subsidios a la producción y el comercio, y de las barreras a la comercialización de los países desarrollados; y la disminución de la asistencia a los organismos de cooperación multilateral, a los que algunos países de altos ingresos quitan su apoyo político y financiero.

Por todo ello, creemos firmemente que el incremento de producción deseado para el futuro debe obtenerse mediante sistemas productivos libres de proteccionismo, distorsiones y subsidios; es decir que deben ser producto de la eficiencia.

Sr. Presidente, el proceso de deterioro y de descapitalización del campo en los países en desarrollo es ya tan profundo que lo ha dejado sin posibilidad de luchar con métodos modernos por alguna pequeña porción del mercado. De allí nuestra necesidad de que la pautas para el crecimiento de la producción sean lo más transparente posible. Los productores tradicionales que sigan utilizando-procedimientos más o menos anticuados, o que no realicen un severo esfuerzo para mejorar la calidad de sus explotaciones, seguirán perdiendo terreno en el mercado internacional. Esos cambios necesarios en los métodos de producción no podrán realizarse en un medio industrial atrasado. El

avance de los países industrializados en la producción de bienes primarios se ha debido no sólo a la disponibilidad de fondos para financiar el cambio, sino, fundamentalmente, a la posesión de tecnologías de punta. De tal forma, Sr. Presidente, los futuros movimientos de oferta y precios no dependen únicamente de las políticas comerciales de los grandes países, sino de la propia transformación técnica de las producciones primarias. Por eso mismo para aspirar a la mejora de la producción del campo, es necesario pensar en el avance de las ramas industriales y de la investigación técnica que debe impulsar el sector primario.

Nuestra delegación quiere resaltar este hecho y solicitar expresamente a la FAO que realice las investigaciones necesarias para evaluar la incidencia de las transformaciones tecnológicas en los mercados agrícolas futuros. El producto de este análisis, seguramente, hará replantear los objetivos de la planificación política agrícola de muchos países en desarrollo.

Estimamos útil que tan pronto como sea posible los órganos intergubernamentales pertinentes analicen esta cuestión.

Coincidimos, Sr. Presidente, con la presentación de la Secretaría en el sentido de que una cuestión importante de política es la relacionada con la liberalización del comercio y coincidimos también, a este respecto, con el diagnóstico de sus efectos, efectuado por el Sr. Hjort y cito: "aparte de su efecto adverso en el comercio, las actuales políticas agrícolas de la mayoría de los países industrializados están teniendo un impacto negativo en el crecimiento económico mundial y en el comercio global de mercancías".

Con referencia a la situación de las negociaciones de la Ronda Uruguay del GATT, cabe consignar que nuestro país participó en la última reunión del Grupo CAIRNS a la que se han referido ya varias delegaciones, acontecida en Budapest entre el 10 y el 12 de noviembre próximo pasado. Asistieron los Ministros de Agricultura de los países miembros y observadores como la Comunidad Económica Europea, Estados Unidos y Japón. En esta reunión, los Ministros identificaron los objetivos que persigue el Grupo para la próxima reunión de Revisión de Mediano Plazo que se realizará en Montreal en los primeros días de diciembre, estimando esta oportunidad de fundamental importancia para obtener avances substantivos en la negociación agrícola. La reafirmación de los conceptos ya expresados por el Grupo CAIRNS no hace más que ratificar la unidad del Grupo en el reclamo para la obtención del Congelamiento y la Reducción de los Apoyos y Distorsiones al Comercio Agrícola en 1989 y 1990, que debe ser acompañada por avances en las negociaciones sobre medidas sanitarias y fitosanitarias. La reunión del Grupo CAIRNS en Budapest también lamentó que los principales responsables de las distorsiones ya descritas, como la Comunidad Económica Europea y los Estados Unidos no hayan hecho honor a lo acordado en Punta del Este sobre Congelamiento y Desmantelamiento Progresivo. El grupo expresó su desacuerdo con el enfoque que da la Comunidad a los acuerdos de largo plazo y recibió con agrado las iniciativas de Japón en la liberalización de algunas áreas de su régimen agrícola, y su rol más activo en las negociaciones sobre la agricultura en el GATT.

En la última reunión del Comité de Agricultura del GATT, que tuvo lugar esta semana en Ginebra, la India presentó una propuesta para el trato especial y diferenciado que debe darse a los países en desarrollo. Este documento define una serie de medidas que, sin incidir en el comercio, beneficiarían a los países que se esfuerzan por desarrollarse.

También los Estados Unidos, la Comunidad y otros países han distribuido documentos que intentan acercar posiciones para la Reunión de Montreal, aunque de todas formas estamos lejos de un acuerdo generalizado. En fin, Sr. Presidente, sobre esta temática podríamos hablar horas porque sabemos que el futuro del desarrollo equilibrado del mundo pasa por una eliminación de las distorsiones al comercio y la producción.

Nos preocupan, Sr. Presidente, que como consecuencia de la situación que viven los mercados de granos y específicamente el del trigo, con esta buenaventura en los precios, absolutamente transitoria, se produzca cierto relajamiento en los negociadores y en los plazos de la negociación.

Esto es preocupante para los países en desarrollo por las siguientes razones: un retardo en las negociaciones impediría la estabilidad de los mercados y como consecuencia perjudicaría la planificación comercial; provocaría asimismo cierta incertidumbre en la seguridad alimentaria de los países en desarrollo importadores netos.

La República Argentina desea destacar que una indecisión hoy en la puesta en marcha de las reformas nos llevará a una profundización de la crisis. Tenemos la esperanza que la razón prevalecerá sobre el egoísmo.

Con referencia, Sr. Presidente, a las acciones del Programa de Acción Forestal en los Trópicos, la República Argentina tiene el agrado de invitar por parte de su Gobierno a todos los Estados Miembros interesados a participar en las Jornadas para el Desarrollo Forestal Argentino, que se realizarán en

la ciudad de Corrientes, capital de la provincia del mismo nombre entre los días 18 y 30 de noviembre de 1988. Asimismo, solicitamos a todas las autoridades competentes darle la más amplia difusión en medios oficiales y privados del sector. Desde ya agradecemos a la FAO y, particularmente la colaboración de su Departamento de Montes de este organismo que tanto apoyo nos ha brindado en su organización.

En la concisa y aguda presentación que realizó el Sr. Hjort, hizo especial referencia a la difícil situación económica de los países de América Latina y el Caribe, que desgraciadamente no podemos sino compartir en su totalidad. Estimamos conveniente, por lo tanto, que en nuestro informe final se incluyan los párrafos pertinentes de dicha intervención.

La información presentada sobre la situación que atraviesa América Latina y el Caribe, no hace más que confirmar la problemática que debieron afrontar los Ministros de Agricultura reunidos en la vigésima Conferencia Regional de la FAO en Recife (Brasil), en los primeros días de octubre próximo pasado.

Es de esperar, Sr. Presidente, que los deseos expresados por nuestros Ministros puedan ser concretados al pie de la letra y que se cumplan las reformas y medidas necesarias para erradicar la pobreza, el hambre y la desnutrición de nuestros países, promover el desarrollo con equidad de nuestras economías, fortalecer los procesos de democratización, respetar los derechos fundamentales de nuestros habitantes, de modo particular el derecho a la alimentación, que es la base del derecho a la vida, y renovar el empeño en preservar la paz.

Antoine ESSOME (Cameroun): Monsieur le Président, je voudrais à mon tour, au nom de la délégation du Cameroun, féliciter le Secrétariat pour la qualité du document présenté à l'appui de ce point de l'ordre du jour. Son mérite, entre autres, est d'avoir mis en évidence l'impasse dans laquelle se trouvent les économies des pays en développement et la marge de manoeuvre très étroite de nos gouvernements littéralement coincés entre les exigences d'un développement économique qu'appelle une démographie galopante, d'une part, et le service d'une dette étouffante, d'autre part.

Il faut également reconnaître à ce document d'avoir su regrouper sous une forme accessible une abondante information sur divers aspects de la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture. Malheureusement, les contraintes de temps ne me permettent pas de leur consacrer tous les développements qu'ils appellent.

Au demeurant, nombre d'orateurs qui m'ont précédé ont insisté avec bonheur sur certains aspects de cette situation liés, notamment, à la production, aux tensions de l'offre des céréales et leurs conséquences, au protectionnisme, aux phénomènes monétaires, aux subventions à l'exportation, etc., et je m'en voudrais d'y revenir.

En revanche, je centrerai mon propos sur deux aspects que ma délégation juge essentiels dans l'analyse de cette situation. Il s'agit notamment du commerce de certains produits de base et de l'endettement. Comme s'ils étaient frappés d'Interdits, le cacao, le café, le coton, la vanille, le thé et d'autres produits africains ont vu leurs cours déprimés pendant que ceux du blé, du maïs, du riz et du soja s'envolaient littéralement; et le phénomène dure encore.

En dépit des espoirs suscités par leur mécanisme, les accords internationaux sur ces produits sont loin d'atteindre leur but; nombre d'entre eux sont en veilleuse. Dès lors, comment est-il possible de relancer l'investissement si les maigres ressources d'exportation doivent être consacrées soit au service d'une dette de plus en plus pesante, soit à l'importation de produits alimentaires parce que, localement, la sécheresse, les criquets, les inondations et d'autres calamités en ont compromis les récoltes ? Le service de la dette absorbait 26% des recettes d'exportation en 1984 et 43% en 1987 en Afrique subsaharienne (paragraphe 98 du document) et, pour 22 pays de la région, la totalité des recettes d'exportation n'y suffira pas dans les trois prochaines années, situation que le rapport qualifie, sans doute par euphémisme, de sombre.

Comment concilier à terme la baisse du produit intérieur brut dans la région et l'explosion démographique observée par ailleurs ? Comme s'il fallait les énumérer, ces calamités compromettent les possibilités de développement de nos pays: augmentation rapide du volume des importations; stagnation, voire baisse, des exportations sur tous les produits agricoles, donc dégradation des taux de couverture des importations par les exportations; augmentation plus importante des flux financiers dans le sens sud-nord comparés à ceux du sens nord-sud au cours de la période. Toutes choses qui signifient une perte de substance et un appauvrissement accentués.

C'est le lieu de rendre un hommage mérité aux initiatives canadiennes visant à l'allègement de la dette des pays en développement de même que les efforts inlassables de la France et d'autres pays dans la recherche de solutions appropriées à ce douloureux problème.

Un délégué saluait hier les mesures courageuses prises par les gouvernements en développement dans le cadre des réformes entreprises dans certains secteurs, surtout quand ces réformes répondent aux exigences des plans d'ajustement structurel comme c'est souvent le cas. La plupart d'entre elles entraînent des situations inconciliables et parfois des contradictions difficiles à gérer. Ceci est nettement indiqué dans les paragraphes 106, 107 et 108, et c'est avec vigueur qu'il faut dénoncer ces situations.

La dégradation de la position financière de l'Afrique semble avoir atteint sa cote d'alerte et mérite des solutions urgentes. Certes, ce n'est pas le lieu ici de discuter de cette question vitale, mais le lien évident entre les perspectives de développement, notamment dans l'agriculture, secteur-clé de nos économies, oblige en l'évoquant de mettre en relief les perspectives particulièrement sombres de la région. Dans ces conditions, assurer et conforter le processus de développement, moderniser l'agriculture et les techniques culturelles dans nos pays, deviennent une véritable gageure.

Nous nous refusons cependant à considérer comme une fatalité cette évolution de la situation et des choses. Nous sommes convaincus que les efforts actuellement déployés au plan de la coopération internationale, notamment pour soutenir les politiques de redressement économique engagées par nos gouvernements, porteront des fruits. C'est le cas du plan d'action des Nations Unies dont nous attendons l'évaluation des premiers impacts à mi-parcours. C'est le cas aussi du plan d'action forestier tropical, qui, par une approche originale, vise une implication plus marquée des populations qui vivent de la forêt pour leur permettre, non seulement de tirer le meilleur parti de ce patrimoine économique, mais aussi d'en assurer la pérennité. C'est enfin le cas des négociations commerciales multilatérales, dont il faut espérer qu'elles aboutiront à une maîtrise des marchés internationaux, condition indispensable pour des échanges plus équilibrés.

Mais, ici comme ailleurs, seule une volonté commune permettrait des solutions viables pour arrêter la dégradation de la situation, si l'on veut espérer une relance économique dans les pays en développement, et avec elle la perspective de consolider la sécurité alimentaire.

En fin de compte, M. le Président, l'Interdépendance des économies est une donnée incontournable. Elle appelle une coopération étroite pour une réforme plus large, réforme dont les objectifs bien ciblés devraient répondre aux aspirations légitimes des pays qui souhaitent un ordre plus juste, une meilleure répartition des activités et des échanges dont les résultats seraient une juste rémunération des efforts des uns et des autres dans le cadre d'un partenariat bien compris.

Roger PASQUIER (Suisse): La situation mondiale de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation présente des problèmes dont notre Conseil doit s'occuper afin qu'ensemble les Etats Membres progressent vers des solutions. C'est aussi ces problèmes que la FAO doit avoir en vue lorsqu'elle oriente son assistance technique.

Je ne veux pas passer en revue tous ces problèmes. Je vais me concentrer sur deux aspects.

D'abord les politiques agricoles, et parmi elles la politique de sécurité alimentaire.

Le Directeur général a évoqué dans sa déclaration d'avant hier le rôle accru qu'il voulait voir jouer à la FAO en matière de politiques agricoles, par rapport à d'autres institutions multilatérales, et en collaboration avec elles, notamment à l'occasion des ajustements structurels. Nous en sommes heureux, et ferons part ultérieurement au cours de cette session d'idées et propositions à ce sujet.

Pour ce qui est de la sécurité alimentaire dans son concept élargi, nous regrettons en passant que le document que le Secrétariat a préparé pour ce débat ne comporte pas des estimations chiffrées de la population sous-alimentée par pays, et qu'il nous faille aller chercher ces estimations dans un document de la Banque mondiale. Le Secrétariat de la FAO fait preuve, à notre avis, de prudence excessive à ce sujet.

Mais passons à un fait positif, en relevant que par ailleurs le Secrétariat de la FAO a joué un rôle très valable dans l'examen à mi-parcours de la mise en oeuvre du programme pour le redressement économique en Afrique, en contribuant au rapport du Secrétaire général des Nations Unies préparé pour le récent débat à ce sujet aux Nations Unies à New York.

En relation avec cet examen à mi-parcours, nous nous réjouissons par ailleurs de constater que bien des pays africains ont modifié leur politique de développement agricole en tenant compte de l'expérience passée, et que des effets positifs sont déjà observables, comme l'a souligné notamment le délégué de la France hier.

Nous savons en outre que dans le cas du Sénégal, le Secrétariat de la FAO a pu fournir pleinement sa contribution au volet agricole de l'ajustement structurel, mais ce type de contribution est jusqu'ici trop rare.

Dans l'examen de la situation par région que comporte le document que nous examinons, à part l'Afrique que je viens d'évoquer, il vaut la peine de mettre en évidence, comme le fait le document dans ses paragraphes 151 et 152, la place relativement plus importante qu'a reconquis l'agriculture en Amérique latine suite aux ajustements entrepris des politiques économiques nationales. Il y a là, nous semble-t-il, une conjoncture qui devrait conduire les pays concernés à recourir aux services de conseil de notre Organisation, la FAO, et en retirer des avantages.

Mon second point touche à la pérennité du développement. Pour que le développement soit durable il faut bien sûr, comme on le sait, conserver et développer les ressources naturelles, et il faut que l'évolution démographique soit adéquate.

Pour ce qui est des ressources naturelles, on néglige trop le fait que le succès durable passe obligatoirement par une responsabilisation accrue de la population rurale ou, comme vient de le dire l'Honorable Délégué du Cameroun, par une implication plus marquée de la population concernée. Nous reviendrons sur cette question au point pertinent de l'ordre du jour.

Pour le moment nous faisons encore cette proposition pratique à propos du chapitre spécial sur la pérennité du développement qui est prévu dans le document de l'an prochain sur la situation mondiale de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation pour la période 1988-1989. Ce chapitre spécial, que M. Hjort a appelé d'une manière un peu différente "volume spécial", nous dit au paragraphe 77 que le Secrétariat devrait notamment analyser les changements requis pour traduire le concept de pérennité dans la pratique et examiner comment la FAO pourrait contribuer davantage à ces changements.

Dans ce chapitre spécial ma délégation voudrait que soit développé l'aspect de la responsabilisation accrue de la population que je viens de mentionner. Il serait très important de le faire pour faciliter le débat de nos organes directeurs sur ce sujet.

E. Wayne DENNEY (United States of America): The United States believes that the documents prepared for this agenda item do a good job of characterizing global agricultural and economic conditions. We have come to expect a high quality paper on the State of Food and Agriculture and once again FAO has delivered. The United States considers the collection and evaluation of agricultural Information amongst the most important functions that FAO performs. The inclusion of policy documents is a welcome addition to this year's documents, and expanded coverage of policy issues in future reviews would also be welcomed.

We look forward to the new SOFA format presenting Information on a more timely basis, as noted by Mr. Hjort yesterday.

As indicated in the documents and in the introduction by Mr. Hjort, food supplies for the developing world increased somewhat in 1988 while overall American grain output plummeted. As a major grain producer the United States fully recognizes the impact of its production and stock changes on world totals. Just a year ago United States grain stocks were quite large which alarmed many countries. Now they have dwindled and the global community is appropriately questioning the impact of this rapid turnaround. Let me assure you that there is little cause for alarm. Although the percentage drop in grain stocks is quite startling, the United States has the grain supplies necessary to meet its food aid and commercial export commitments of 1988/89. Policy decisions dealing with restrictions of planted area, coupled with stronger grain prices, should lead to significant expansion of grain output next year.

During 1988 some 78 million acres of United States farmland were idled through various programmes. As much as two-thirds of this acreage, or about 50 million acres, may be put back into production during the next crop cycle.

The United States established a four million tonne food security wheat reserve in 1981 to ensure that ample wheat supplies would be available to meet urgent humanitarian food needs in developing countries.

On 26 October 1988 President Reagan authorized the release of up to 1.5 million tonnes for programming during fiscal year 1988/89. Not surprisingly the Uruguay Round of GATT negotiations has

received considerable attention from Council members. Those concerned about trade protectionism and its devastation on agricultural and economic growth in developing countries are making progress towards an agreement. It is a slow time-consuming and delicate process, but a worthwhile one. The United States tabled its original proposal in July 1987 and since that time has amplified it with respect to food security and special and differential treatment for developing countries.

On 7 November the United States submitted to the agricultural negotiating group of GATT a framework calling for commitments by all participants to agree to agricultural trade reform objectives and processes during the mid-term review in Montreal. We remain optimistic that the mid-term review will achieve meaningful results. To maximize the probability of significant results in Montreal maintaining a spirit of cooperation is essential. We question whether the denunciation of country trade practices would contribute to that spirit. We associate ourselves with comments made by Australia in this regard.

In regard to the debt issue we recognize the burden that heavy debt places on any country, whether it be a developing country or a developed one like our own. It is an issue we have dealt with recently in the Toronto Summit, at the UN Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, at UNCTAD and at other fora our positions on this matter have been enunciated. However, as we have frequently stated before, the appropriate fora negotiating debt issues include the IMF, World Bank and Paris Club but not FAO.

In the Director-General's opening address a number of interesting observations were made about FAO's activities in relation to structural adjustment. We heard yesterday some suggestions, such as those made by the delegates of Zambia, Lesotho, Cuba and others. This is an important question. As this matter relates to FAO's role as a member of the UN system, my delegation intends to comment on it further under discussions of agenda item 10.

The United States joins others in thanking the Executive Director of the World Food Council for his participation in this Session. We reaffirm our support for the Cyprus initiative and plan to participate in the consultative group.

Finally, in response to the Colombian query of yesterday, regarding United States agricultural input data, we are unable to immediately confirm the paragraphs in question and would ask the Secretary to respond, though it appears to be sending somewhat conflicting signals.

John Redman GOLDSACK (United Kingdom): We welcome the report and congratulate the authors on producing a succinct overview of developments in world agriculture. We note that the figures quoted in Table 1 of Annex 1 for the growth in 1988 of output of industrial countries reflects the IMF's forecast which was produced relatively early in the year and that later forecasts produced by other forecasters such as OECD and the World Bank reflect higher rates of growth. However, in 1989 all forecasters expect growth in the developing countries to slow. The expected upturn in output in Africa referred to in paragraph 9 is indeed welcome. We note that most forecasters do not expect a continued sustained recovery in commodity prices. This, coupled with the fact that international interest rates have risen sharply and that there is unlikely to be a sustained recovery in financial flows of developing countries, means that the prospect of maintaining even this level of output of increase in Africa in subsequent years is not good.

We note with concern the declining output per capita in food production in Africa and in other parts of the developing world referred to in Annexes 2 and 3 and paragraphs 37 to 39. Clearly unless there is a significant change in output of food production in the developing world food deficits are likely to grow in the forthcoming years.

We note the dramatic fall in external private lending to agriculture during the 1980s. It is vital that developing countries review their domestic policies with regard to foreign investment in order to encourage such flows for vital investment projects.

We agree that export prices and demand for food and agricultural products are important factors in affecting the future prospects for developing country agriculture, but it is equally important that domestic policies in developing countries towards their agricultural sector are appropriate, providing adequate incentives for producers.

On forestry matters, we continue to urge FAO to put the Tropical Forestry Action Plan high on its agenda.

The statement in paragraph 60 that wood contributes 20 percent of energy consumed in developing countries, looks to us like an understatement when we know that for rural communities 80-90 percent is the quoted figure. The important role of forestries in land use deserves increased emphasis in this report with regard to soil and water conservation and agro-forestry. In the fisheries sector the substantial changes in major fish catches are noted. There was not a warning that the present total world production may not be sustained indefinitely. Renewed efforts to understand and forecast environmental change are essential. Greater flexibility of end-usage of species to take advantage of widely varying availability of different kinds of fish so as to sustain total consumption should be encouraged. In particular, any improvement in the usage of fish for direct human consumption rather than for conversion to fishmeal should also be encouraged.

Mr. Chairman, we feel that the increasing importance of aquaculture to total world production should have been stressed more firmly. Increased international trading in fish and fish products potentially of great benefit to developing countries must be monitored and, where possible and appropriate, encouraged.

Mr. Chairman, we feel that the paper ignores the very substantial amount of evidence suggesting that major climatic change is occurring and will continue. Long-term planning for the effect on fish and fisheries should be undertaken vigorously.

The United Kingdom sees FAO's primary role in fisheries as that of collecting, analysing and disseminating fishery information for development purposes. A secondary role is to maintain an effective and efficient system for the delivery of technical assistance for development and research in all fishery subjects. In the last ten years FAO's capacity in this regard has declined. This seems to be due to the difficulty of recruiting and training suitably qualified staff. This problem should be tackled vigorously by the Director-General who, we feel sure, is well aware of the reasons for it.

We regret the dramatically reduced support for the FAO fisheries' library system and trust that support for it will be restored as soon as possible.

On sustainable natural resources development, we urge that positive steps should be taken by FAO to support the concept of the integration of environmental policies and development strategies as recommended by the World Commission on Environment and Development.

Mr. Chairman, I would now like to make some observations on the Uruguay Round. The disagreement between developed and developing countries over the aims of the Round is unnecessary. The growing body of evidence shows that all must liberalize if the greatest benefits are to accrue. Reform by developed countries would improve prices, and access for developing country exports. Even net importing developing countries would benefit. But developing countries must also reform. Higher prices and lower taxes on commodities would improve domestic output and investment. We appreciate the needs of developing countries to promote development, but special and differential treatment should not be used to promote self-sufficiency at all costs. Such policies are costly and ineffective.

In the view of the United Kingdom, the mid-term meeting in Montreal in December should build on OECD and Group of 77 commitments to seeking a framework approach to agriculture with both long-term and short-term elements. We would like to see agreement reached in Montreal to a framework approach with commitments in the short-term to a freeze, and possible further reductions in support, combined with commitments in principle to substantial reductions to support in the long-term. Both these elements would be facilitated by the use of an aggregate measure.

We are aware of developing countries' suspicions of a producer-subsidy element, but we feel it offers vital flexibility to policy commitments in the reform process. The United Kingdom hopes for substantial progress at the mid-term review on tropical products on which the EC has tabled a significant offer. We now need to break the deadlock in liberalising in the interests of all, and it is our view that developing countries are not being asked to do more than is appropriate to their development. Thank you, Chairman.

Earl W. WEYBRECHT (Canada): Let me begin by thanking the Secretariat for providing the Council with a very good synopsis of the global economy in general, and of developments in the agricultural sector in particular. The documents on the state of food and agriculture in 1988 provide members with an assessment of the impact of current macro-economic and other factors on agricultural and food production, farm incomes, food consumption and agricultural trade. They bring together a number of important elements, ranging from the rapid change in world cereal stock levels, multilateral efforts affecting the agricultural sector, along with developments on a regional basis, including the reference that in 58 of 108 developing countries food production has failed to increase in per capita terms in 1988.

Mr. Chairman, we are pleased with the indication that the document State of Food and Agriculture in 1988/89 will devote a special chapter to key issues related to natural resource management for sustainable agriculture and rural development.

Canada has been working closely with members of the Cairns Group to achieve, within the Uruguay Round of Trade Negotiations, a substantial reduction in protectionism and trade-distorting support measures in the agricultural sector. These negotiations are important for both developing and developed countries to achieve a more stable situation in world agricultural trade and to improve the world economic environment in this sector. It will be critical, therefore, that the GATT Ministerial Meeting, which will be held in Montreal in December, provide the political direction to bring the Round to a substantial conclusion.

Concrete steps and a common approach were approved this year at the Toronto Economic Summit to reduce the debt burden of the poorest countries. This initiative will provide significant debt relief for the poorest nations in Sub-Saharan Africa. The Canadian Government had earlier indicated, during the Quebec Summit Fraco-Phone Countries and the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Vancouver, its plan to give approximately 700 million Canadian dollars of official development assistance loans.

Mr. Chairman, on the question of stocks, information provided in document CL 94/2 Supplementary 1, indicates that by the end of 1988/89 crop years cereal stocks are expected to fall to a level that would be below the minimum level the FAO considers necessary for world food security. We note the question of world cereal stocks was discussed in the meeting that took place last week in FAO of the Inter-Governmental Group on Grains. The Group recognized the need to increase production in the next crop year to ensure adequate supplies, noting the fine balance between a situation of short supplies and excess supplies.

One further point, Mr. Chairman, on the documents. We would ask that paragraph no. 204 of the main document be rephrased to reflect the fact that the free trade agreement between Canada and the United States has not yet been ratified by the two countries. The wording could be along the lines that in 1987 the conclusion of the negotiation of a free trade agreement between Canada and the United States was a major step towards a more liberalised trade between the two countries. In 1988 the necessary steps were taken to ensure that both countries would be in a position to implement the agreement once ratified by each party. The Canadian Parliament has not yet ratified the agreement. On the basis of this agreement all tariffs and some non-tariffs barriers would be eliminated by the year 2000. Mr. Chairman, we thank the Executive Director of the World Food Council for providing this Council with a report on action taken to date by the World Food Council to implement the Cyprus Initiative. Within the framework of the Cyprus Initiative we look to the consultative group just established by the World Food Council to consider practical ways and means of improving food availability for consideration by ministers in Cairo in 1989.

Taghi SHAMEKI (Iran, République islamique d'): Au nom d'Allah, la délégation de la République islamique d'Iran souhaite plein succès au Président compte tenu de son talent et de sa compétence. Je félicite M. le Directeur général pour sa déclaration claire et courageuse qui a mis en évidence la situation mondiale de l'agriculture de la FAO, et ses problèmes.

L'examen de la situation de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation nous montre malheureusement que l'atmosphère est sombre, et plusieurs honorables délégations se sont exprimées dans ce sens, et le document C 94/2 et ses suppléments, bien travaillé et présenté par le directeur de la Division de l'analyse politique, nous le démontre. Les réalités lourdes qui pèsent sur nous ne nous permettent pas un optimisme facile.

Et j'énumérerai simplement les faits suivants: diminution particulière de la production céréalière, accroissement rapide des prix des céréales, le fait que dans 78 pays en développement sur 108 la production vivrière par habitant diminue, accroissement des dettes des pays en développement, le fait que les prix de la plupart des productions agricoles importées par les pays en développement sont en augmentation, tandis que lorsque les pays en développement exportent, ces prix diminuent or stagnent; en général, il faut noter que le flux des ressources s'écoule encore de la part des pays en développement vers les pays développés et il faut ajouter enfin le problème très important de la destruction de l'environnement dans ces pays, destruction qui prend une vitesse excessive.

Ce sont des réalités lourdes et amères qui ont pesé et pèsent sur le dos de ces pays, et l'on peut dire que pendant des décennies ces réalités, avec des hauts et des bas, ont subsisté et malheureusement au cours des années cela s'est détérioré. C'est un point très important.

Nous sommes à présent face aux propositions et aux réformes soutenues dans le document dont nous discutons en vue d'améliorer cet état de choses. Je tiens à préciser que nous pensons qu'avec de telles réformes et dans un tel cadre d'activité, les pays en développement ne pourront pas se sortir de cette situation, car les problèmes ne seront pas résolus. Ce genre de mesure a été approuvé et applaudi maintes fois dans différents points du monde. Nous pensons que la quasi totalité des mécanismes qui régissent sur les échanges entre les pays développés et les pays en développement jouent contre ces derniers et doivent être changés, bouleversés; et les créateurs de ces mécanismes doivent les réviser et les réformer.

Voilà une réforme, voilà de nouveaux paramètres et une nouvelle dimension qu'il faut ajouter à ce qui se dit et se répète partout et tout le temps.

Nous pensons que la révision de ce principe ne pourra être appliquée que si la morale internationale est bouleversée - je dis bien la morale internationale - que si les créateurs de ces mécanismes, les programmeurs et les managers de ces relations s'éloignent de plus en plus des pensées mercantilistes et égoïstes qui régissent sur la plupart de ces relations, et que s'ils prennent en compte de plus en plus le service aux hommes et le bonheur de l'humanité. Les programmeurs soutiennent de plus en plus ce qui se fait au bénéfice de la paix mondiale au lieu de voir l'intérêt de leur groupe ou de leur pays. Enfin, il faut que la spiritualité prenne une place à tous les niveaux.

Nous insistons sur ce principe car nous croyons que ce sera bénéfique pour tous les pays, et que tous les hommes vivront paisiblement côte à côte. Nous demandons aux programmeurs, aux managers, aux riches et aux développés de changer la morale actuelle; nous ne leur demandons pas des dons; non; mais le changement que nous leur demandons est le seul chemin vers un monde plus équitable, plus juste au bénéfice de tous - j'insiste, au bénéfice de tous.

Sinon, il y a un principe fondamental qui ne changera pas. Ce principe, c'est que l'homme subit la pauvreté et la faim; il subit les relations bilatérales ou multilatérales inégales. Mais il y a un point jusqu'auquel il ne les subira pas dans son âme et son corps. Il y aura alors une réaction dont l'histoire de l'homme est pleine d'exemples. Cette réaction, c'est la révolution. Et la révolution islamique de notre pays en est un exemple. Il serait bon que les grands, les riches, les programmeurs, les développés pensent aux pauvres paysans africains, asiatiques ou latino-américains avant qu'un tel jour n'arrive.

Après ces propos d'ordre général, je voudrais parler un peu de la situation à laquelle on fait face au Proche-Orient et dans mon pays. La plupart des pays en développement sont mis à genoux par le poids de la dette extérieure et n'arrivent pas à investir pour leur développement agricole. Les pays pétroliers et, parmi eux, les pays pétroliers en développement du Proche-Orient faisaient une exception; mais ils sont à l'heure actuelle dans la même situation que les autres. Au cours de ces dernières années, alors que les prix des produits manufacturés et leurs importations ont connu une hausse nette, le prix du pétrole est tombé. En outre, le dollar - l'argent qui leur revient - ne cesse de perdre de sa valeur. Or, d'après les statistiques, le taux d'accroissement démographique de ces pays et le taux d'accroissement de leurs importations vivrières sont les plus hauts parmi les pays en développement. Il faut donc s'attendre à ce que, dans un proche avenir, ces pays rejoignent les rangs des autres pays en développement et perdent leurs capacités d'investissement et donc de développement. La République islamique d'Iran est l'un de ces pays.

Voyons maintenant ce qui s'est passé dans ce pays en matière d'agriculture après sa révolution. Je dois préciser qu'en Iran, outre les problèmes mentionnés ci-dessus, nous nous trouvons dans une situation postrévolutionnaire qui a engendré de nombreux problèmes dont le plus

important est la guerre qui nous a été imposée pendant huit ans, qui a pesé lourdement sur nous et a absorbé beaucoup de nos ressources humaines et matérielles.

Malgré toutes ces difficultés, nous avons connu un accroissement de la production dans le secteur agricole. Pendant les années 1981 à 1987, le taux d'accroissement de 5% du PIB, en valeur stable, a joué un rôle important dans l'économie nationale et a permis de satisfaire les besoins vivriers du pays. L'effet de ce processus, qui est le résultat du travail de 30% de la population active du pays et des services donnés par le gouvernement, se caractérise par une augmentation du volume de la production agricole, de telle sorte qu'actuellement le taux d'accroissement de la production agricole domine le taux d'accroissement démographique et que, pour certains produits, nous sommes arrivés à un surplus des exportations.

Les chiffres nous disent que le volume total de la production agricole, y compris la production animale et la pêche, est passé de 32 millions de tonnes à 42 millions de tonnes pendant les années 1983 à 1987. Cette augmentation comprend 2,9 millions de tonnes pour les céréales, 1,6 million de tonnes pour les betteraves et la canne à sucre, 800 000 tonnes pour la pomme de terre et les oignons et 2,2 millions de tonnes pour les fruits. En dépit de la forte hausse de la population, de l'ordre de 5,5 millions pendant cette période - à l'exception des émigrés afghans et autres dont nous sommes les hôtes - la production vivrière par habitant a augmenté de la façon suivante: pour les céréales, de 205 kg à 237 kg par habitant; pour les pommes de terre et les oignons, de 55 kg à 64 kg par habitant; pour les fruits, de 87 à 105 kg par habitant. Pour différentes causes survenues pendant l'année passée, ce rythme a diminué, mais c'est temporaire. Pendant cette période, nous n'avons pas seulement augmenté la production par habitant mais nous avons fait un pas en avant dans le domaine des exportations agricoles car celles-ci, de 144 000 tonnes en 1985, sont passées à 400 000 en 1987.

Comme je l'ai dit auparavant, toutes ces activités se sont effectuées pendant une guerre sanglante et sans recours aux emprunts extérieurs. Et encore, il nous reste un grand potentiel inexploité. Après la guerre, que nous espérons être définitivement terminée, sur les conseils du Guide de la Révolution quant à l'importance de l'agriculture et en mettant l'accent sur un plus grand travail d'infrastructure et une vulgarisation plus forte, nous pensons parvenir à des résultats plus éclatants et enfin à l'autosuffisance pour ce qui est des matières agricoles et vivrières essentielles.

L'exemple de l'Iran montre qu'il y a dans les pays en développement un grand potentiel et de nombreuses possibilités humaines et matérielles inexploitées, mal connues ou méconnues et que si ces pays décident de se lever au lieu de se mettre à genoux, ils pourront vaincre la faim et la malnutrition malgré des conditions très difficiles comme une guerre non voulue. Si Dieu le veut !

Horacio CARANDANG (Philippines): Developing countries are predominantly agricultural and therefore rely primarily on exports of agricultural commodities for the foreign exchange earnings to finance their own development. Hence the paramount importance of agricultural trade, of trade in agricultural commodities for developing countries. Unfortunately, trade in agricultural commodities today is beset by a great number of problems. One of these problems is the weakness of effective demand, both domestic and external. This is referred to in Doc. CL 94/2 from paras 27-30. According to the document, domestic demand in developing countries is below that of the 1970s because of stagnating incomes in most developing countries. As regards the external demand, however, the sustained, even if slow, economic growth in developed countries since 1982 was expected to stimulate import demand and including that for agricultural products originating from the developing countries but this has not occurred except in the United States and the reason given by the paper is that on the whole import demand for agricultural products in developed countries was extremely depressed in the 1980s, reflecting low population growth, already high per capita consumption levels, protectionist policies or strong support for the domestic agriculture in many of them, para 27 of the said document.

Because of this weak and external demand, prices of agricultural commodities - with a few exceptions - have been depressed.

I quote from the Director-General's speech: "With very few exceptions, there has been a downward trend in real prices for nearly three decades. For most basic commodities, they are lower than in 1960. The decline is particularly marked for agricultural commodities even if a slight temporary rise can be seen here and there as happened recently with cereals, with sugar or again with soya beans because of falling production in the United States and also with vegetable oil".

Let me go back to the causes pointed out by the paper before us for the weakness in external demand. I quote: "Strong support for domestic agriculture, protectionist policies, low population growth and high per caput consumption levels in the developed countries ..." To illustrate how this factor is affecting demand and prices with disastrous consequences for developing countries, let me cite the example of sugar. In 1975, the EEC was importing 1.5 million tonnes of sugar. Now the EEC is exporting 1.5 million tonnes of sugar to the world market at subsidized prices. Import demand also at about that date was high in the United States. Since then, import quotas have dwindled to a few hundred thousand tonnes. As a result of such changes in the demand pattern, the world price of sugar has been kept perpetually at depressed price levels below production costs.

Mr. Chairman, the agricultural experts in this room know what has happened in the intervening period that has caused the drastic changes in the demand pattern and in the price of sugar. First, internal intervention price levels for sugar in the above-mentioned developed countries were raised to a level several times above the world market prices making it attractive for farmers in these developed countries to increase their production. For example, today the EEC intervention price is 22 cents per pound, but world prices - according to the Stock Market quoted by the Financial Times

of 6 November - are about 10 cents per pound. Second, a protective wall is built around the countries concerned by means of variable levies. The exporter is required to pay the difference between the world market price and the internal intervention price. For sugar, for example, if one were to export to the EEC today one would have to pay the levies equivalent to the difference between 22 cents and the world price of about 10 cents. With these kinds of tariffs, only those with preferential treatment can export to the EEC. Third, the surplus generated in the above-mentioned markets, because of high internal intervention prices, is exported to the world markets at subsidized prices.

Because of these policies, as I indicated earlier, the price of sugar in the world market has been kept below the production costs of even the most efficient producers. Due to these practices, more than 400 000 farmers in the Philippines working in the production of sugar cane lost their jobs with severe consequences for their families and social unrest in the country.

The system of quotas and the system of protection in other developed countries have practically closed up the markets in those countries with depressing effects on the world prices. The same thing is happening for oilseeds and oil fats. Because of the oversupply of cereals in the Community, it was decided that a shift had to be made from cereals to oilseeds. Attractive intervention prices for oilseeds in the EEC have been instituted for several years now to induce farmers to make the shift. The policy of generous subsidies has produced more than a ten-fold jump in the EEC production of oilseeds within a decade from 1.4 million tonnes in 1977 to 11.5 million tonnes in 1987. Because of such generous subsidies, there has been a great increase in EEC expenditures, and for this reason several proposals have been made by the EEC Commission to put up a system of protectionist levies on vegetable and marine oils to finance the growing expenditures for subsidies in the oilseeds and oil fats sectors of the EEC. The latest of these was the so-called stabilization mechanism on oils and fats of February 1987. This proposal was of course, met with strong protests from exporters who had bindings in GATT. The EEC Summit of February 1988 did not accept the Commission's proposal. This was indeed a most welcome decision. It is, however, to be regretted that, at the same Summit, the Commission had it recorded that it intended to continue to examine the stabilization mechanism.

Mr. Chairman, the FAO guidelines on international agricultural adjustment stipulate that member countries should, in formulating their own agricultural policies, take into account the effect of such policies on other countries. We live in an interdependent world. If the developing countries cannot export their agricultural produce, they can neither pay for their imports nor service their foreign debts.

To conclude, let me reiterate the FAO Resolution 2/79 which stipulates that no new tariff or non-tariff barriers should be imposed, and the Uruguay Resolutions calling for a roll-back and a stand-still.

Finally, the Philippine delegation would like to express its support for the position put forward by the Cairns Group, particularly as regards preferential treatment for developing countries.

José Ramon LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (Mexico): La delegación de México ha solicitado el uso de la palabra por segunda vez para hacer el siguiente anuncio: Argentina, Argelia, Colombia, Cuba, España, Nicaragua, Perú, México y otros países que posteriormente se incluirán, están interesados en presentar un proyecto de resolución para el tema 8 de nuestra agenda relativo a: "Plan de Acción para la Integración de la Mujer en el Desarrollo Agrícola y Rural".

Hemos tenido ya contactos con la Secretaría al respecto, y el documento relativo lo estamos enviando en borrador a la Secretaría. Le rogamos tome usted nota para que en el día de mañana en la discusión de dicho tema podamos abarcar este proyecto de resolución.

Tawfik A.H. AL MESH-HEDANI (Iraq) (Original language Arabic): Mr. Chairman, since this is the first occasion on which I have taken the floor, may I express our pleasure at seeing you in the Chair of this Council. I am sure that your chairmanship will make this session a success. Through you, Mr. Chairman, I would like to congratulate the three Vice-Chairmen. We have full confidence in their work.

I should also like to express my satisfaction at seeing the USSR represented here as an Observer. We hope that they will soon become full-fledged members of our Organization.

The Director-General - thanks to customary wisdom - has given us an overview of the state of food and agriculture in 1988 which is most clear. The Secretariat has submitted a document which is comprehensive and clear.

Since all the members of the Council have already spoken and expressed their views on this particular document, I shall try to be very brief in my comments concerning the state of food and agriculture. The positive developments in international markets, especially in the first half of 1988, and the progression of international rates and all its positive impact, are all developments that we take note of with satisfaction without however forgetting the imbalances which still exist in world economy. Therefore, an imbalance in rates, monetary imbalances and economic imbalances are still rampant in world trade - for instance, the burden of the debt servicing and the external debt situation in developing countries. There are some very satisfactory policies but they are not yet enough to help developing countries in their development efforts. Such a climate prevents developing countries from achieving a full development of their agriculture, and limited incomes have an impact on the standard of living. There is a shortage of basic commodities in developing countries, as we read in paragraphs 31 and 32.

There is another point which I would like to touch upon. The delegate from France has spoken about the increase in agricultural commodities. He said that this would increase the foreign currency reserves of developing countries. On the other hand, exporting countries are faced with a tremendous imbalance in trade. The prices of other export commodities, which are not agricultural commodities, have declined.

The document is clear. We have stressed all the different problems which exist at the regional level. We have started up a reform to encourage farmers to a better use of agricultural resources. We have stimulated the research work into the private sector, and, thanks to FAO assistance, we have already made quite a lot of progress. We still have a long way to go, especially because we still have to make great efforts to build up what was destroyed during the war in the hope of a durable peace.

I hope that you will be very successful in your work.

Assefa YILALA (Observer for Ethiopia): This being the first time that we have requested the floor, the delegation of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia joins those delegations who have spoken before us in expressing our pleasure, Mr. Chairman, at seeing you in the Chair. We would also like to congratulate your three Vice-Chairmen upon their election to this important responsibility.

Our delegation will also use this opportunity to thank the FAO Secretariat for the comprehensive document on the State of Food and Agriculture, and thank Mr. Hjort, the Director of Policy Analysis Division, and Mr. Trant, the Executive Director of the World Food Council, for the clear introduction which was provided to us.

We felt that this interpretation provided us with further insight into our understanding of the prevailing food and agricultural situation. We feel sincerely that these combined reports provided adequate coverage of the matter without involving additional dimensions. However, our delegation would like to make some observations not withstanding that some points have already been mentioned by Council Members earlier. We believe it would contribute to the convergence of ideas on this specific deliberation and therefore request your indulgence.

Food production in developed countries appears to respond faster to price fluctuations. This is due to the support and availability of other opportunities for earning income from other sectors of developments when farm income is no longer attractive and hence needs supports of various kinds for it to continue - a remote possibility in developing countries. Leaving aside the drought inflicted damage to spring-sown crops in North America, and a few other examples, most of the decline in food production prior to 1987/88 could be attributed to lower prices in agricultural commodities. Therefore, it could be concluded that the decline is man-made or induced. Hence positive responses to increased food production which is required for global food security could not be considered as an impossible task.

On the other hand, declining food production in developing countries, particularly in Africa, is mainly due to an inability to respond in this way because of either economic or climatic factors which are beyond control. Agricultural commodities were faced with continually declining prices for several years, yet farmers in developing countries continued to produce as long as it was possible to do so. However, farmers are obtaining only a small fraction of what they could have obtained some ten years ago. In most cases these reduced and declining prices were obtained for an increased volume of agricultural outputs. If it were not for the limited opportunities for earning

an income and the need to fulfill obligations to live, food production would have declined even further, especially when we think of the continually declining prices for agricultural commodities on the international market. Farmers were forced to cope with declining prices by increasing production while the income to farmers has deteriorated continually instead of showing signs of improvement. We feel that this matter will require a rational understanding and support for the proposed solutions.

From the statistical analysis shown at paragraphs 34-41 it can be observed that of the 101 countries which experienced a decline in agricultural output in 1987-78 are developing countries which are faced at the same time with a decline in per capita food production. It could also be stated (with minor variations) that this is also the same group of developing countries whose debt servicing ratio has increased from 26 percent in 1984 to 43 percent in 1987 thus absorbing almost half of the exports which are basically agricultural commodities. In the case of Ethiopia this ratio has exceeded even the 50 percent level during the reporting period. Declining per capita food production coupled with the increased volume of agricultural commodity exports to fulfil debt commitments has also affected the availability of food within the developing countries. Food supply prospects, constrained by limited output, have already affected procurement from the international market due to increased prices. This situation creates further shortages of food owing to increasing economic difficulties and inability to pay.

At a time like this when the means for obtaining minimum food requirements are constrained, reduction in the volume of food aid will have a tragic and negative effect on the nutritional intake of people in developing countries, particularly those in the lower income bracket and the rural poor. In fulfilling the basic food needs this is a consideration which puts to the top of the priority list the question of channeling more resources towards agricultural development. This becomes even more questionable due to the limitation of resources and may even endanger the future food security.

Paragraph 24 indicates that external debt still remains the main obstacle to the resumption of satisfactory economic growth. We fully agree with this statement as it reflects the situation in all debt-distressed countries. References were made to the need to avert the negative flow of growing external resources to agriculture in order to provide a solution to trade issues and increase food production. This matter was adequately reflected both in the document and the observations made by Council Members. I will refrain from going into further detail, other than to indicate the similarities between our views and those expressed earlier. However, our delegation would like to reiterate that future global food security will to a large extent, depend on the magnitude to which lasting understanding is established concerning the increase of the external resource flow to agriculture, establishing further genuine debt relief mechanisms to all those that are faced with this crisis, and also finalization of the negotiations on multinational trade agreements.

In this connection we feel that completion of the operational phase of the negotiation in the Uruguay Round, faster than the four years indicated, as per the negotiation objectives set out in declarations of Punta del Este, will have a significant contribution to the global food security problem being faced at present.

With regard to food supply prospects in Ethiopia in 1988/89 an FAO Crop Assessment Mission was scheduled for the present month. As the findings of this mission have yet to be obtained, one is unable to deliver accurate information at this stage. Inadequate rainfall during the small crop season, a delayed start of rain during the main growing season, prolonged heavy rainfall which has caused lodging in the highland crops, and threat of damage due to widespread locust infestations are just some of the occurrences that have prevailed during the period. These are considered to be factors contributing to a decline in food production. This is the first growing season after the 1986/87 shortage and one would expect to see the deficit situation continuing even though accurate information on the extent and magnitude cannot be given at this stage because of the continuous drought that occurred in the past, and also the natural recovery time that will be required.

Severe conditions faced not long ago have been diverted by the present favourable climatic conditions that we observed in 1988/89. The weather conditions were generally favourable and within the means and limits available, efforts were maximized to make use of the favourable situation that prevailed.

It is the firm belief and commitment of our delegation that the concept of sustainable development (as the process of change) will contribute towards the needs of the present time without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. This point is mentioned in paragraph 75 of the document.

The experience of those who have gone through the difficulties of environmental degradation (and the challenge of having to avert its declining trend) has forced it to become a ready-to-launch type of priority programme without having to provide the tremendous resources that would be required.

Most of the present environmental degradation emerges from meeting basic daily needs, rather than a deliberate motive to do so. Therefore, this will require alternative plans to provide resources which are beyond the capabilities of the developing world. Such a provision of additional resources is much beyond those which are presently channelled to the multilateral institutions.

We feel that the FAO programmes outlined in this regard, (and also in document 94/6) will have a positive contribution towards the concept of sustainable development and probably this is all that could be achieved with the limited resources available to the Organization. Therefore, we would like to mention that it is necessary to mobilize more resources, commensurate with the need that is indicated. We feel also that deliberation on this point should give adequate attention to that aspect of the matter rather than trying to obtain resources through changing programmes.

An Integrated Plan of Natural Resources Conservation and Development in my country has been formulated. The whole population of Ethiopia will participate. The Plan is expected to be launched during 1989. However, as this requires both internal and external resources for its implementation, cooperation in this regard will contribute towards sustainable development at the individual country level and subsequently to that of the global concern.

During the last two days when the financial situation has been discussed the secretariat was required to respond to questions raised by Council Members before observers were given a chance to speak. This was due to limitation of time. In this connection, and because of our participation in the Finance Committee and shortage of time, our delegation did not insist on going against your guidance. Now that we have taken the floor we would like to express our deep concern about the serious financial situation (particularly that of 1989) and would like to indicate the similarities of our views to those who pointed out the need to appeal to the largest donor to pay its contribution and arrears, and also that there should be no further programme cuts but a resort to credit facilities as authorized by Conference, if the situation so requires, as indeed it seems to at the present time.

In this connection our delegation would also like to join others who indicated their tribute to Italy for the special contribution which was a relief to the presently constrained budget of the Organization.

Finally, but not least, our delegation would like to welcome the representation of the Soviet Union as observers at this Council Session and hope that this initial start will develop to a stage of full participation which we feel will increase the universality of membership in the Organization.

Ms. Malgorzata PIOTROWSKA (Observer for Poland): Since I would like to take the floor only once as an observer for Poland, I would like to make a few general statements primarily in relation to the matters under discussion.

First I would like to refer to a matter which has been raised by many delegates and strongly brought out at the Sixteenth FAO Regional Conference for Europe in Poland last August. This is a need to strengthen FAO's activities in Europe, not only for the agriculture of the region but also for developing countries.

The second point that I would like to raise is a matter of serious concern which was also discussed and reported on at the last FAO Regional Conference for Europe. This concerns environmental protection and the importance for FAO to use the recommendations contained in the so-called Brundtland Report on our common heritage as a guide in formulating its future programme. Thus any plans for progress and improvement of food and agriculture production should follow the principle of sustainable development. In my country and in many European countries the increasing environmental load caused by industries, traffic and also by agriculture has already resulted in a decline in the vitality of our forests and could in the future affect agricultural productivity if not checked. We realize that an increase in agricultural production while protecting the environment will be very expensive. It is much easier and cheaper to use fertilizer and pesticides. Thus we are of the opinion that future developments of food and agriculture under these circumstances will call for different production methods and different materials. It will call for a considerable increase in research to discover new approaches.

In this context I would like to refer to the rapid developments in agricultural biotechnology with promising applications for both animal and plant production as well as for disease diagnosis and control. We are of the opinion, as the Director-General said in his statement, that FAO has a key role to play to assist and advise Member States, particularly developing countries, on how to incorporate these new technologies into their research and development programmes. We are pleased to note that FAO has already taken some steps in this direction under our inter-departmental working group and task force.

The series of biotechnology meetings being organized by the Division of Animal Production and Health and the forthcoming symposium next year in plant biotechnology represent a significant initiative by FAO. We also feel that the supporting services for research and training provided by the agricultural biotechnology laboratory, jointly operated by FAO and IIEA, have strengthened FAO's programme in this field. In this connection I would like to recall that the new soil and plant biotechnology laboratory wing is equipped with laboratory furniture as a donation by the Polish Government.

In preparing the future programme of work of FAO there is a need to further increase FAO activities in immediately applicable biotechnology and to gradually add to the programme more advanced techniques in the fields of molecular biology and applied microbiology. Many Member States, including Poland, are trying to develop biotechnology particularly as applied to agriculture as rapidly as possible and will look to FAO for information and guidance and for research and training, backstopping and service.

In conclusion, I would like to stress that in view of the various severe economic problems confronting agricultural production and marketing in both East and West Europe it is important for FAO to pay increasing attention to research cooperation, particularly on a regional basis, to study the economic problems and agricultural policies which can affect the whole area. Thank you for your attention.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous avons ainsi clos le débat général et je vais demander à M. Hjort de bien vouloir nous donner quelques éclaircissements ou réponses aux questions posées par Messieurs les délégués.

H.W. HJORT, (Director, Policy Analysis Division): First I wish to express appreciation for the very many compliments on the documents and the introductory statements. Second, we welcome the augmentations, the comments and the interventions that have included specific information from countries and the detailed information from the representative of the European community, as these will be extremely helpful to us in preparing the final version of SOFA. I would also express appreciation in that same regard for the mentions that have been made to the recent Budapest meeting by the Cairns Group, the India documentation that was referenced, the Australian research that has recently been conducted and was referred to. These matters will be taken into account in connection with the revisions of the document.

Turning to some of the specific points, first with respect to the comments made by the delegate of Hungary, that trade deserves more attention, I would point out that the reference was being made to document CL 94/2 and that document has to be distributed at the time that we have the trade estimates for the year of concern. It is because of that problem of needing to get information into the hands of the Member Nations that we have for many years produced a supplement that contains the latest information on trade and a more elaborate explanation of trade as well as the first initial estimate of total production for the year of concern. So there is a difficult one there which we cannot overcome except to table the document that has the latest trade estimates.

With respect to the comment about more elaborate information, with respect to Eastern European reforms and so on, as the delegate is aware, we have been working in the last two or three years to try to improve the quality of our statements for the developing countries generally. We have established very effective working relationships and I think we will all agree that we have made some progress there but we can still continue to improve our performance.

From the delegate of Colombia there were two points. One is that the statements in the documents about the Latin American/Caribbean region did not seem to reflect the study on the potentials for agricultural and rural development in the region. I simply refer in response to that comment to the one from the Ambassador of Brazil where he noted correctly that paragraphs 143 to 158 are an extract from the study. There was a very close parallel there.

There was also the comment about a possible contradiction between what was said in paragraph 29 and in paragraph 31 with respect to imports by the United States. I would point out that paragraph 29 refers to the past. It was a fact that during the period from 1980 to the most recent information available there was an increase in imports by the United States. Paragraph 31 is looking to the future and in the context of the United States trying to bring about a better balance on its trade account, given the decline in the value of the dollar relative to others. It was the belief, and

I think a widely shared belief, that those gains in imports are not likely to be as good as they have been in the past. The main difference is that the one paragraph is referring to the past, the other is doing a bit of speculation on the future.

Several delegates suggested certain additions. Several different delegations were suggesting that we had additional information on fisheries. We take those comments into account, but I would point out that we are limited with a certain number of words in these documents, the members do not like to be overburdened, so when something is added we have to find something else to take out and it is always a balance of trying to get the proper distribution and the proper emphasis on what things are of most importance. I have also noticed in this context the comment from the delegate of Yugoslavia about limited coverage in their case and we take that into account.

The Niger statements expressed the suggestion that we give more complete coverage on prices. I think that is a good suggestion. I think that we have a weakness here and I believe that we should have at least the three years of concern, probably even the longer-term trends, as a background within which one discusses price movements in the year of concern.

There were comments about sectoral meetings and one suggestion seemed to imply that maybe we should add to this document information on projects and programmes of FAO, FAO meetings, and so on. I would point out that there are other documents that are prepared to provide that information to the Council and Conference. There is the Review of the Field Programme. There is the Review of the Regular Programme, and so forth. Up to this point our guidance has been that we stay more with matters that are of direct relevance to the state of food and agriculture.

There was a specific comment about in-land fisheries that seemed to be almost a question. I would assure the delegates that in-land fisheries, the production from aquaculture and from in-land fisheries, are included in the data that are reported on fisheries but I will admit that we do not give many lines of space to that important aspect of the sector.

The suggestion was made by the delegate of Kenya that further analysis of livestock and staple foods would be helpful. The way that statement was made I trust that the delegate understands that when we talk about food production we are not talking only about cereal production - there was a comment made about cereal production - we are including livestock products and all other food products when the document is addressing food production, but we do take into account that specific comment. I note the comments of Argentina about the study of the impact of technology, and it was picked up again in the intervention by Poland.

With respect to the comments from Switzerland, one was a regretting that the under-nourished numbers were not covered in the documents. As I am sure the delegates understand, both FAO and World Bank assessments of the number of under-nourished are done and are published in special publications. It is a very extensive research and analysis of country foods consumption and household survey data that are required for those estimates, and the staff and other resources have not been available, even before the financial problems of the Organization, to prepare such estimates annually. We, of course, do put our estimates of the under-nourished in the World Food Survey documents, and the activities with respect to the sixth World Food Survey are presently underway. In the meantime, as we made reference in paragraph 89, indications can be given and are usually given and will be given, based on dietary energy supply information.

Another comment was made that, with respect to the special chapter which is under preparation, the delegate from Switzerland would like to see a section on the responsibility of local populations, the involvement of local people; we take note of that. The document is at a fairly advanced state of preparation at the present time.

The United States has encouraged us to include further policy development; we are seeking to do that, and will continue to try to do so.

The delegate from the United Kingdom mentioned forecasts of economic activity and so on; I would point out that, in the basic document that was sent to the delegates, we were relying on estimates as of April 1988. The supplement is based on October of 1988. Over that period of time, as was pointed out, the estimates of world economic growth have continued to rise from about 3% in the Spring up to 3.8%, we say here. There are a few that now are as high as 4% for world economic growth in this year.

Comment also was made: Is paragraph 60 an understatement with respect to total energy consumption, 20%? We have checked with our colleagues in the Forestry Department. They of course were the source for that. They do agree that the figures are highly unreliable, and that, in all probability it is an underestimate of a certain degree.

With respect to the comment from Canada, we will certainly revisit paragraph 204. When we prepared this, we did not realise it would become as important an issue in your election as it is, and we certainly were premature. Thank you.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie M. le directeur pour la minutie de ses réponses et je m'associe aux honorables délégués pour lui présenter nos remerciements et nos félicitations pour la qualité de son rapport.

Si je peux me permettre une intervention dans le débat, je voudrais dire que malgré une légère expansion sur la scène économique mondiale, et la prise par les pays développés d'un certain nombre d'initiatives heureuses traduisant une volonté de coopération et de soulagement de la dette des pays en voie de développement, notamment de ceux à plus faible revenu, la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture n'en demeure pas moins préoccupante. M. le Directeur général a souligné dans sa communication que l'évolution de cette production a diminué pour la seconde année consécutive depuis quarante ans; la frange de la population qui souffre de la faim et de la malnutrition augmente par suite de l'extension malheureuse de la pauvreté, et les stocks de céréales qui ne dépasseront pas 16% de la consommation mondiale tombent au-dessous du seuil défini par la FAO dans le cadre de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale; et je n'inclus pas là-dedans, comme le disait le délégué de la France, la composition et la répartition des stocks qui sont inquiétantes.

Tous ces éléments font que la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture reste préoccupante.

J'ai compris que, dans sa majorité, le Conseil estime que, dès lors qu'il y a interdépendance économique entre pays développés et pays en développement, sans une réduction substantielle de la dette telle qu'indiquée dans le rapport et une amélioration rapide du climat économique mondial, et notamment la libéralisation progressive du commerce des produits agricoles ainsi que la suppression progressive du protectionnisme et d'autres pratiques analogues telles que les subventions à l'exportation, il sera très difficile sinon impossible de relancer la croissance économique et d'inverser le flux actuel de capitaux dans le sens nord-sud.

Il a été signalé qu'une action préférentielle devrait par ailleurs être engagée au profit des pays en développement à faible revenu et à déficit vivrier. Bien entendu, je crois que tout le monde est d'accord pour dire que la priorité devra être accordée, dans les pays en développement, aux problèmes agricoles, compte tenu des marges considérables qui subsistent dans ces pays.

J'ai noté également - et j'espère que cela est exact - qu'un grand nombre de délégués considèrent que la réalisation des programmes d'ajustement structurel agricoles doit tenir compte des composantes sociales et de l'adoption de mesures d'accompagnement appropriées. On sait que ces programmes d'ajustement structurels ont une incidence sociale dont il faut tenir compte et je crois que la suggestion du Directeur général relative à la possibilité d'intervention de la FAO dans le cadre de la définition et de l'élaboration de ces programmes est à retenir car cela permettrait de tempérer le caractère strictement technocrate desdits programmes.

Voilà les quelques réflexions que je me permets de faire à la fin de ce débat. J'ai été personnellement très heureux d'entendre les interventions très fournies de 40 représentants d'Etats Membres. Cela démontre qu'il s'agit d'une question primordiale qui mérite toute l'attention des délégués.

Je vous remercie de votre attention et je lève la séance en vous priant d'être présents à 14 h 30 pour examiner la deuxième partie de la question qui est relative à l'Invasion acridienne.

The meeting rose at 13.00 hours.

La séance est levée à 13 heures.

Se levanta la sesión a las 13 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 94/PV/6

Ninety-fourth Session

Quatre-vingt-quatorzième session

94º período de sesiones

SIXTH PLENARY MEETING
SIXIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
SEXTA SESION PLENARIA

(17 November 1988)

The Sixth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours.

Lassaad Ben Osman, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La sixième seance 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. WORLD FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SITUATION (continued)
- II SITUATION MONDIALE DE L'ALIMENTATION ET DE L'AGRICULTURE (suite)
- II. SITUACION MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)
- 4. State of Food and Agriculture 1988 (continued)
- 4. Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture 1988 (suite)
- 4. El estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación, 1988 (continuación)
 - The Locust Situation in 1988 and outlook for 1989
 - La Situation acridienne en 1988 et perspectives pour 1989
 - El problema de la langosta: Situación en 1988 y perspectivas para 1989

LE PRESIDENT: La séance est ouverte.

Nous allons aborder maintenant la question relative à l'invasion acridienne. Nous en avons fait une section spéciale du point traitant de la situation alimentaire et agricole dans le monde, compte tenu de son activité et compte tenu du fait que beaucoup de pays attendent de notre Organisation une action significative, en relation avec les pays donateurs et les organisations multilatérales, pour aider les pays à juguler ce fléau.

Je vais demander à M. Lucas Brader, Directeur de la Division de la production végétale et de la protection des plantes, de vous faire un exposé de la situation et d'introduire le sujet. Après quoi nous allons ouvrir le débat et je serai très heureux de voir le maximum de délégués, qu'ils soient des pays bénéficiaire ou des pays qui souffrent de ce fléau, intervenir dans ce débat.

Je donne donc la parole à M. Brader qui va nous expliquer comment il va s'organiser car il est prévu qu'il y ait une projection pour indiquer, dans un film d'une dizaine de minutes, l'importance de cette invasion.

L. BRADER (Director, Plant Production and Protection Division): The background paper distributed for this discussion is CL 94/2- Sup. 2 and before I give you some further comments on the desert locust situation, we would like to show you a brief video of twelve minutes showing some of the events that have occurred in Sudan, Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria just to serve as an example because the current invasion is, of course, far beyond only those four countries, but we think it should give you a good picture of the importance of the problem. So I would now like to ask our staff to present the video and it should appear on this screen above my head.

Visual presentation of video with additional following commentary:

1. The first part of the film is the very recent swarming of locusts in Sudan. Here you get a little image of that swarm with about 100 sq km which stayed around Khartoum for a couple of days. The film was shot at the beginning of October.
2. As it is a swarm, we are dealing only here with adults. The colour indicates that they are not yet completely mature. They change in colour and when they are fully matured and start laying eggs their colour turns to yellow.
3. Here we are 30 km north of Khartoum and see these locusts establishing themselves in the crop fields where undoubtedly damage will occur.
4. As you may have noted from the paper we distributed, the Sudan is one of the key areas at this stage with respect to the invasion. We have very, very wide-scale breeding going on and regularly swarms develop in the Sudan. They have also moved from there recently to the Near East.
5. We will now move to a number of shots taken in southern Morocco. In fact, this material was provided to us by the BBC which is making a major film on the desert locust. This was taken at the beginning of this year. You will see a number of slow motions to give an impression of how they fly and how they behave.
6. These locusts are about 6 or 7 cm long and each of them weighs about 2 grammes. Each of them eats its own weight in green vegetation. You will see that these have turned, to the yellow colour. They are copulating during the egg laying. The male stays on the back of the female.
7. It might be good to note that these swarms you see here are not very dense. When they are dense, the sky becomes so dark that it is difficult to film them.

8. Here we have moved to Algeria and we are going to see some of the operations. This is very early in the morning, because the technique, to control the adults at least, is in the evening to see where the swarms settle. At night they do not fly and so they settle. So you spot them and go there early in the morning to direct the planes to go there and spray the locusts in the particular sites where they are found. The survey teams are going to find the locusts and direct the planes over there.

9. The problem is, of course, that although the swarms may be big, to find them in this terrain -which is a very wide area - and to locate them is not all that easy. You have to set up camps. The people have to live outside villages. It means a tremendous amount of organization particularly to set up the adequate ground support for these aerial operations. In addition to aerial control, of course, you can also have spraying from the ground which is mostly done with this type of four wheel drive vehicle such as a Land Rover.

10. This locust has definitely been affected by the insecticide because normally it would put all its eggs in the soil at about 5 to 10 cm deep. Now it is laying them on the soil and these eggs will not survive, of course, because they need to keep a certain amount of humidity to develop and that will not happen with those that lay on the soil.

11. The last part of the video is the situation as it occurred in the early summer of this year in Tunisia. It is particularly taken around Sfax. Helicopters are extremely useful in control because you can use them both for finding the locusts and, if they are equipped with spraying equipment, you can spray them at the same time.

12. Locusts like to climb trees and roost there, particularly at night. Then at the same time, of course, they mate while they feed.

13. Here, for example, they are sitting on a fig tree.

14. You may be interested to know that the helicopters came from Italy and some of the planes from local companies, but also, if I remember well, from the United Kingdom. There is a whole mixture of assistance provided in all these cases.

15. One is particularly concerned in this case about damage that could be caused to the olive orchards. They like to nibble and eat on the young buds which, of course, causes the total loss of that crop for one year.

16. Here they have already been killed by the spraying apparatus. They have all died. End of video.

I will now introduce the topic verbally. I hope that the video has given you an impression of some of the events because, as I said at the beginning, this is only a very small part, unhappily, of what is happening now.

Document CL 94/2 Sup. 2 provides an update on the desert locust situation, as well as a forecast of the events that may take place in 1988 and 1989. It also gives a summary of the action taken by FAO in 1987 and 1988, and of the action that has still to be taken in 1989. In this introduction to the Council discussions, the most recent events with respect to the expansion of the plague will be reported, as well as a number of initiatives taken recently.

Never in written history have desert locust populations been present simultaneously in such a large geographical area as is currently the case. In the last weeks, very large invasions by large swarms have occurred in Morocco. Large-scale breeding continues in an unprecedented manner in Mauritania, Senegal and in Sudan, with smaller populations in between in the whole Sahelian zone of Africa. Desert locusts have further moved into Saudi Arabia and have spread into Iraq, Iran and Kuwait. An unconfirmed report of infestations in eastern Afghanistan was received recently. The locusts are now threatening other countries in the Near East and in the Arabian peninsula, but I would say that reports we received yesterday from one of our staff in Iraq indicate that conditions are currently very cold up in the north. For that reason we do not expect immediate expansion of the infestation to countries, for example, such as Syria and Lebanon but they will certainly be threatened somewhat later when it gets warmer again. This spread into the Near East and northwest Africa is taking place much earlier than expected. Indeed, infestations of the Caribbean and Cape Verde have occurred again in the last two weeks.

This simultaneous invasion of such a large number of countries increases enormously the difficulties to provide timely, and in a sufficient amount the resources required to combat the locusts. In fact, there is in particular a serious lack of experienced personnel to provide technical advice and to carry out activities ranging from monitoring and reporting the locust infestations to directing the aerial control campaigns. All parties concerned continue to work very closely together to address the problem in the best possible manner. FAO, through its Emergency Centre for Locust Operations - ECLO - has continued to give the maximum support to the various activities undertaken.

Total donor contributions to the campaign in 1988, which already has probably cost more than US\$ 200 million, are now more than US\$ 120 million. During this period the total value of the 50 projects implemented by FAO amounted to more than US\$ 18 million of which 3.4 million were funded through TCP.

On 13 October 1988 a donor meeting was held in our headquarters to discuss arrangements required to ensure improved control of the desert locust. The meeting noted that the plague, if allowed to run its course, will most probably continue for another two to three years at least. I would add that given the current situation it will certainly be much longer. In the coming months the swarms may move to areas south of the Sahel zone and invade other West-African countries. This would be in addition to the spread to NW Africa which has already begun in September - in addition there is also a spread to the Near East. So far crop losses have been limited, this is due to the successful control operations as well as the fact that in many cases the desert locusts have been developing outside agricultural areas as a result of extremely favourable breeding conditions.

The above-mentioned meeting noted that so far during the plague the strategy has been to direct control operations primarily towards the protection of crops. However, this has made a relatively small impact on the overall population level of the desert locust. Therefore, this strategy needs to be urgently supplemented by the control of populations in certain geographically-restricted areas, in order to reduce total populations. These two activities are clearly complementary although they require different approaches and control techniques. In the case of the protection of crops, extensive use can be made of the farming community and of ground control with relatively simple equipment. Strategic control of large scale desert locust populations will require much more intensive methods. Only aerial application of pesticides against both hopper bands and adults will be likely to lead to success, although ground control can play a significant part.

The donor meeting requested that for the strategic control requirements, a plan be developed in the coming months in which the various requirements in manpower and control means are clearly identified.

The meeting unanimously recognized the need for increased efforts on matters such as information exchange, appraisal of infestations and of assistance needed to overcome these, technical guidance on control operations, as well as coordination with the various parties concerned. It recognized the key role played by FAO/ECLO in this respect and emphasized the need to strengthen the unit in order to carry out its activities in a speedy and effective manner. I am pleased to note that in separate discussions, contributions from individual donors were discussed and arrangements for a strengthening of ECLO will hopefully be finalized in the near future.

A meeting on future Desert Locust Research Needs was organized by FAO from 18-20 October 1988. The meeting addressed in particular operational research needs and recommended that work be undertaken in the following areas: survey and reporting of desert locust infestations, including aerial search techniques; characterization and systematic mapping of primary desert locust habitats; further development of a computer-assisted, information analysis and forecasting system based on remote sensing and meteorological data; improved application techniques of pesticides; development of more persistent pesticides or formulations of pesticides; improved crop loss analysis; development of biological control, and environmental impact monitoring.

This research meeting was followed by a meeting on the use and hazards of dieldrin in desert locust control, on 21 October 1988. Environmental studies presented revealed that dieldrin used at 20 gram per hectare had less impact on non-target arthropods than most other pesticides used for desert locust control. However, widely divergent opinions were expressed on the future use of dieldrin, varying from a complete ban and destruction of existing stocks to recommending its use in remote areas under technical guidance. It was finally agreed that: (i) FAO would make a detailed inventory of existing dieldrin stocks, as the production of this insecticide has now been stopped completely; (ii) a study would be undertaken of the areas where the desert locust would have to be controlled and these areas would be classified according to the potential environmental risk that application of dieldrin might entail, and (iii) on the basis of this information, a use or destruction plan for all or part of the dieldrin stocks would be prepared.

With respect to the identification of suitable replacement pesticides for hopper control, the meeting referred to the discussion on research needs. It had been concluded that in particular insect growth regulators (that is new type of insecticide) showed considerable promise. It was recommended that an extended programme of field tests be undertaken.

I would also like to report that on October 28-29, an International Conference on the Desert Locust peril was organized at Pez at the initiative of King Hasan the II of Morocco. It was attended by virtually all countries affected or threatened by the desert locust and various donor representatives. The Conference re-emphasized the threat of the desert locust plague and adopted among others the following resolution "Propose for the current invasion period the creation under

the United Nations' auspices of a task force of international vocation in charge of undertaking specific control actions in strategic areas and ask FAO to create a working group including representatives of both the affected countries and donors to prepare as soon as possible a detailed plan and to define the required ways and means for its implementation.

I am pleased to report that work has already been initiated by FAO on the creation of this international task force and the above-mentioned working group will meet at the end of this month.

I wish to inform Council that last week the FAO Commission for the Control of the Desert Locust in South West Asia met in Teheran to review the situation and needs in that area. Perhaps I should inform Council that apart from all these emergency actions, plans have also been developed for the longer-term strengthening of regional and national structures in various countries and regions.

The desert locust plague will stay with us for at least another two to three years and will continue to be a major threat to agricultural production in Africa and the Near East. It will require the continued cooperation of all parties concerned, to continue to avoid major crop losses and to reduce the overall locust populations. At FAO steps have been taken to further improve our support to the control campaign. But success can be achieved only if there is adequate understanding by all concerned of the problems to be addressed and of the limits of the resources available. The international character of the plague should be fully recognized and it is essential that actions can be undertaken without impediments related to particular national interests. In particular, a special effort is needed to avoid duplication of efforts and to increase the human resources needed for the effective implementation of the control operations.

Mlle Faouzia BOUMAÏZA (Algérie): Que dire des images que nous venons de voir sur l'écran; elles sont assez terrifiantes, et le document que nous examinons maintenant l'est encore plus; le supplément 2 du document CL/94/2 est certainement celui de notre Conseil que j'ai examiné avec la plus grande inquiétude, car depuis deux ans mon pays est pleinement infesté par l'invasion acridienne, fléau à nul autre pareil car une fois apparu, son cycle infernal perdure une dizaine d'années en moyenne. Nous l'avons vu lors du dernier cycle des années cinquante. En outre, l'ampleur et la vitalité de ces nuées de criquets pèlerins font que cette catastrophe s'abat sur de nombreux pays, dévastant les champs de culture et menaçant la sécurité alimentaire.

Les dernières informations dont nous disposons sont très alarmantes; en effet, les prévisions établies sur la base des campagnes précédentes, des analogies historiques et des données météorologiques et surtout sur le suivi et l'observation du déplacement des populations de criquets pèlerins, laissent présager pour la prochaine saison agricole une évolution dangereuse pour de nombreux pays. Il semble que durant l'année 1989, la superficie totale touchée s'étendrait des lies du Cap-Vert à l'ouest et peut-être même des Caraïbes - nous avons vu dans un dernier bulletin de presse édité par la FAO qu'elles sont déjà concernées - jusqu'à l'Inde à l'est; c'est dire l'ampleur des dégâts que causera certainement l'invasion actuelle, notamment dans les zones géographiques traditionnellement infestées, c'est-à-dire toute la zone soudano-sahélienne; et même, les dernières informations qui nous sont communiquées par M. Brader, le Centre de la FAO et l'ECLO nous démontrent que l'invasion est arrivée jusqu'au Sénégal et la Guinée; on a maintenant dépassé la mer Rouge et on arrive en Afghanistan.

Ce sont des informations terrifiantes.

Je ne rentrerai pas dans le détail technique, ni dans le schéma d'évolution du fléau acridien qui est clairement analysé dans le supplément 2; par contre, j'insisterai sur les données suivantes sans lesquelles tous nos efforts seront voués à l'échec.

Premièrement, comme il est mentionné au paragraphe 5 de ce document, la prévision météorologique est d'une importance capitale, en particulier pour la zone de convergence intertropicale où les actions de lutte contre le criquet pèlerin doivent intervenir avant ou durant la production même, d'où la nécessité d'une prévision météorologique fiable. Les pays du Sahel et du Maghreb réunis à Tamanrasset ont décidé de créer un centre de météorologie spécialisé dans l'acridiologie dans cette ville afin d'assurer une meilleure surveillance de ce fléau, surtout pour ce qui concerne les pays du Sahel. Aussi notre délégation souhaiterait-elle que la FAO apporte son concours à la réalisation de ce centre.

Le deuxième aspect important - et je dirai même qu'il s'agit là d'une condition sine qua non à la réussite de la campagne de lutte contre le criquet pèlerin - c'est que l'aide internationale doit intervenir rapidement dans les pays atteints, avant même que la campagne ne soit initiée ou tout au moins tout au début. En effet, durant la campagne précédente, nous avons eu en Algérie, par exemple, une rupture de stock des pesticides car l'aide promise n'arrivait pas toujours à temps, si bien qu'une partie des 40 avions que nous avions affrétés à grand prix, pour des sommes énormes, se sont

trouvés immobilisés par manque de produits. Ainsi, une réaction rapide de l'aide vers les zones qui risquent d'être les plus touchées serait hautement salulaire pour l'ensemble de la communauté internationale, comme cela est démontré au paragraphe 16.

Les efforts de restructuration et les réformes initiées dans le secteur de l'agriculture dans mon pays et dans bien d'autres pays encore de la région risquent d'être fort compromis par l'infestation acridienne, d'autant plus que celle-ci est malheureusement apparue dans un contexte de difficultés économiques et financières qui sont autant de limites objectives aux moyens nécessaires à mettre en oeuvre pour une lutte efficace.

Dès la prolifération du criquet pèlerin en 1986, l'Algérie a mis en place un important dispositif de lutte qui agit en permanence et en étroite coopération avec tous les pays concernés de la région, notamment les pays frontaliers, ainsi qu'avec le centre FAO - ECLO dont je voudrais souligner au passage le remarquable travail accompli. Sans doute le sens des responsabilités de M. Brader n'est-il pas étranger au bon fonctionnement de cette division.

Cette lutte concertée et l'aide internationale ont permis de limiter les dégâts causés à l'agriculture durant la campagne précédente. Pour cette année et pour 1989, l'infestation acridienne s'annonce autrement plus grave. D'où la nécessité d'une mobilisation plus significative de la communauté internationale afin d'enrayer ce fléau; sinon la production agricole et la situation de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation dans la zone géographique qui va pratiquement de la Méditerranée à l'Afrique centrale et de l'Afrique de l'Ouest à l'Afrique de l'Est, pour ne parler que de la région la plus atteinte, risque fort de connaître une aggravation sans précédent.

Aussi ma délégation demande au Conseil de reprendre à son compte la résolution 2/88 adoptée par la 15ème Conférence régionale pour l'Afrique contenue au paragraphe 50 du rapport y afférent, que le Secrétariat pourrait peut-être traduire dans les autres langues officielles de la FAO et distribuer à toutes les délégations ici présentes.

Je terminerai en exprimant notre reconnaissance à tous les pays qui nous ont aidés - ils sont nombreux et je risque d'en oublier quelques-uns si je les cite - durant la campagne de 1987, en espérant qu'ils réitérent leur aide durant cette année.

En ma qualité de Représentante permanente adjointe auprès de la FAO, je voudrais remercier tout particulièrement l'Italie et je prie son Excellence l'Ambassadeur Valenza de transmettre à son gouvernement, et notamment aux responsables du Département de la Coopération du Ministère des affaires étrangères, nos remerciements pour leur disponibilité d'esprit et l'oreille attentive qu'ils nous ont prêtée.

Amin ABDEL MALEK (Liban) (langue originale Arabe): Je tiens à remercier d'emblée M. Brader de l'excellente présentation qu'il nous a faite de cette question et du document CL 94/2-Sup, 2 ainsi que des explications très claires qu'il nous a données au moment de la présentation du film sur les criquets pèlerins au Soudan, au Maroc et en d'autres lieux.

Le fléau acridien représente une menace immédiate et l'appel qu'a lancé sa Majesté le Roi Hassan II du Maroc à différents pays africains et aux pays européens correspond bien à cette menace. En effet, le sommet qui s'est tenu à Fez a été couronné de succès étant donné le haut niveau des personnalités qui y ont participé et des discussions qui y ont eu lieu, et il a été affecté dans une certaine mesure par cette question. Si le Roi du Maroc a eu la clairvoyance d'attirer sur ce problème l'attention de ceux qui étaient présents au sommet de Fez je pense qu'il faut que nous non plus ne perdions pas de vue le risque que ce fléau puisse s'étendre non seulement au Moyen Orient mais également à l'Europe.

Mon pays, qui a connu de nombreuses catastrophes, se voit maintenant menacé par ce que l'on peut considérer comme une catastrophe naturelle. Comme M. Brader l'a dit, le spectre de cette menace s'est éloigné de la Syrie et du Liban grâce aux conditions météorologiques. Néanmoins, il convient de faire le nécessaire pour essayer d'en finir avec ce fléau car les efforts énormes que fait l'humanité dans le but de produire suffisamment d'aliments sont souvent contrariés par un fléau comme celui-ci.

Je voudrais attirer l'attention du Conseil sur la nécessité d'aider également le Liban afin de lui permettre de prendre les mesures nécessaires pour faire face à cette menace. Des mesures ont déjà été prises au Liban car il risque de perdre sa viabilité si jamais cette calamité s'abat sur lui. Or nous sommes dépourvus de moyens autres que la volonté de notre peuple qui, à elle seule, ne suffit malheureusement pas. Il nous faut les moyens appropriés pour lutter contre les criquets pèlerins. Nous avons besoin des moyens techniques nécessaires et des pesticides indispensables, en plus du facteur humain. Nous demandons que l'on nous accorde l'aide nécessaire sous forme d'instruments et

d'assistance technique. A cet égard, je ne peux que m'associer à ce qu'à dit M. Brader. La guerre a coûté bien des souffrances au-Liban. Essayons de lui épargner celles-ci sous forme de criquets pèlerins.

Namukolo MUKUTU (Zambia): I wish to thank you in the first instance for giving my delegation the opportunity to speak on this important subject of the locust situation in 1988 and the outlook for 1989. My delegation wishes to commend both the Secretary and Mr. Brader for the high quality documentation and lucid introduction of the subject.

Although the subject under discussion seems to be limited to the looming threat of the desert locust, I would like to draw the attention of this Council to a similar situation now obtaining in Zambia and in some of the neighbouring countries. This is the upsurge of the African migratory locust and to some extent the red locust.

Hoppers and mature swarms of the African migratory locust have been located in many parts of Zambia in the period September to November 1988. Damage to wheat crops and sugarcane has been reported and some limited control measures have been undertaken. Nonetheless, our fears at the moment are that as we prepare for the 1988/89 cropping season locust prevalence is becoming more widespread, thus posing a real threat to crop production. About 2 1/2 million hectares of crops will be at the mercy of locusts if the situation does not change for the better in 1989.

As some members may already know, we have in our region the International Red Locust Control Organization for Central and Southern Africa, headquartered in Zambia, whose major function is to control locust infestations and stem their spread, as well as those of other migrant pests. Unfortunately the organization has limited operational capacity such that Member Nations have to undertake their own locust and pest control operations.

Notwithstanding the kind and generous assistance already given to the International Red Locust Control Organization and Zambia by FAO and donor agencies, I wish to state that more assistance is being sought in the face of this mounting locust threat in the region. For Zambia, we would welcome assistance in respect of 4-wheel drive vanettes, vehicle mounted sprayers and spray chemicals, especially Fenitrothion (Technical). We believe that assistance in this regard would enhance our national capability to try and contain the threatening locust situation in 1988/89.

We are sounding an SOS to FAO and all intending donors about what we perceive as an imminent serious locust plague in 1988 and 1989 in Zambia and some neighbouring countries. We would indeed be grateful if this alert could be heeded. We certainly want to avoid the dreadful scenes we have just seen in the video. I thank you for your attention.

David W. JOSLYN (United States of America): The United States delegation wishes to congratulate the Secretariat for highlighting the seriousness of the desert locust problem. The document and film presented by the Secretariat clearly described the extent to which the desert locust is increasingly threatening important food production areas in Africa and beyond.

It seems clear to us that if this plague is to be curtailed extraordinary efforts are needed from affected countries, the donor community, scientists and the FAO. The United States will continue to provide emergency resources and development assistance funding to fight the spread of the desert locust. We will continue to work with FAO on this problem, recognizing the unique role that FAO plays in Information collection and exchange and in the provision of multinational coordination of the campaign.

In fact we would like to make clear the confidence we have in the FAO ECLO staff and its Director. Our scientists and planners are working very closely with this group to prepare the strategic plans needed to decrease the desert locust population which Mr. Brader referred to. We think the special international force to control the desert locust recently proposed in Morocco represents the kind of special effort needed to combat a problem as large as the one we face. The United States will work closely with this effort and we urge others to do likewise. Especially we recognize and support the important role of FAO in this very important international initiative. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Bashir EL MABROUK SAID (Libya) (original language Arabic): Allow me at the outset to thank Mr. Brader for his excellent presentation of this important document. I believe the film projected has clearly indicated this menace threatening many countries especially in Africa. This is really fearful, Mr. Chairman, it is really fearful. In addition to the economic crisis suffered by many

of our countries as a result of many reasons, such as external indebtedness, which increases day-in day-out, and the drought which extended over many countries and is still there in some countries, this menace comes in order to paralyze the efforts of our countries for agricultural development. Forecasts indicate that this locust menace will be with us for many coming years, and this is of grave concern. In spite of the modest efforts deployed, FAO was at the vanguard of encountering this menace threatening our food, even within the difficult financial situation of the Organization, and the limited resources available to it. We would like to extend our thanks to FAO for these great and commendable efforts.

However, at this stage we feel, regrettably, that the efforts deployed by the international community are very limited, and they stand short of our expectations, and we refer in this respect to that fact that, unless there is co-ordination among the international community, and unless the FAO is financially supported, and unless assistance is extended to affected countries either in the way of insecticides, vans or tractors or aeroplanes, the efforts of affected countries, in view of their limited capabilities, will be scattered and will not be fruitful and the locusts swarms will be with us for many countries.

From this rostrum, I call upon able countries to extend assistance in order to encounter this dangerous menace that threatens our food, as Mr. Brader said. Mr. Chairman, the distinguished representative of Algeria has already referred to the resolution adopted by the African Regional Conference, and I believe that this constitutes a call to the international community, and we do accept this resolution with the changes deemed appropriate by the Council. I thank you, sir.

John Redman GOLDSACK (United Kingdom): I would like to thank Dr. Brader for his clear and informative introduction to this grave subject. First let me say that the UK recognizes the key central role that FAO and the Emergency Centre for Locust Operations in particular, in co-ordinating efforts to combat the locust menace. We expect ECLC to lead on issues like the best strategy for plague suppression, the merits of different pesticides, and the cost effectiveness of different control approaches. Indeed, we in the United Kingdom are already working with ECLO on a number of issues. We are particularly aware of the need for close donor co-ordination with the affected countries, and welcome the meetings that FAO has organized.

I would like to ask the Secretariat, when the next donor or co-ordination meeting for the winter campaign on the Red Sea coast is scheduled for. Clearly meetings are costly, both in terms of time and money, but they are necessary if effective action is to be taken. However, the need for meetings can sometimes be reduced by the dissemination of Information. We therefore suggest that, in addition to the regular reports already being produced by ECLO, a monthly report on pledges, expenditure and intentions would be valuable.

On environmental aspects we are concerned at the heavy reliance on Fenitrothion. We appreciate its long track record, and the familiarity with its usage by many plant protection departments in affected countries, but there are increasing concerns of the avian toxicity of this insecticide. Other insecticides are available and some seem to be more cost effective, and this aspect, together with environmental concern, combine to make these other products better choices.

The United Kingdom Minister for Overseas Development announced three days ago, that, in addition to assistance already pledged he would make available a further 1 million pounds for emergency help for the Red Sea Coast, and in the Horn of Africa this winter.

Gonzalo BULA HOTOS (Colombia): La magnífica presentación del Dr. Brader aumentó aun más la impresión que nos produjo la película proyectada a través de la cual pudimos admirar con inquietud nubes intensas de langostas destruyendo los cultivos y afectando así tan considerablemente las economías de países hermanos del Tercer Mundo en Africa y el Cercano Oriente.

El debate sobre este tema, y eso facilita nuestra intervención, fue inaugurado de manera genial, diríamos, por nuestra colega y amiga Faouzia Bouhaiza, de Argelia. Ella hizo una excelente declaración, cuyos puntos centrales compartimos plenamente. Nuestra colega argelina, tal vez por la modestia que le caracteriza no hizo referencia a lo que aparece en el apartado a) del párrafo 20, y que nosotros queremos destacar sobre la participación de meteorólogos del servicio nacional de Argelia que han cooperado con la labor de la FAO. Creemos que éste es un ejemplo de solidaridad y de eficaz cooperación sur/sur, que conviene destacar.

Desearíamos que en el informe del Consejo se transcribiera la parte dispositiva más importante de la resolución que sobre este tema adoptó la Conferencia Regional africana, en apoyo de lo que han dicho los colegas de Argelia y mi amigo Bashir Said de Libia. El colega de Libia, y luego apoyado por Reino Unido, plantearon algo que es Importante a través de la larga experiencia, y es el asunto de

la coordinación. Pensamos que esto es esencial y que debe reflejarse en nuestro informe y que el Consejo debe pedir que a las actividades contra este flagelo se suministren por parte de la FAO, no obstante la penuria de nuestra Organización, y por parte de la Comunidad Internacional, una asistencia, pero que sea suficiente, sostenida, adecuada y perfectamente adaptable al medio en que se apliquen esos recursos.

El documento indica, sobre todo en los párrafos 11, 12 y 15 que se corre el peligro inminente de nuevas crisis. Nos llama un poco la atención el hecho de que en este documento, si bien en los párrafos 3 y el apartado c) del párrafo 20, se habla de donantes, en esta ocasión no se haya hecho como en documentos anteriores, donde se especifican todos los donantes que han venido contribuyendo, y esto pensamos que es constructivo porque estimula a otros países y además sitúa ejemplos que pueden ser dignos de imitar.

Afortunadamente la colega de Argelia señaló en primer lugar la actitud de Italia, país siempre en primera fila, y nos complació también haber oído a nuestro colega y amigo el Sr. Yoslyn, de Estados Unidos, quien dijo que ese importante país está dedicando recursos de emergencia y recursos financieros, e hizo un llamado del Sr. Yoslyn de los Estados Unidos a la comunidad internacional de donantes, llamado que este Consejo debe suscribir plenamente.

La declaración del colega de Libia nos impresionó porque compartimos la necesidad de que a toda esta buena voluntad, y a toda esta acción coherente, dinámica y positiva de la FAO, deben suministrarse los recursos necesarios. Por ello queremos hacer alguna observación sobre el apartado c) del párrafo 20. Allí se habla de 50 proyectos por 18 millones de dólares, etc. y al final se dice que las contribuciones de los donantes a la campaña de 1988 ascienden a 117 millones de dólares, pero tal vez convendría, esto lo digo con todo respeto ya que la Secretaría es la competente, que se hubiera estimulado una meta un cálculo aproximado de qué cantidad de recursos van a necesitarse por lo menos para 1989, porque esto también pudiera ser otro elemento de incentivación para los donantes actuales y potenciales.

Los delegados de Colombia, Sr. Presidente, queremos sumarnos al reconocimiento unánime que se hace a la FAO sobre su acción en este campo, la acción de la FAO aparece descrita a partir del párrafo 20. Pensamos también que la FAO tiene un papel clave y nos complace destacar el hecho de que en esta ocasión de manera muy adecuada, la televisión, los periódicos y muchos medios de información, han divulgado las informaciones de la FAO sobre esta plaga, de manera que ésta es otra contribución que consideramos igualmente importante.

Pensamos también, Sr. Presidente, que merece apoyo lo que ha dicho nuestra colega de Argelia sobre la necesidad de ofrecer la mayor asistencia posible al centro de Asistencia del Magreb y del Sahel.

Finalmente, en nombre del Gobierno de Colombia, me complace expresar nuestra plena solidaridad a los gobiernos de países hermanos del Tercer Mundo, que padecen este flagelo con nuestros deseos muy sinceros de que pronto desaparezca y sus economías se recuperen.

Yousef Ail Mahmoud HAMDI (Egypt)(ORIGINAL LANGUAGE ARABIC): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I would like to congratulate Mr. Brader on his very clear introduction of this subject. It is a subject which causes a lot of apprehension in our part of the world. You have all seen the film that was shown to us, which showed quite clearly how terrible these swarms can be, and the damage they cause in certain countries. It was quite frightening to see how the scourge actually operates.

We are attacked: from the south and from the west, and in some parts the south and southwest, and also in the northwest of my country. We have quite substantial invasions on the part of the locusts and many of the countries in that part of Africa have been affected in spite of the very remarkable and meritorious efforts made by FAO and donor countries and many other organisations. In spite of all this, the countries affected are still suffering very much and they are still very much in a position of great danger because the danger is with us, very much so, and will go on for at least two years as Mr. Brader said in his statement; and we support the recommendations made therein and we support the FAO's efforts to give the best coordination of all activities and we insist that the center should be maintained, the ECLO, that is to say, to develop all the necessary campaigns and we would urge donor countries to keep up their levels of contributions for this activity until the danger is clearly passed so that we may destroy existing swarms and stop new swarms developing or new areas being infested; and we feel that cooperation is necessary and we are anxious to announce in this connection that we have very close cooperation with Sudan which is being developed further and further so that we may do away with the locust infestation in the breeding areas in our part of the world. And we should like to express our gratitude to FAO and all the organizations which are helping us to face this danger.

Dong QINGSONG (China) (original language Chinese): First of all I would like to thank the FAO Secretariat for having prepared a very detailed document, CL 94/2-Sup. 2. We wish also to thank Mr. Brader for his oral presentation to this agenda item and the videotape clearly indicates the seriousness of the African locust scourge.

Now I have a few remarks to make on this subject. First, since the end of 1985 locusts have been a scourge on the African continent and at present there is the danger of the further spreading of locusts and the affected area continues to expand. This has not only seriously devastated the food and agricultural production of the African countries but also inflicted great difficulties on the people's daily life. Second, in order to help Africa to fight locusts, FAO especially established in 1986, an emergency center of locust operations. In the past few years, FAO collected and analyzed the occurrence of locusts and issued warnings, coordinated assistance by the international community and the disaster relief activities of the affected countries. This Organization also made a great deal of effort in sponsoring necessary meetings and providing expert consultancy. Apart from mobilizing international funding, FAO has provided the affected countries with assistance through TCP. This is the undeniable evidence of the prompt support FAO offered to emergency situations. For all this we may be grateful to FAO and at the same time, we hope it will continue its activities in this regard and play its vital coordinating role.

Third, the Chinese people have always sympathized with the locust-inflicted African people. Over the past several years, in order to help them combat locusts, the Chinese Government provided pesticides and sprayers through multilateral and bilateral means. Although due to limited capacity, assistance has been modest, it represented its good will to join efforts with the African people in combating locusts, which promptly report the Council's proceedings to our Government as a basis for its further study of the locust situation in Africa.

Noboru SAITO (Japan): My delegation highly appreciates FAO's efforts in having tried to grasp the occurrence and disseminate the related information to the countries concerned and look to other international societies to cooperate and contribute to the control and prevention of desert locust infestation in response to FAO's efforts.

My country anticipates that the FAO will take the lead in such a field as the prevention of desert locust disasters and early-warning programmes, including cooperation with related research bodies on the longer term and that it will continue to coordinate the fund-finding and technical assistance. My country would like to continue to contribute such aid as trust funds for FAO, the donation of agricultural chemicals and so on as bilateral food production increased aid.

Benson MBOGOH (Kenya): Just before I speak may I please request the Chairman, if it is possible we had understood that the representative of DLCO, the Eastern Region, is available and whether it would be possible for him, either before or after I speak, to be requested kindly to give us an update of the position of the locust campaign in the East African Region.

LE PRESIDENT: A la fin des interventions de Messieurs les délégués et de Messieurs les observateurs, je pourrai demander au représentant de l'OLCP pour l'Afrique de l'Est de bien vouloir vous donner des explications complémentaires.

Benson MBOGOH (Kenya): My delegation would wish to pay tribute to FAO and through it to DLCO, the Eastern Region for a sterling job so far encompassed in fighting the menacing migratory pest in our part of the world and also to congratulate the Director of Plant Production and Protection Division of FAO for a very effective highlight of the precise position of the locust campaign so far. If it had not been for the massive resources mobilized early in the outbreak by FAO and the international community of donors, who have availed assistance in various forms, far greater damage might have been caused and for that matter much worse for the food security in the African region, given the current prospects.

Despite the successful efforts in control of this particular pest an apparent twist of fate has led to this massive invasion and further focus would seem to show that the scourge may continue for a long period into 1989 which is a depressing prospect indeed.

In view of the massive resources which are required to control the invasion, the great damage caused and the immediate grave consequences to food security it is pertinent to review carefully the current locust control strategies with a view to determining necessary improvements for ensuring more timely and effective locust intervention in future occurrences. First, the massive and quick spread of this problem experienced this year strongly suggests the need to strengthen the focussing, surveillance and reporting strategies, including the meteorological and focussing radio communication possibilities at the regional, subregional and national levels. This review should identify areas of immediate and long-term improvements in the generation of effective and timely focus on outbreaks.

Secondly, an efficient early-warning system has to be supported by an equally effective machinery and logistical and technical support for taking quick and decisive action in the event of an outbreak. A review, therefore, of this capability at both the national and regional levels is desirable to identify any present weaknesses and institute any necessary improvements.

Thirdly, long-term measures need to be taken to strengthen locust emergency control strategies and capabilities at ECLO, the regional centers and in member countries themselves, particularly in the following crucial areas; (i) the provision and maintenance of adequate stocks of appropriate pesticides, equipment and other necessary logistics in all locust prone areas; (ii) strengthening well-trained locust emergency control teams in these areas. Now these measures require a lot of international cooperation.

We also have to be aware of the existence of other factors responsible for the exacerbation of the locust control problems but are beyond technical solutions; for example, continued inaccessibility to some locust breeding grounds is certainly bound to be seen as a compromise in the efforts so far being made in the control campaign.

Recognizing the greater dangers of unpreparedness in the face of such occurrences Kenya has taken strategic emergency measures, in the event of a major outbreak, of strengthening the personnel and the logistical support capability, including a stand-by aerial spray facility, a central coordinating task force and a full-scale national alert through the field of the central network of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock Development, Environment Natural Resources and Administration.

In these efforts, my delegation wishes to express full appreciation to the FAO and the international community of donors for their support, not only to Kenya, but also to our region as a whole. In this connection I fully support the delegate of Zambia in his appeal to FAO and the international community in providing support facilities necessary to counter this menace, especially in those areas like Kenya facing the imminent danger right now.

My delegation further wishes to express appreciation for the additional donation of some one million pounds sterling from the United Kingdom for this campaign.

Omer ZEYTINOGLU (Turquie): L'introduction de M. Brader était très claire et le film que l'on nous a présenté très impressionnant; d'ailleurs nous avons étudié avec inquiétude le document qui a été préparé par le Secrétariat; la FAO rend un service considérable en coordonnant les campagnes de lutte dans ce domaine.

Nous constatons avec satisfaction les activités du centre d'intervention; il semble que devant le progrès du mouvement des criquets il faudra élargir la dimension des campagnes, renforcer les moyens nécessaires à la lutte et surtout, ce qui est le plus important à notre avis, concentrer tous les efforts le moment venu là où le mal se manifeste.

Comme le Ministre de l'agriculture de mon pays l'a mentionné lors de la Conférence de la Région Européenne qui a eu lieu à Cracovie, la Turquie est prête à apporter sa contribution à la lutte contre ce fléau.

Mme Evelyn SENG SUWAN (France): Après avoir pris connaissance des excellents documents préparés par le Secrétariat et avoir écouté les interventions des pays concernés par ce fléau, la délégation française n'a pas besoin d'insister sur la gravité de la situation. Malgré l'importance des efforts déjà consentis, il est probable, hélas, que la lutte antiacridienne va nous mobiliser encore pendant plusieurs années.

La France participe activement à cet effort international et a mis à la disposition des pays concernés des spécialistes et des moyens matériels et financiers que je rappellerai brièvement. Cette équipe, le PRIFAS, qui appartient au CIRAD, est complètement mobilisée pour analyser en permanence l'évolution de la situation et proposer les mesures de lutte les plus efficaces. Des appareils terrestres et des insecticides ont été envoyés sur place; des avions et des hélicoptères sont loués pour le compte des pays concernés afin d'effectuer des épandages aériens d'insecticides; des crédits ont été dégagés pour financer en particulier l'installation d'une antenne à Niamey.

Au fur et à mesure que la situation s'aggravait, mon pays s'est efforcé d'accroître son effort financier: douze millions de francs en 1986, vingt millions de francs en 1987 et déjà trente-cinq millions de francs et sans doute plus en 1988.

Malgré tous les efforts de la communauté internationale, la situation s'aggrave. Il faut donc renforcer les moyens et surtout l'efficacité de la lutte. Je voudrais insister tout particulièrement sur ce point.

En ce qui concerne la lutte, l'expérience des deux dernières années montre à quel point la coordination des opérations est essentielle. La FAO joue en ce domaine un rôle de premier plan, et ma délégation tient à la féliciter. La France appuie fermement le rôle de coordination de la FAO et a l'intention de renforcer les moyens dont dispose l'organisation pour exercer cette mission.

Pour être plus efficace, il faut mettre plus délibérément l'accent sur la prévention; ceci entraîne toute une série d'actions auxquelles mon pays est très étroitement associé et qu'il convient de renforcer; je pense en particulier aux prévisions acridométéorologiques, aux communications, au renforcement des services nationaux de protection des végétaux.

Enfin, je voudrais insister sur l'importance de la recherche qui devrait être renforcée sur un certain nombre de thèmes prioritaires. Premièrement, la mise au point de modèles pour la prévision des populations de criquets pèlerins. Deuxièmement, les effets sur la faune et la flore des traitements d'insecticides. Troisièmement, l'acridométéorologie, c'est-à-dire l'apport de la météorologie à l'étude et aux conditions de vie et de déplacement des criquets. Quatrièmement, les nouvelles méthodes de lutte, y compris la lutte biologique. Cinquièmement, les produits acridicides et acridifuges.

Muhammad Saleem KHAN (Pakistan): We too feel deeply concerned by the grave situation created by the growing menace of locusts and the threat it is posing to the world food security situation at this delicate juncture of reduced world supplies such as we were discussing this morning. We thank the FAO for presenting the very lucid documents and the film to bring this grave situation to our notice. It is an irony of fate that after years of drought and failing crops our brother countries in the African region see their hopes of increased production in the wake of more rains dashed by the locust menace. We fully sympathise with them and we give them all possible moral and whatever modest support we can.

Many delegates have spoken here before me and the technical aspects have been thoroughly discussed. I would like to refer to the intervention of the delegate of Algeria who brought to the notice of the session the resolution of the African Regional Conference which we fully support. Similarly recently my country had the proud privilege of hosting the third OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development at Islamabad from 18 to 20 October 1988. A key issue of the debate during this conference remained the excessive proliferation of locusts despite hectic efforts of control by the FAO. The Conference therefore adopted a resolution voicing its concern over the situation which was impairing food security in the African region, and appealed to Member States in particular and the international community at large for generous contributions to the FAO Emergency Centre for Locust Operations to enable it to control the menace effectively. My own country is already doing its best within its modest means towards this end. But I take this opportunity to bring this appeal to the notice of other member countries of the international community.

Finally, we cannot refrain from commending the FAO Emergency Centre for Locust Operations on its untiring efforts in the combat against desert locusts despite tremendous pressures and financial stringencies. We wish it to continue these efforts and hope that they will be accorded support by the Member States.

Winston RUDDER (Trinidad and Tobago): My congratulations to the Secretariat on the presentation we had at the beginning of this particular item.

The spectre of the plague, which was visually presented at the beginning of this item, serves to eliminate completely from my mind whatever trepidations or apprehensions I might have had for intervening on this particular subject. As you know, the Caribbean countries traditionally have had no experience in dealing with the desert locust. However, my delegation finds it necessary to intervene in order to dramatize the importance of concerted, continued and expanded support to the current work on locust control. We are particularly concerned over the recent westward migration of desert locusts. As you know, we already are exposed to the vagaries of the weather as evidenced by the hurricane season which attends us every year. However, we are relatively unprepared both psychologically and technically, and very much inexperienced, to deal with this new phenomenon which visited our shores earlier this year. In this regard, we are particularly concerned to note in Conference document 94/2 Sup. 2 the observation about the extraordinary fitness of the locust as demonstrated by its capability to reach from Africa to the Caribbean. Fortunately, my own country, because of sporadic breaks in the indigenous species of locusts over recent years, had sought and received technical assistance and training and allied support of the FAO. For this we are extremely grateful. Indeed, the benefit of this exposure by two of our scientists has served to assist us in dealing in a systematic manner in coordination with multilateral technical assistance agencies, including the FAO, in closely monitoring the pattern of this recent invasion in the Caribbean.

While as indicated in the document some chemical and natural control measures have reduced the initial populations, I have to report - and this is intimated in the document - that within the last 2 1/2 weeks, new invasions have been reported or at least observed. This has served to jolt many of us out of complacency in dealing with this most serious pest. Our scientists and technicians within the region remain vigilant and in close contact with the FAO representatives in the area. Indeed, we must record our appreciation at the speed with which the Organization responded when evidence of the first swarms came to notice and help was sought. In updating the Council on this matter, my delegation reiterates its concern on behalf of all Member States of the eastern Caribbean region. It wishes to advise that given current foreign exchange stringency attending most of our economies, we are extremely vulnerable to the possibility of the locust entrenching itself within our islands and expanding its range within the region. Accordingly, it would be necessary to tap assistance in terms of appropriate chemicals and equipment to avoid widespread expansion in the region.

Moreover, further technical assistance will be required to enhance our capability to monitor and survey to ensure that the locust does not spread.

I conclude by joining with my colleagues from the other countries, more affected than we are, in calling for continued international cooperation in this effort against the terrible plague.

(Amadou S. TAAL) (Gambia): First of all, the Gambian delegation would want to put on record the local situation in the Gambia and to make a proposal on what measures should be taken in order to combat the locust invasion. In the first place, we wish to thank Mr. Brader for the presentation he has just made. We wish also to seize this opportunity to thank the FAO for the vital coordinating role it has been playing in our efforts to control the invasion of the desert locust.

At the same time we wish to thank our traditional donors for the assistance that they have given in this regard.

In the first place, it is important to note that the form and magnitude of locust invasion in the Gambia is the first of its kind for about forty years. Thanks to the assistance of the donor community in the past two or three years we have been trying to fight against the invasion of grasshoppers. The type of invasion we are now experiencing is quite new to us and we do not have sufficient experience in dealing with locust invasion. The magnitude of the problem is so grave that the future agricultural development in the Gambia is at stake in the sense that the farmers' enthusiasm to grow more food will be dampened if this invasion continues. We are completely invaded by locusts. The eggs that were laid in the past weeks are now hatching, and the small hoppers that have just hatched are devastating crops and vegetation.

We are told that the kind of problem we are now facing will continue for the next two or three years. If that is so, then we will be in grave difficulty. Certainly the efforts of the farmers are laudable at this stage but they also need assistance. We believe that there is a need for a concerted effort at the sub-regional level because we believe that the problem is not just a national one, it is a regional problem. Therefore, there is need for greater effort on the part of rural communities.

Some of our farmers believe that given the nature of the problem the best solution at this stage is to destroy the eggs that are laid in the ground by lighting fires. Of course, we know that that is not the best approach. However, our forest cover at this stage is at risk in the sense that if farmers burn the grass then we will lose the entire forest cover. We are continuing with some irrigation campaigns so that farmers will be told the best approach. We believe that apart from the efforts being made by farmers, and at national level, there is a great and urgent need to mobilize more forces at sub-regional level.

We wish to make a proposal at this stage, namely, that we establish a special fund supported by the entire donor community. The special fund would be geared towards solving this colossal problem. If it is established now it will be assisting our farmers. If it is left we will be devastated by locusts. I believe that the will is with us. We have the interests of our farmers at heart and this will reinforce us to establish such a fund.

Glan Luigi VALENZA (Italie): Monsieur le Président, je voudrais m'associer avant tout aux félicitations exprimées par votre délégation à propos du document présenté par le Secrétariat et des efforts déployés par le Directeur général à ce sujet.

L'Italie ne manque pas de partager la préoccupation de la communauté internationale dans son ensemble devant ce fléau qui ne connaît pas de limites, qui ignore les frontières et qui réclame la plus vive attention et le plus grand effort commun si l'on veut trouver une solution durable à ce problème historique.

L'Italie sait d'autre part gré à la FAO pour le rôle compétent et efficace qu'elle joue dans cet important secteur de la lutte de l'humanité contre la faim et la malnutrition et désire encore une fois renouveler l'assurance de son engagement et de son effort les plus entiers pour que ce fléau puisse un jour disparaître de la surface du globe et même, j'ose espérer, des souvenirs des peuples.

Dans cet effort, l'Italie est donc engagée sur le plan opérationnel et institutionnel et, en ce qui concerne plus particulièrement la FAO, elle a déjà fait savoir qu'elle était disposée à participer au Programme régional de l'Organisation. Le déracinement de ce fléau est donc le but auquel on ne peut pas renoncer. Mais il est bien entendu nécessaire de faire face d'une façon adéquate aux situations d'urgence au fur et à mesure qu'elles émergent. A cet égard et dans la ligne de participation, l'Italie a dernièrement approuvé sur le plan bilatéral des interventions en faveur du Tchad et du Soudan prévoyant l'envoi d'hélicoptères et de pesticides ainsi qu'une assistance adéquate. Sur le plan multilatéral, pour les mêmes territoires, un support logistique et d'organisation a été prévu ainsi que l'envoi en Ethiopie d'un hélicoptère, de pesticides et de toute l'assistance technique nécessaire. L'effort italien pour cette intervention spécifique sera de l'ordre de 3 millions de dollars.

Avant de terminer, je voudrais particulièrement remercier la délégation algérienne des paroles qu'elle a bien voulu prononcer en faveur de l'Italie et je ne manquerai pas de transmettre ce message à mes autorités.

(Ibranima KABA) (Guinée): Avec le film dont les scènes horribles nous ont ulcérés et l'exposé édifiant de l'éminent spécialiste qu'est M. Brader sur la situation acridienne, l'étendue et la gravité de l'invasion sont suffisamment illustrées.

La délégation guinéenne ne peut que s'inquiéter et appuyer fermement les appels présentés par les populations sinistrées pour que la coordination de la lutte s'intensifie. Selon les renseignements reçus, mon pays, la Guinée, se trouve menacé par ce fléau. Aussi, grâce à l'assistance de la FAO et des aides bilatérales parmi lesquelles celle remarquable du Japon, des mesures énergiques sont mises en place tout le long de nos frontières avec le Mali, le Sénégal et la Guinée-Bissau.

Nous apprécions et encourageons les activités d'information et de diffusion technique de la FAO sur l'évolution de la situation. Cela est très important pour nos pays démunis de moyens d'identification et de dépistage.

Enfin, la délégation guinéenne, à son tour, rappelle la résolution pertinente adoptée à Maurice par la 15ème Conférence régionale pour l'Afrique et notre délégation demande que notre session fasse sienne cette importante résolution.

Douramane MOUSSA (Niger): Une fois de plus, la délégation nigérienne tient à remercier et à féliciter le Directeur général de la FAO et ses collaborateurs pour la qualité des documents mis à notre disposition, notamment sur la situation acridienne en 1988 et les perspectives pour 1989.

Pour ma part, je vais à titre indicatif m'appesantir sur la situation acridienne de mon pays, le Niger.

A cheval entre la zone sahélienne et la zone saharienne, le Niger, avec le massif de l'Aïr et le Tamesna, constitue à la fois le couloir de passage traditionnel et de reproduction du criquet pèlerin.

En effet, pour la sous-région, les massifs de l'Aïr au Niger, ceux de l'Adrar des Iforas au Mali, du Tibesti au Tchad constituent, avec le massif du Maghreb s'étalant du Maroc en Algérie, les zones de reproduction complémentaires du criquet pèlerin, reproduction estivale au sud du Sahara et printanière au nord. Le fait marquant de l'invasion acridienne au Niger au cours de l'année 1988 est qu'il y a eu en premier lieu une pression constante sur la zone de culture qui n'a été épargnée que de justesse du fait de l'importance du pâturage, et d'autre part deux générations du criquet pèlerin, la première dans la zone pastorale et la seconde dans le massif de l'Aïr et de Tamesna.

Depuis le mois d'octobre des vols constants des essaims de criquet venant du Soudan via le Tchad traversent le pays en direction de l'Afrique du Nord, via le Mali, le Sénégal, la Mauritanie. Nos cultures d'été ont été certes à l'abri du fléau mais il est à craindre un retour précipité de ces criquets en début de saison sèche (mars-avril) qui peut constituer un danger pour les cultures des aménagements hydro-agricoles.

Au cours de cette campagne, 800 mille hectares, sur environ 2 millions d'hectares infestés, ont fait l'objet de traitements mécaniques par l'utilisation de tranchées et de traitements chimiques par l'utilisation de véhicules équipés et des avions. Les populations concernées ont été mobilisées en brigades villageoises, pour participer avec des équipements légers à cette lutte anti-acridienne,

Je voudrais saisir l'occasion qui m'est offerte pour saluer, au nom du Niger, les pays amis, les organisations et institutions internationales, pour les appuis financiers, matériels et techniques mis à notre disposition et qui ont permis de lutter efficacement contre le danger du criquet pèlerin et de sauvegarder nos récoltes, mettant ainsi à l'abri de la disette et de la faim les populations.

Je salue la FAO qui, malgré la crise financière qu'elle connaît, a su mobiliser les partenaires pour mettre au point d'une part un mécanisme de concertation et d'information, en accord avec les Etats abritant les zones grégariennes, et d'autre part un système d'intervention régional en appui aux efforts nationaux.

Il ressort de l'analyse sur la situation acridienne en 1988 que le criquet pèlerin, en débordant de ses zones traditionnelles pour atteindre les côtes du Caraïbe et de l'Europe, a fini par lancer un grand défi à l'humanité tout entière et, loin d'être localisé, ce fléau est devenu planétaire.

C'est pour cette raison que le Niger attache une importance particulière à la déclaration de Fez d'octobre dernier qui demande de mettre sur pied, sous l'égide de l'ONU, des "bérêts verts" pour combattre et mettre fin au danger acridien.

Cette lutte contre le criquet pèlerin nécessite le renforcement des services nationaux de protection des végétaux des zones de rémission très bien connues afin d'assurer un contrôle et une surveillance soutenus, une circulation fluide de l'information et une intervention diligente pour étouffer le mal dans l'oeuf, la sensibilisation, la formation et l'organisation des producteurs ruraux en brigades de base d'intervention avec des moyens qu'ils peuvent maîtriser, la restauration des infrastructures rurales, aérodromes et magasins de stockage des produits, la mise en place des produits et des équipements appropriés en cas d'invasion dans les zones susceptibles de l'être.

Enfin cette lutte anti-acridienne nécessite aussi le renforcement des institutions régionales et internationales qui ont la charge de mettre en oeuvre des mécanismes d'alerte, de coordination de lutte et de circulation de l'information sur les criquets pèlerins.

Dans cette lutte sans merci contre le criquet pèlerin qui engage désormais toute la communauté internationale, il s'agira de mobiliser tous les moyens pour contenir et anéantir dans les zones de reproduction et grégariennes ce fléau.

Taghi SHAMEKHI (Iran, République Islamique d'): Je voudrais tout d'abord remercier la FAO et son Directeur général qui a répondu positivement à la demande dans le domaine matériel et financier de la République islamique d'Iran concernant la lutte contre le criquet pèlerin, qui a attaqué dernièrement le Sud et le Sud-Ouest de notre pays pour la première fois depuis plus de 20 ans.

Vous avez été certainement tenus au courant de la Conférence régionale sur le criquet pèlerin qui a eu lieu à Téhéran au début de ce mois de novembre. Cette Conférence a présenté des propositions concrètes sur ce problème qui pourront compléter le document CL 94/2 Sup. 2, en particulier le paragraphe 25.

Nous proposons en effet de rendre nécessaire une lutte à l'échelon régional et international pour maîtriser ce fléau. La FAO peut s'emparer de cette tâche en tant qu'institution internationale directement concernée dans l'organisation d'un système efficace de lutte pour enrayer les dégâts.

Les criquets pèlerins sont arrivés dernièrement en Iran sur un front de quelques centaines de kilomètres. Pour le moment les dégâts ne sont pas grands, mais nous attendons un mouvement plus vaste dans les 2 ou 3 mois à venir. Notre Gouvernement a mobilisé les moyens nécessaires à la lutte. Nous avons une bonne expérience dans ce domaine et nous espérons, avec l'aide de la FAO, organiser un combat décisif contre ce fléau.

V.K. SIBAL (India): In the first instance I would like to thank Mr. Brader for a very clear presentation of this very serious problem. The document which we have before us is very sober, well analysed and at the same time very disturbing in its implications. We have had some vivid indications through the video of the dimensions of the present plague. The last one lasted for 13 years. We hope that the affected national governments, donors and FAO will be able to concert together the will and the resources and to reduce the dimensions and the duration of this one even below the two or three years envisaged now.

The effective measures taken in July 1988 in Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, and Egypt referred to in paragraph 3 of the document and in the countries from Mauritania to Yemen referred to in paragraph 5 give us some confidence in the availability and the effectiveness of the skills required. These skills would however undoubtedly need to be stretched, improved and extended and backed by the requisite resources if the locust plague is to be countered with any significant success.

The outlook for 1988/89 is disturbing, although we recognize that the actual shape of things will be affected substantially by the weather and the effectiveness of the control operations. In this context the control operations in Maghreb and the Near East are crucial and efforts have to be focussed there if the situation is to be contained. The daunting scenario painted in paragraph 18 of the document seems to be actualizing even earlier than anticipated. We hope that the measures that can be taken will assist in containing the damage threatened by the plague.

We agree with the conclusions in paragraph 19 of the paper on the responsibilities of the affected and threatened governments to mobilize all resources to meet the locust menace.

The Indian delegation would like to compliment ECLO on the extremely valuable work done by it on locust control. We find that a plan of action which would cost about US dollars 240 million has been developed by FAO to meet the locust plague. We would like to know the latest position in respect of this plan, particularly its financing and time-frame. Is it the same plan as referred to in paragraph 21 of the document? It would be useful to know the progress made so far in the development and financing of this plan and its basic strategies. The research efforts launched to improve the efficiency of the control efforts and to limit the use of pesticides need to be accorded a high priority considering the seriousness and the chances of future recurrence of the locust menace. We agree with the suggestion made by the delegate of the United Kingdom regarding the monthly report on pledges, funds, etc.

In the end, I would like to thank you again for giving us an opportunity to express our views on this important subject.

Washington ZUÑIGA TRELLES (Peru): El enorme interés que está ocasionando este aspecto de nuestros debates, o sea, la lucha contra la langosta, está demostrando el peligro que existe no solo para la agricultura africana, sino para todo el mundo. Existe también la conciencia plena del esfuerzo de la FAO que, a pesar de sus limitados recursos, está haciendo un esfuerzo por controlar esta plaga.

Así como también la actitud generosa de los donantes, quienes desean ver desaparecer esta plaga de nuestro planeta. El peligro parece extenderse no solo al Africa, como he dicho, sino a otros continentes, entre ellos América Latina.

El informe señala que ha llegado esta plaga hasta Suriname; o sea, que ha tocado las costas sudamericanas. El peligro no solo significaría peligro para la agricultura, sino también para los bosques tropicales. No olvidemos que la langosta es un insecto tan voraz que consume diariamente varias veces su propio peso. Además, el informe nos señala que, al haber atravesado el océano, más o menos en 120 horas para llegar al Caribe, está demostrando que también es un animal que puede vivir varios días sin comer y tiene una resistencia tremenda. Por lo general, se ha concebido que un insecto cuando emigra a otro medio que no es el propio, a veces no tarda en adaptarse, y ése es el peligro de que pueda radicarse en otros países, además del Africa.

Recordarán algunos de ustedes un informe científico en el que se demostraba que si en el mundo desaparecieran todas las especies por un cataclismo, solamente iban a sobrevivir los insectos. Esto me induce a tocar un tema sobre el cual quisiera insistir, quizás por mi profesión: yo soy ingeniero agrónomo. Me refiero a la necesidad de incrementar la investigación. La experiencia mundial en la lucha contra los insectos ha demostrado que haciendo investigación científica, por diversos medios se ha llegado a controlar casi todas las plagas en el mundo, excepto la langosta. Quizás iniciando investigaciones, como se señala en uno de los informes que la FAO nos ha hecho llegar, quizás mediante la aplicación del control biológico; quizás inoculando enfermedades que puedan afectar y transmitirse entre la langosta; quizás el uso de machos estériles o el empleo de isótopos radioactivos, u otros medios sofisticados que emplea ahora la ciencia. No sé, yo no tengo experiencia sobre esto; he estudiado algunas bases de la entomología, no es mi especialidad, pero sí se que la literatura entomológica es rica en el mundo que describen de cómo se han llegado a dominar diversas plagas diversos métodos ingeniosos.

Yo quisiera hacer una sugerencia. Los países desarrollados no han sufrido, por lo general, ataques de langostas y por ello no han hecho, seguramente, investigación sobre estas plagas, pero tienen una tecnología básica que debe ser aprovechada. Además de eso, tienen laboratorios y otras infraestructuras científicas. Habría que pedir la colaboración de estos organismos entomológicos mundiales, para que se concentren -no sé si en Africa o en el sitio que ellos juzguen conveniente-, para instalar laboratorios especiales en donde puedan hacer un investigaciones intensivas sobre la forma de hacer un control de estas plagas; no sólo por medios químicos, sino por otros medios sofisticados que la ciencia ya ha desarrollado en diversos campos de la lucha contra los insectos y depredadores. Me permito también sugerir que en estas conferencias y en otras en que se trate sobre langostas, deben participar organizaciones entomológicas mundiales. No sé si la FAO ha tenido en cuenta este hecho. Mi Delegación estaría interesada en saber si se ha invitado a estas organizaciones cuál es su opinión, desde el punto de vista científico, para lograr los éxitos que mi Delegación y todos deseamos para la desaparición definitiva de esta plaga bíblica.

Real LALANDE (Canada): Je crois que l'envergure de l'infestation a déjà été bien décrite par M. Brader dans sa présentation et par certains intervenants. Je ne désire donc pas intervenir sur ce point.

Mon intervention vise tout d'abord à indiquer que la délégation canadienne désire souligner le rôle central et caractéristique de la FAO dans la coordination des efforts internationaux dans la lutte contre le criquet pèlerin, en Afrique et dans d'autres régions qui sont malheureusement affectées ou seront affectées, selon les prévisions que l'on nous présente dans le document.

Nous désirons donc inviter la FAO à mettre en oeuvre tous les moyens dont elle dispose pour remplir ce rôle de coordination souhaité par la plupart des intervenants jusqu'à maintenant. Le Canada, quant à lui, a maintenu d'étroits contacts avec le Centre d'urgence de lutte contre les acridiens de la FAO et avec l'équipe de M. Brader. J'aimerais souligner le dévouement et les efforts que cette équipe a démontrés dans un environnement de travail qui n'était pas toujours facile dans la situation actuelle. Je désire donc indiquer que le Canada continuera les efforts qu'il a déjà déployés en coopération avec différents pays africains, et nous chercherons à coordonner ces efforts avec l'ensemble des pays impliqués, avec les différents donateurs, mais évidemment aussi avec les pays bénéficiaires, dans le but de renforcer, tel que cela a été souhaité, l'efficacité de la lutte menée jusqu'à maintenant.

Sra. Mónica DEREGBUS (Argentina): Brevemente, Sr. Presidente, permítanos expresar, en primer lugar, la preocupación y la solidaridad del Gobierno y del pueblo argentino con los países afectados por el problema de la langosta. En segundo lugar, nuestro aprecio a la Secretaría y especialmente al Centro de Operaciones de Emergencia contra la Langosta, por la tarea ya realizada y por el Programa de Labores para 1989.

Quisiéramos destacar, especialmente la importancia que nuestro país concede a la FAO en la función de investigación, prevención, intercambio de información, transferencias de tecnología, apoyo logístico y coordinación de esfuerzos para erradicar éste y otros flagelos de la naturaleza. En este contexto, permítanos, Sr. Presidente, expresar nuestro apoyo a las sugerencias de acción formuladas por las distinguidas delegaciones de Kenya, Argelia y Francia.

Esta ocasión es oportuna para dejar en actas constancia del convencimiento de nuestro país de que el rol de la FAO, en éste como en otros campos del desarrollo agrícola y rural, resulta insustituible por cualquier otro mecanismo; y que, una vez más, comprobamos que es en interés de toda la comunidad internacional el que se provea a la FAO de los medios necesarios para poder continuar cumpliendo eficazmente su labor.

Masuhla LETEKA (Lesotho): We wish to join other delegations in commending the Secretariat for the job well done, and also the excellent presentation by Mr. Brader, which highlighted the present campaign and future outlook of this threat. Although we have never been exposed to the threat in Lesotho, we feel obliged to register our grave concern over the devastating effects of this menace. Whilst we are discussing problems of developing countries within the framework of food security and the state of agriculture, stagnation of the economy, reduction of their per capita income, soaring debts, the environmental and other natural calamities, we are at the same time confronted with a threat more serious than ever.

Structural change is in itself an expensive exercise. It has many considerations, among which are policy considerations, financing and the political will of the government and nationals of the most unfortunate regions of the developing world. As third world countries join the band-wagon of adjustment, they at the same time have to do so faced with another menace, that of locusts. The infestation of this desert locust, as it were, has unavoidably become an awesome factor in affected areas of the Sahara, North-West and Eastern Africa. The list is long. This means resources which could be positively deployed and invested in the agricultural sectors, of necessity have to be diverted to the control operations, formulation of appropriate policies and strategies and their financing, together with the environmental implications of this plague.

Agriculture plays an important role in the economies of these countries. Grave food supply difficulties have evidently been compounded, as it were, by the widespread threat of heavy crop losses from locust infestations. It becomes ever difficult for these areas, therefore, to feed their majority poor and to assure them of food security under such conditions.

The threat to cereal crops in itself justifies the foregoing conclusion that in the speedy assistance by donor countries, logistical support by FAO would go a long way in relieving these areas of this annual threat, the result of which is evident to us all. We have considered the conclusions of the experts at the June 1988 Session of the Desert Locust Control Committee at FAO and can only hope that by herculean efforts something could be done.

Once again the direct supervision of FAO, in co-ordination with the National Control Unit and the Regional Control Organization, are commendable moves. At the same time, the move of donors in leading to and contributing to the reversal of the situation financially and materially cannot be overemphasized. It is a good sign and an honest spirit of international co-operation towards guaranteeing and improving the state of world agriculture. We hope more would be added.

We cannot conclude our intervention without stressing the important role that national and regional systems could play, especially in areas where this threat has not yet shown itself. We realise the difficulties caused by lack of trade personnel, information exchange channels, limited research, limited equipment and suitable pesticides in the course of combating and arresting this threat. We hail the move to create an international task force for this purpose and the co-ordinating role that FAO plays in this field.

The donor meetings to show improved control measures of this plague are appreciated, and implementation of their resolutions and actions thereon could ensure all concerned of a brighter future. We support any resolution which aims at ensuring the elimination of this plague from the face of the earth.

Gamal Mohamed AHMED (Observer of Sudan)(original language Arabic): Allow me to extend on behalf of my delegation my thanks to the Secretariat for the document CL 94/2 Supplement 2, which is of high quality and an excellent presentation of a serious danger threatening countries in the African and Asian area. I would like to join previous speakers in extending my thanks to Dr. Brader for his

excellent presentation of this document, in addition to the video film which highlights this plight, hoping that we shall benefit in establishing sound foundations, and strategies for the control of this dangerous pest.

The Sudan suffered a ferocious invasion of desert locust in its summer reproduction habitat over an area of 5 million hectares. The Sudan could, with the assistance of FAO, and donor countries, reasonably contain the infestations so as to protect its food crops. Since the area treated represents 25% of the total area of 5 million hectares, remaining locust swarms infiltrated into the winter reproduction habitat, especially those of the Red Sea and North-West Africa.

There are currently in the Sudan various locust swarms and egg and hatching fields. The Red Sea area forecasts indicate that climatic conditions are favourable to intense desert locust reproduction of unprecedented levels. It is clear, that the Red Sea area in the Sudan, Ethiopia, Saudi Arabia and Yemen is a focal outbreak area that threatens African states and Middle East countries. The outbreak may spread to Asia and Central Africa, thus constituting a menace to all these developing countries as far as their food security and economies are concerned. In view of the severe economic conditions of the Sudan, which render the country unable to counter this imminent danger, despite the technical assistance extended by FAO and other UN Agencies, and the friendly donor countries, we feel duty bound to indicate that this danger may result in a catastrophe threatening all the developing countries referred to earlier.

Therefore, we formulated two plans based on two scenarios. The first, the Sudan with its present resources and the current traditional assistance of donors, can contain the infestation over an area of half a million hectares only to protect its food crops in the Red Sea area. We shall not be able, however, to protect neighbouring countries in addition to protecting the central and western areas of the Sudan. Secondly, the Sudan, with the generous help of donors, and through co-ordination with FAO, contains an additional area of about one half a million hectares. Hence, we shall be able to effectively check this plight threatening Third World countries in Africa and the Near East for over a decade. This would cost about twelve million dollars, as experts estimate.

We are confident that your august Council, in its customary exemplary spirit of co-operation and keen interest in the concerns of developing countries and in line with the general orientation of FAO in assisting poor developing countries in their continual endeavour in raising their developmental capabilities through agriculture and provision of food security, shall adopt recommendations in support of the first Conference held in Morocco to this end. We are also confident that FAO and donor countries, who assisted us during our plight, will continue their unflinching support so as to expand control operations according to the strategy just outlined. This will enable the Sudan, other affected countries and potential victims to ward off this threat, and break this vicious circle within the framework of true environmental control in order to keep an environmental balance.

In conclusion, I would like to extend my thanks and gratitude to FAO for the efforts extended and still extending in the control operations, and our thanks and appreciation to donor countries who have assisted us in controlling this plight. We were delighted when we heard interventions by some donor countries talk this afternoon that they follow closely with interest this plight and will consider FAO as a co-ordinator and a focal point of controlled operations through assistance and the strategies agreed upon.

Mohamed ABDELHADI (Observateur de la Tunisie) (langue originale arabe): La délégation tunisienne apprécie l'initiative du Conseil pour la tenue d'une réunion spéciale sur le fléau acridien; le Directeur général, dans son introduction, a souligné l'importance accordée par la FAO à la lutte contre ce fléau et nous sommes en plein accord avec lui quant à la nécessité de poursuivre les activités qui s'imposent pour assurer le matériel et les besoins indispensables pour cette lutte.

Le Directeur général a fait mention du fait que le matériel utile pour une telle campagne contre les criquets est évalué à près de 240 millions de dollars; c'est une somme extrêmement importante et nous estimons que tous les efforts doivent être conjugués dans cette direction ainsi que pour consolider les programmes de la FAO pour la lutte acridienne.

A ce sujet, nous espérons que la crise financière de la FAO n'affectera pas les efforts déployés par cette organisation dans le domaine de la lutte acridienne et que les pays donateurs poursuivront et augmenteront l'aide accordée à la FAO et aux pays bénéficiaires pour poursuivre la lutte avec la plus grande efficacité.

Nous avons écouté l'exposé tout à fait clair et exhaustif de M. Brader sur ce fléau effroyable; nous avons également assisté à la projection du film qui nous a donné une idée exacte de son étendue; et nous tenons à saisir cette occasion pour le remercier et rendre hommage au centre de la FAO pour les efforts et les activités qu'il déploie et que nous connaissons tous; en effet, les contacts avec M. Brader sont quotidiens sur ce sujet de l'évolution de ce fléau, et sur la nécessité de coordonner les efforts des pays intéressés et ceux des pays donateurs.

Les pays du Maghreb arabe ont déployé une activité intense en vue d'une coordination aux niveaux gouvernementaux, techniques et régionaux, et le gouvernement tunisien accorde une importance toute particulière à ce sujet. En effet, il a pris toutes les mesures nécessaires pour faire face à la situation et pour aider la FAO.

Je saisis cette occasion pour exprimer nos remerciements et notre gratitude à toutes ces organisations et à tous ces pays donateurs; de nombreuses réunions ont été tenues au niveau du Maghreb arabe (Tunisie, Algérie, Maroc, Libye), réunions qui ont été mentionnées par la représentants de l'Algérie et de la Libye. Au cours de ces réunions, il a été décidé de créer un fonds spécial, avec l'aide de la FAO, fonds qui sera alimenté par les pays intéressés et par les pays donateurs.

Dans ce cadre, nous estimons qu'il faudra adopter une stratégie totale et qu'il faudra veiller à ce que les pays bénéficiaires ou les pays atteints par ce fléau ne soient pas les seuls intéressés; en effet, d'autres régions sont touchées directement ou indirectement et nous estimons qu'une intensification et une coordination de la coopération, grâce à la FAO, sont nécessaires pour tous.

Nous ne pouvons qu'exhorter tous les pays nantis, toutes les organisations et tous les pays donateurs à aider les pays intéressés et à leur fournir le matériel, les instruments et les insecticides nécessaires, ainsi que le financement pour le fonds commun du Maghreb arabe; c'est ainsi qu'ils aideront les pays africains atteints par ce fléau; il faut aussi consolider le centre ECLO dépendant de la FAO, et qui joue un rôle important dans cette lutte acridienne, en coordonnant les efforts des pays intéressés et ceux des pays donateurs.

Nous attendons les résultats des recherches mentionnées par M. Brader; nous voudrions qu'il nous dise si elles ont effectivement été initiées, quand elles seront terminées, car le document, dans son paragraphe 21, est très bref sur cette question, qui a été soulevée par de nombreux collègues dont les représentants de l'Inde et du Pérou.

Serait-il également possible à M. Brader de nous donner certaines informations sur le fonds commun pour les pays du Maghreb arabe car la FAO essaie d'alimenter ce fonds qui en est actuellement au stade de l'exécution pratique?

Assane FALL (Observateur de Sénégal): Je voudrais m'associer à tous ceux qui sont intervenus pour remercier le Secrétariat ainsi que M. Brader pour la présentation très claire et très détaillée qui a été faite du péril acridien. Les différents intervenants ont décrit le phénomène mais je me demande si l'on peut le dépeindre dans toute son ampleur.

La sécurité alimentaire est menacée et nous sommes tentés d'aller plus loin en disant que c'est la vie même des hommes qui est menacée. Au Sénégal, nous avons vu des villages entiers envahis, des populations chassées de leurs maisons, des puits infestés. Dans une ville du centre, la semaine dernière, des trains ont été bloqués pendant des heures, des lycées fermés, de nombreuses activités quotidiennes paralysées. Il s'agit donc d'un phénomène très difficile à qualifier et dont l'ampleur est difficile à montrer. Je crois qu'il faut vivre cette réalité pour la comprendre.

C'est pourquoi, avant même d'être envahi, le Sénégal a appuyé toutes les initiatives qui ont été prises dans ce domaine. Il a appuyé la résolution que la déléguée de l'Algérie vient de rappeler. Il a rappelé la résolution de la 3ème Conférence islamique sur la sécurité alimentaire à Islamabad. Il s'est associé à l'appel de Fez. Il appuie fortement toutes les initiatives prises par la FAO et par son unité régionale de coordination. Nous nous félicitons donc de toutes les actions entreprises et nous nous associons à tous les pays qui ont lancé un appel en faveur du renforcement des moyens de la FAO pour mener efficacement cette lutte car nous avons pu constater que, malgré les moyens mis en oeuvre pour barrer la route à ce fléau et mener une lutte préventive efficace, le mal s'est installé.

Bien sûr, de nombreux pays africains ont reçu l'aide et l'assistance des pays plus nantis et nous apprécions tous cette manifestation de solidarité. Nous signalerons seulement peut-être non pas une insuffisance mais une certaine lenteur dans les réactions. Les secours d'urgence sont une bonne chose mais nous pensons qu'il faut mettre l'accent sur la prévention. Mettre l'accent sur la

prevention, cela veut dire renforcer les moyens d'intervention d'urgence - j'allais dire de première intervention - des pays qui sont menacés pour leur permettre de résister ne serait-ce qu'un laps de temps en attendant que tous les mécanismes puissent être mis en place.

J'ai parlé des initiatives du Sénégal au niveau des conférences internationales, au sein des organisations internationales, régionales ou sous-régionales et même d'autres initiatives entre voisins. Le ministre de la Gambie vient de lancer un appel et, justement, le Sénégal, conjointement avec la Gambie, a formé un comité de lutte. La même action a été réalisée avec la Guinée-Bissau. Le Sénégal collabore étroitement avec la Mauritanie et tous ses voisins.

Je crois que c'est le délégué de la Turquie qui a dit qu'il faut attaquer le mal là où il se trouve. C'est là une suggestion très pertinente parce que - on l'a dit aussi - le phénomène n'a pas de frontières et le criquet pèlerin peut naître dans un pays et aller infester un autre pays. La lutte contre ce fléau doit donc susciter toute la solidarité humaine. Personnellement, nous avons mobilisé tous nos moyens, nous nous sommes appuyés sur les populations, nous les avons organisées, nous avons mobilisé les services de tous les ministères, y compris l'armée. Mais le mal est là et nos populations sont dans le désarroi le plus total et ne comprennent pas qu'un tel fléau s'abatte sur elles. Il est vrai que, malgré les dégâts, une bonne partie des cultures a pu être sauvée in extremis, mais nous nous interrogeons, pour l'avenir très proche, au sujet des cultures maraîchères qui sont une source appréciable de revenus pour les ruraux, et des cultures irriguées dans des régions où des investissements énormes ont été réalisés avec l'édification des barrages de Manantali et Diama dont l'exploitation risque d'être anéantie par ce fléau.

Je ne voudrais pas m'étendre davantage sur cette question qui a été abondamment commentée car je crois que le Conseil a été suffisamment sensibilisé à ce sujet et nous avons l'espoir que la communauté mondiale tout entière donnera l'appui voulu pour, si c'est encore possible, juguler ce fléau qui est considéré par notre population comme une fatalité.

LE PRESIDENT: Permettez-moi de demander au reste des délégués qui vont prendre la parole de bien vouloir tenir compte de notre contrainte de temps car, comme vous le savez, nous allons prolonger la séance jusqu'à 20 heures avec le point relatif à la sécurité alimentaire mondiale.

McDonald P. BENJAMIN (Observer for Dominica): I doubt that there was any need for that warning, because I had intended to be extremely brief in this intervention.

A few months ago I got a newspaper from my country, and when I looked at the front page I could not believe it. There was a picture of a locust in Dominica. I said to myself, "Somebody must have smuggled this in through the airport, or whatever it is, to photograph this" because I could not figure how a locust could get to Dominica, Saint Lucia and so on. However, this extremely well-written document here has information of a very basic nature. The most significant part of this paper to my delegation is the dramatic change that has occurred between 1963 and 1988 in the maximum duration of flight which has doubled from 60 hours in that first period; now these pests can be airborne for up to some 120 hours. I hate to do the projection, but if one were to project that rate of change by the year 2010 these locusts would be travelling up to 250 hrs in the air. This has very serious implications for the question of the spread of this bug, or however we might call it. What we are pleased about is the very big response of FAO on this matter, and this is very well expressed. Operations were mounted immediately with the object of preventing the desert locust from becoming established in the western hemisphere.

As I read the paper, I see that these results were very positive but then I see another alarming statement. However, further new invasions have recently been reported, and this has been corroborated by our colleague from Trinidad.

This case of FAO's field of involvement with matters of urgency demonstrates the need for this Organization to be kept fully supplied with resources. I am particularly pleased about the flexibility with which the FAO has been able to use TCP funding for this type of exercise. That is exemplary and I congratulate the Organization on this.

José Eduardo MENDES FERRÃO (Observateur du Portugal): Nous avons bien conscience des dégâts produits par les criquets et du péril que représenterait une expansion accrue du Shistocerca gregaria. Les interventions antérieures sont bien claires et révélatrices.

J'aimerais ajouter simplement que le Portugal, grâce à des accords de coopération bilatéraux, donne son appui aux travaux de lutte contre le criquet dans deux pays d'Afrique, avec l'octroi de pesticides et des moyens aériens considérés appropriés.

D'un autre côté, en tenant compte de nos études et des informations que nous avons reçues de la FAO, que nous remercions très vivement, nous avons organisé au Portugal un groupe de vigilance et d'urgence dans l'hypothèse où le criquet viendrait s'installer au sud du pays. Nous pensons qu'en même temps que l'on mènera un combat aussi efficace que possible pour répondre à la situation actuelle, il sera nécessaire de développer l'étude de la biologie de l'insecte et de maintenir les systèmes de vigilance et les moyens de lutte avec la sélection de pesticides plus efficaces et moins dangereux pour l'écologie des régions affectées.

Il serait très désirable et très utile, dans une situation analogue future, que nous n'aimerions certainement pas voir se produire mais dont nous ne pouvons pas garantir qu'elle n'existera pas, d'être chaque fois mieux préparés pour réduire le fléau.

Hamisi MWINYIGOHA (Observer for Tanzania): First of all, I would like very much to thank the Secretariat for the preparation of the documents. I would also like to thank the FAO for all the work that it has done to make the international community aware of this particular problem. We have had a lot of meetings concerning locusts in Rome and all the time Mr. Brader has been keeping us informed on how serious this problem is. Indeed, it is serious and we have come to a point whereby FAO cannot do anything more than just keep us informed, coordinate our activities and make us aware of this particular problem. The international community has certainly helped the African countries to deal with this particular problem, but I have a feeling that all the efforts which have been made are not being effective in the control of locusts.

As far as I can see, this problem is getting worse and worse every day and possibly it could get out of hand. The future with locusts is very serious and will be very frustrating to the entire community of the world. If the locusts were to cross the Atlantic into the Caribbean, I do not know but I think there is a possibility that the locusts could emigrate to Latin America and some of the southern parts of the North American countries.

Therefore, I would suggest that this Council can do the world a tremendous service if we actually come up with a resolution which will point to the extinction of the locusts. We can talk about this over and over and over but we cannot combat locusts just by talking. I am particularly concerned, and I ask the International community to double or treble their efforts to finance operations on locusts so that the entire host can become extinct. This is a threat to the world, not only to Africa and the Caribbean.

Giuseppe VASTA (Observateur de l'Organisation de Coopération et de développement économiques): Je voudrais tout d'abord vous féliciter ainsi que les Vice-Présidents de votre élection. Je félicite aussi le Secrétariat pour l'ensemble de la documentation qu'il nous a fournie. Je remercie, en outre, M. Brader pour son excellente présentation du document que nous venons de commenter.

Après avoir vu le documentaire, je dois avouer que je suis resté bouleversé et terrifié. Devant le fléau acridien, il est impossible de rester muet. Les pays et les populations intéressés et menacés doivent trouver l'aide et la solidarité nécessaires pour combattre ce fléau diabolique. Je ne manquerai pas de souligner d'une façon toute particulière à l'OCDE, que j'ai l'honneur de représenter et qui connaît le problème, la gravité de la menace internationale de ce fléau.

Sans doute l'aide doit-elle être bien coordonnée car, comme du reste cela a été souligné, cette coordination doit être considérée comme le catalyseur indispensable pour provoquer la réaction nécessaire afin d'obtenir la victoire dans cette bataille.

Après avoir assisté à cette projection, nous pouvons dire que nous avons vu l'enfer sur terre. J'ai en effet l'impression d'avoir assisté à la projection d'une attaque diabolique. Le soleil s'est obscurci et un appel urgent de caractère universel est indispensable. C'est de notre devoir car, entre autres, tout le monde doit se sentir menacé. Nous devons être conscients du fait que nous sommes en train de frôler une terrible catastrophe. La prévention est indispensable car nous pouvons dire ici qu'il serait inutile de fermer les portes de fer lorsque les voleurs seront déjà passés.

Teshale ABEBE (Observer for the Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa): I should like to express my sincere appreciation for having this opportunity to speak, and through you I should like to thank the representative of Kenya who requested me to report on the current locust situation in the Eastern Africa region. With your permission I should like to introduce the Desert Locust Control Organization in Eastern Africa to those who may not know what the Organization is or what it does. The DLCO is a regional organization established by seven Eastern African countries in October 1962.

Its membership includes Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. Its objectives are to promote the most effective control of the desert locust in the region and to assist member countries in the control of other pests provided the locust situation so permits.

It obtains its finances from annual contributions paid by member countries and is supported by external assistance in the form of money, equipment and technical support from various donors. The major donors are ODA (of the United Kingdom), FAO, EEC, USAID, GTZ, IDB and UNDP. Its headquarters is based in Addis Ababa, while the air unit base is located at Nairobi in Kenya. In addition it has field bases spread throughout the region which are equipped with the basic control needs of the Organization.

At the present time the Organization has eight serviceable spray aircraft and one transport and survey plane at its disposal. These planes are deployed to assist the affected member countries as follows: three spray and one transport/survey aircraft in the Sudan, two survey and control aircraft in Northern Ethiopia, one survey and control aircraft in Djibouti and one aircraft on standby to reinforce where the locust threat becomes serious.

The current desert locust situation in the DLCO region has severely affected the Sudan and northern Ethiopia, while Djibouti has been invaded recently by swarms from across the Red Sea. The other countries are free from desert locust but they are under imminent threat. The source of the present locusts in the affected countries is from extensive breeding which took place in West, Northwest, and North Africa in late 1987 and early 1988. Sudan became invaded by mature locust swarms from Chad through its western borders. Large-scale breeding took place in the western Sudan starting late June when the rainfall was heavy and widespread. This created conducive ecological conditions for the rapid multiplication of the desert locust.

Some of the swarms from West Sudan moved further into central, northern and eastern Sudan carried by the westerly winds in early July. By late July they had reached the Kassala area and by the last week of July had crossed into Ethiopia. The rainfall in Ethiopia was exceptionally good during the season which also created conducive breeding conditions and the swarms deposited their eggs in the western lowlands of Northern Ethiopia from which many newly emerged swarms invaded the Eritrea administrative region and the Tigre administrative region on a smaller scale.

To combat the locusts a joint ground control team of the DLCO and Ethiopian National Plant Protection Department was launched and deployed. Later, aerial control action was mounted from early September when successful control work has been conducted. This action greatly reduced a number of swarms and thereby saved the crops of the season from devastation.

In the Sudan the floods caused disruption in the transportation system and made difficult timely positioning of insecticides and ground logistics to the sights of operation. However, despite the difficulties encountered, significant aerial operations have been mounted with satisfactory results. The following are actions taken by the DLCO from late June to late October. In the Sudan 16,000 hectares have been treated by spraying 8,000 litres of insecticide and by using 149 flying hours. In Ethiopia 15,400 hectares have been treated by spraying 12,095 litres of insecticide and by using 122 flying hours. The operations have continued in all the three countries affected.

Turning to the current situation, the desert locust situation in the Sudan yet remains serious. Swarms which escaped control actions in the west have now moved to their winter breeding habitats to eastern Sudan and the Red Sea coastal areas. The situation in Ethiopia is only second to that of Sudan. Again, swarms which escaped from the summer campaign are moving east to the winter breeding habitats along the Red Sea coast.

Many swarms have been successfully intercepted during their eastward movement in late October and early November.

We believe this kind of interception will drastically reduce the winter breeding which is expected to take place along the coastal and subcoastal plains of the Red Sea in both Sudan and Ethiopia.

Large-scale operations are planned along the Red Sea coastal lowlands from Zula in Ethiopia to the Egyptian border in the Sudan. The latest and most serious development is the invasion of Djibouti by desert locust swarms which we believe come from across the Red Sea.

This report came to the DLCO headquarters from our Djibouti field base on 12 November. On the following morning (13/11/88) the reported area was aerially surveyed and one immature, dense swarm measuring 24 km² was located. Aerial control started in the afternoon of the same date. Survey to detect other two swarms is underway.

If the latest situation is not contained in time, and if more swarms move into the DLCO area from the Arabian Peninsula and invade the south and southeast Ethiopia and the Somali Republic, it may result in breeding taking place in those areas during the short rain season which could pose a serious threat to Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, in late December 1988 or early January 1989. That is a brief resume of the situation in the East African Region.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous sommes arrivés à la fin des débats sur le criquet pèlerin.

Avec votre permission, je donnerai la parole à M. Bonte-Friedheim, et ensuite à M. Brader qui répondra à vos questions et à vos suggestions et qui éclairera le Conseil.

CH. BONTE-FRIEDHEIM (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): Before I ask Mr. Brader to reply to some of the questions and comment on the technical points raised in discussion I should like to make three points.

First, the topic this afternoon was discussed as a sub-item on the State of Food and Agriculture. The supplementary paper in front of you was meant as a supplementary paper - no more and no less. It was to identify the possible effects of the locusts on the State of Food and Agriculture in the next, and hopefully not following, years. It was prepared as an Information paper at the last minute, to be up to date in its Information. It was not meant to be all-inclusive and to cover all aspects of the situation or all experience or activities undertaken by the many parties involved in fighting this plague.

Secondly, I should like to extend our thanks to all the speakers this afternoon for the undivided appreciation by Council Members and Observers of the past work of your organization as an early warner, as a lead agency in this fight against locusts, as a coordinator of the aid and as a supporter of national and regional campaigns and activities. The future success will depend on continued cooperation by all, and I repeat by all, concerned if the Secretariat is to meet the expectation of Council, of governments and last, but certainly not least, of the farmers.

This afternoon we have seen many signs of solidarity and this discussion indicates to us that the solidarity will continue, hopefully until the plague is under control and until research results will be there to ensure that this will be the last of the plague of mankind.

Thirdly, as regards the proposal to adopt Resolution 2/88 of the Africa Regional Conference, the proposal has also been made to adopt the relevant operative parts of this resolution. I hope that Council will agree that this will be discussed by the Drafting Committee to see which of the ways is the best. I believe that there are three possible approaches which could then be discussed by the Drafting Committee - for example, adoption of the Regional Conference resolution, or an amendment of this resolution especially in the non-operative parts. As has been said this afternoon there are many more resolutions which have passed before and after the Mauritius resolution. At the moment the Second Committee of the General Assembly in New York is discussing a resolution. There was a previous resolution of the General Assembly of 1986. There is a resolution from the Council of Ministers of OAU of May 1988 and there is the Islamabad resolution which of, course, can all be referred to.

We will leave it to the Drafting Committee, if Council agrees, to see that the points made in this discussion will be included in the report or - and I repeat or - in a resolution. With this, Mr. Chairman, I would like, with your permission, to ask Mr. Brader to take care of the other points.

L. BRADER (Director, Plant Production and Protection Division): I would certainly like to thank all the delegates for the strong interest shown in this particular problem and in the work carried out. We certainly feel strongly encouraged by your positive appreciation of objectivities undertaken by FAO. ECLO has often been singled out in the statements this afternoon. I would like to emphasize very strongly that many other units in the Organization were directly involved in these various

activities and certainly the work of ECLO would be impossible without their support. I would also like to mention that the Director-General follows our work very closely and that we rely virtually daily on the help of many of our colleagues. So we thank you for your acknowledgement, but I think it goes far beyond ECLO. It is the whole of FAO which works on this matter.

Many comments were made. I will not try to deal with all of them. There was strong emphasis and support for coordinating effectively all the work to be undertaken. It was stressed that it is a regional problem, goes far beyond the possibilities of individual countries.

With respect to the coordination of aid and the amount of aid provided there was a question from the delegate of Colombia, who would have liked to have seen more details. I can promise him that in the next donor and country meeting which we will hold in January next year all these details will be presented. I have the strong feeling that we did not give details here because we tend not to separate anymore too much donors and affected countries because we are all in the same activity trying to solve this problem together without identifying too much who is who. In fact, I would not be surprised if one of our major donors, the United States, could by tomorrow or the day after tomorrow receive some locusts so that they would become an affected country also. This is a very speculative prediction of the further developments, I would like to put that in parentheses.

But also in respect of identified donors and affected countries I would like to emphasize the aid provided by various countries in Africa to other countries in Africa. I am thinking particularly of the Maghreb countries who have assisted particularly the Sahelian countries in the locust campaign, and a number of countries in the North East have also given assistance to various African countries. So there is a very wide range of donors and I would say that all the donors who are traditionally known as donors have contributed in one way or another to the success of the campaign as far as we have undertaken it now.

The need to provide timely assistance has been stressed very strongly. The delegate of Algeria mentioned it first and then a number of other delegations emphasized it also. This is of course true because it will allow at an early stage to intervene in the basic control operation against the desert locust. But I must admit that this may become more and more difficult, as I stressed in the introduction. The problem becomes so big that the resources needed will also become so large that I think it will not always be easy and possible to, receive all the assistance in time. In fact the delegate of India made reference to the plan we had forwarded and that plan was presented to donors and countries at a meeting we held here in late August/early September where we predicted that until June next year it might well be needed that about 12 million hectares had to be treated and that would mean a cost of US \$ 240 million. That is not the same plan as the strategic plan recently put forward for a strategic task force in the meeting of FEZ. That was a question raised by the delegate of India. The strategic task force that was proposed in its definite form at the international conference at FEZ on 28/29 October has been given endorsement by many delegations. I would certainly place also the proposed action to be undertaken in Sudan, as was announced by the delegate of Sudan, on avoiding the international spread of the infestations there, within the framework and consider it in this context for its further elaboration so that it can become part of it, because within this overall plan the Red Sea coast of Sudan is certainly one of the critical and strategic areas to break the plague.

In that respect I would like to answer the question raised by the delegate of Tunisia on the common fund for Maghreb. The first contribution has been made by the Islamic Development Bank to the amount of US \$ 1 million. I think this fund will get an even more complete form now with these preparations for the strategic task forces and it can become an important element in it. We will strongly endorse the initiative of this common fund. This is closely linked with our Regional Campaign for the Control of Desert Locusts in North West Africa. We have taken good note of the remarks made on the importance of meteorology in this whole work and a number of initiatives have been taken, as was noted by the delegate of Algeria in particular. We will continue to support these activities, strengthen it further, depending of course on the means that are also being made available to us or directly to activities of this type. Sometimes there is a little confusion in this whole campaign, that FAO are a little bit a donor agency through their Technical Cooperation Programme, but the overall magnitude of the funds required mean that that is only a very limited contribution in order to satisfy the overall needs.

The United Kingdom delegate asked when the next meeting will take place. I have already said that it will be at the end of January. I am not quite sure when, but probably in the last week of January there will be a meeting of all affected countries and donors to evaluate the campaign of 1988 and to plan the actions needed for 1989.

The United Kingdom delegate also raised the point on providing even more information. He specifically asked for a monthly report. The delegate of India supported this proposal. At this stage I would not like to commit ourselves in view of the tremendous amount of work we have already. We are looking into an improved distribution of the information we have to make it a more popular

presentation, a little bit less technical, and I am hopeful that this will satisfy the request put forward by the delegation of the United Kingdom. We continue of course to distribute our monthly technical report, but that is again a very technical report not always very comprehensible for a larger audience.

The question of pesticides was raised by the United Kingdom, Portugal and others. We are continually looking at new alternatives, new pesticides. We are aware of the need to find new products and when we do that we look very strongly particularly at the potential environmental impact that these pesticides can have and also of course the whole question of cost effectiveness of the campaigns. In fact in mid December we will have another meeting to evaluate the best of pesticides this year and eventually come up with recommendations on what should be done next.

A number of delegations, Peru among them, stressed the need to look for alternative control techniques. I reported in the introduction that we have looked at the research needs and I can now re-emphasize that work on biological control will have a very high priority and actions will be undertaken and that organizations and institutions will look into the matter. There will be another research meeting organized in Cairo by UNDP in the middle of December. There will be another research meeting in the middle of January next year in Paris organized by the Special Programme for African Agricultural Research. So this whole matter of research is receiving a considerable amount of attention. The number of meetings on this was also something that led to my remark that there is a need to avoid duplication of effort because sometimes we get a little concerned about too many of these initiatives which diffuse too much the various means available. But let me stress that we give high priority particularly to operational research to find solutions quickly. To answer the delegate of Tunisia, I do not know when these research efforts will lead to results. For example, the work on biological control will take at least four, five if not more years before practical results can be expected from that. Other research on improved pesticides, improved applications, can lead in one or two years to useful results.

The delegates of France and Kenya insisted on the long- and medium-term measures needed to strengthen the national and regional structures. We support them fully in these ideas and we try to take action on it although of course at this stage our main emphasis is on the emergency and to carry out as well as we can this desert locust control campaign and overcome the immediate problem.

While we are all aware of the invasion of the Caribbean, I do not think we need to expend too much on that. We are still hopeful that the desert locust will not establish itself in the Caribbean in view of the environmental conditions, it is probably too humid. We have so far not received a report that breeding takes place so they may die a natural death there. But we will continue to follow the matter closely, we will have to follow it closely in order to be absolutely sure that they will not establish themselves there definitely.

It was also mentioned that they may spread further into Latin America. The desert locust is really an animal of the semi-arid tropics. It will not grow in the very humid tropics and it will also not grow in the cold environment of Europe in particular. There may be incidental invasions of Southern Europe and some may even spread south into humid tropical areas. If they go there I think they will probably die very quickly and that gives us less locusts to control.

I agree with the delegate of Zambia that we have not given attention in this presentation to the other locust species. A number of them, the African migratory locust and the red locust, are of some concern, but we have every ten days in our bulletins a special paragraph on these locusts and try to keep everybody informed as we do on the desert locust situation.

We have noted the specific request for help from a number of countries, Lebanon, Zambia and some others.

I think I have answered most of the questions.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie en votre nom le Dr. Brader et le Dr. Bonte-Friedheim pour l'information qu'ils nous ont donnée; cette discussion a été très intéressante et nous a permis de mesurer l'ampleur du phénomène; je suis, je pense, l'interprète de certains membres lorsque je dis que le Conseil enregistre avec satisfaction le travail fait par le Secrétariat l'année passée pour répondre au danger acridien, et qu'il apprécie l'élan de solidarité internationale qui s'est manifesté en 1988 et qui se traduit par des engagements de l'ordre de 117 millions de dollars.

Malgré tous ces efforts, force est de constater que la situation s'est aggravée et que les prévisions pour 1989 sont particulièrement préoccupantes. Comme vous le savez, le Conseil a fait appel à la communauté internationale pour que les pays atteints puissent disposer des moyens techniques, humains et financiers leur permettant de faire face à ce fléau qui, dans des conditions acceptables et sérieuses, a pris une ampleur exceptionnelle.

Suite à la suggestion de M. Bonte-Friedheim, il faudrait demander à notre comité de rédaction d'essayer d'analyser les différentes résolutions de 1988 - l'appel de Fez, les décisions qui ont suivi la réunion d'Islamabad - de les récapituler de sorte qu'elles émaneraient aussi de notre Conseil, tant il est vrai que tout le monde a reconnu que la FAO joue un rôle central de leader dans cette action. Il est donc normal et nécessaire que soient consignées dans le rapport toutes les recommandations et les lignes directrices de travail, et que cela y figure de façon complète, peut-être pas sous forme de résolution mais tout au moins de manière officielle.

Tous les Etats Membres ont admis le rôle central, le rôle de leader dévolu à la FAO dans le cadre de cette lutte contre le criquet pèlerin, tout le monde a admis que le criquet pèlerin ne connaît pas de frontière et que la lutte contre ce fléau implique une coordination au niveau régional comme à celui des pays donateurs et des pays bénéficiaires.

Il est bon que l'on dise que le Conseil a insisté sur la nécessité de promouvoir, de la part de la FAO et d'un grand nombre de pays, une action pour la prévention contre ces invasions; cette action peut prendre plusieurs formes, que cela soit le renforcement des prévisions acrido-météorologiques, que cela soit la mise sur pied d'actions de surveillance et d'alerte rapide, que ce soit la coordination d'un programme de recherche avec les institutions et les instituts des pays développés pour organiser une action préventive.

Ce sont quelques idées qui ont prévalu dans cette réunion et il est très important que dans notre rédaction finale nous puissions mettre le maximum d'éléments sur ce dossier.

Ceci étant, et compte tenu du retard que nous avons sur notre calendrier (le Conseil siégeant un jour de moins que d'habitude, et ne travaillant ni le samedi ni le dimanche), compte tenu du programme très chargé et des questions qui nous attendent, que cela soit la réforme du Comité financier et du programme, que cela soit les comptes vérifiés, toutes ces questions sont très importantes et nous vous proposons de continuer vos travaux aujourd'hui avec une première lecture du document sur la sécurité alimentaire mondiale; je suggère que nous prenions également demain nos précautions pour travailler jusqu'à huit heures du soir. Nous avons à étudier des textes tels que celui sur les forêts, le rôle des femmes dans le développement, et vous savez tous que l'an dernier en juin beaucoup de délégations au Conseil (je pense au Canada entre autres) ont insisté pour que ce sujet soit étudié à bras le corps par la FAO; la Conférence générale l'a confirmé dans l'une de ses résolutions; et ce sont des questions qui méritent toute notre attention.

Le Comité de rédaction se réunira samedi pour pouvoir rattraper un peu le retard pris par le Conseil.

Ceci étant, je vous propose de passer la présidence de ce Conseil à M. Rudolf de Pourtalès qui est notre Vice-Président et qui conduira ces débats sur la sécurité alimentaire mondiale.

Rudolf de Pourtalès, Vice-Chairman of the Council, took the chair.

Rudolf de Pourtalès, Vice-Président du Conseil, assume la présidence.

Ocupa la presidencia Rudolf de Pourtalès, Vicepresidente del Consejo.

US PRESIDENT: Honorables délégués, permettez-moi tout d'abord de vous remercier pour la confiance que vous m'avez octroyée en me nommant Vice-Président de cette session du Conseil.

5. Report of the Thirteenth Session of the Commission on World Food Security (Rome, 13-19 April 1988)
5. Rapport de la treizième session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (Rome, 13-19 avril 1988)
5. Informe del 13 periodo de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Muindial (Roma 13-19 de abril de 1988)

LE PRESIDENT: Nous allons traiter maintenant le point 5 de l'ordre du jour: le Rapport de la treizième session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale. J'aimerais vous demander d'être à la fois concis et précis au cours de vos interventions, d'une part vu l'heure avancée, et d'autre part vu la présence très limitée que nous avons du Président du Comité de la Sécurité alimentaire parmi nous, et également en vue de donner au Secrétariat et au Comité de la Sécurité alimentaire des orientations précises pour la suite de leurs activités.

J'aimerais commencer par donner la parole au Président du Comité de la Sécurité alimentaire, M. P.A.L. De Rijk.

P.A.L. DE RIJK (Chairman, Committee on World Food Security): Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates and observers, I am pleased to introduce Agenda Item 5 - document CL 94/10 - the Report of the Thirteenth Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS).

The CFS at its Thirteenth Session held in Rome, 13-19 April 1988, dealt with a number of important issues. Firstly, in accordance with its mandate, it assessed the current world food security situation and the recent policy developments. Secondly, with a view to learning from experiences of developing countries in their efforts to improve food security and in line with the Conference recommendation to step up FAO's food security policy advice at a national level, the Committee considered case studies of two African countries: Tanzania and Niger. Thirdly, the Committee reviewed approaches and specific measures pursued by developing countries to improve access to food by the poor. Finally, Mr. Chairman, the Committee reviewed the activities and future orientation of the Food Security Assistance Scheme (FSAS) taking into account its expanded terms of reference. I would like to report on the Committee's deliberations on these four items, in turn.

On the basis of the information available at the beginning of April this year, which permitted only a preliminary assessment of the 1988-89 demand/supply balance, the Committee, expressed concern at the anticipated large decline in global cereal stocks. It noted further, that total world cereal consumption was expected to be above total world production for a second consecutive year, so that in the 1988-89 season the level of world stocks could be less than 17-18 percent of world consumption, the minimum level considered necessary to safeguard world food security. Indeed, it has now been confirmed that world cereal stocks at the end of the current season are expected to be at about 16 percent of anticipated world consumption in 1989-90.

Thus, the member-governments of the Committee expressed concern at the anticipated and probably unique insight into the emerging precarious world food security situation, and indeed this was at a time when this potential problem was not yet foreseen by other bodies.

The Committee also considered the analysis contained in the Secretariat document on longer term trends in food production in developing countries and expressed its serious concern about the decline in per caput staple food production in 64 out of 114 food-deficit developing countries during the period 1970-86. It underlined the necessity to reverse these unfavourable trends and urged that the highest priority be accorded to the development of the food and agricultural sector of the low-income food-deficit countries and to the formulation of suitable policy frameworks to achieve it. The Committee pointed out in this regard that the financing of development, and stable conditions for a growing and liberalized trade, are indispensable for sustained economic growth and food security.

The Committee also urged that in the formulation and implementation of food and agricultural policies, environmental issues should be taken into account. In this connection, it underlined the importance of maintaining the environmental balance through conservation of soil, water and forest resources, and requested that the effects of ecological problems on food security be included in the future work of the Committee.

A new subject in the Committee's work was the consideration of national food security policies and programmes. At this Session it considered the experience of Niger and Tanzania in their efforts to achieve food security, on the basis of documents which had been prepared by the Secretariat in collaboration with the countries concerned. The Committee commended the two governments for making continued efforts to improve the food security and standard of living of their population, and noted that both countries had demonstrated flexibility and adaptability to changing circumstances in their approach to food security.

A number of policy issues were highlighted by these case studies which needed to be considered in the process of developing national food security policies and strategies. These included, inter alia, the appropriate relationship between state marketing agencies and the private sector; the role of cooperatives in the production and marketing of agricultural commodities; the importance of overcoming bottlenecks in the marketing infrastructure; the constraints on implementing incentive pricing policies; the role of the agricultural export crops in food security; and the importance of macro-economic policies and external economic factors in determining the success of food security policies. The Committee agreed that no unique guideline on these policy issues would be applicable to all countries and that the strategy and the choice of appropriate policies would depend on the specific situation of each country. In this connection, it underlined that efforts to improve national food security should be an integral part of an overall economic development strategy which should, inter alia, take into account resource endowments, comparative advantage, population growth and ecological factors.

The Committee considered that developing countries could take advantage of FAO's experience in food security policy advice in the formulation of their food security policies and programmes, as well as in strengthening the data and information base needed for the development of such policies and programmes. It also requested the Secretariat to continue to undertake additional national food security case studies for consideration at future sessions.

In its consideration of the document dealing with measures to improve access to food by the poor, the Committee stressed that as poverty was at the root of the problem of hunger and malnutrition, the long-term solution must lie in increasing the rate of economic growth, a better distribution of income and improved access to the means of production. In addition, it recognized that along with such longer-term measures, programmes that could have an immediate effect on the distribution of food supplies to the poor were also needed.

The Committee, noting the wide variety of instruments which have been used by developing countries to improve access to food, agreed that such interventions needed to be tailored to the specific circumstances of each country or geographical area involved. It stressed the importance of targeting and cost-effectiveness considerations in the design and implementation of measures to improve access. However, it was felt that experience so far and the complexity of the problem did not permit the drawing up of guidelines for programme design which could be applied universally.

The Committee considered that the subject required further research and analysis, especially for the development of specific indicators to identify the target groups, more specific measurements of the cost-effectiveness and viability of different interventions, and in-depth case studies of different country experiences. It also recognized that structural adjustment programmes could have a negative impact on access to food by the poor, and urged that special measures be taken to overcome such effects. The Committee requested the Secretariat to carry out an analysis of the impact of structural adjustment programmes on food security, in cooperation with other international bodies working in this field.

An important item in the agenda of the Thirteenth Session of the CFS was the review of the activities of the Food Security Assistance Scheme (FSAS) and proposals for its future orientation following the recommendations of the external evaluation team for the Scheme. The Committee recalled that the report of the external evaluation team had been presented to the 24th Session of the Conference in November 1987 and noted with satisfaction that the proposals for the Committee's consideration had taken into account many of the ideas and suggestions which had been made during the discussion at the Conference.

The Committee endorsed the gradual two-pronged approach to enable the FSAS to carry out the expanded mandate recommended by the external evaluation team. This approach would involve both the fielding of multidisciplinary missions to provide policy advice and assistance in the formulation of comprehensive national food security programmes, as well as continued activities in traditional areas of emphasis i.e. establishing and strengthening food security, food information and early warning systems, training of national staff involved in food security oriented activities, and technical assistance to national food agencies as well as to national food reserves.

The Committee stressed that national food security programmes should be developed in close consultation with recipient governments and underlined the need for cooperation with bilateral and multilateral donors, in particular the World Bank. The need for FAO to play a more prominent role in improving food security, particularly by proposing policy options based on a thorough and objective analysis of the problems was emphasized.

The Committee broadly endorsed the new terms of reference for FSAS to reflect the expanded concept of food security. It generally agreed that an enhanced policy advisory role of FSAS in regard to the three elements embodied in the wider concept of food security would be the most effective way for FAO to help countries in their efforts to strengthen food security. The Committee also generally agreed with the proposed structural arrangements. It recognized that the merger of the policy analysis and field activities within a single Service created the potential to raise the effectiveness of the Scheme in fulfilling its broadened mandate. The Committee endorsed the creation of an upgraded Steering Committee and of Country Task Forces, and welcomed the arrangements for increased consultations with donor countries.

Finally, the question of the frequency of the Committee's Session was brought up and discussed at some length. The Committee agreed that since its inception in 1975, it had evolved new ideas and concepts that were universally supported and had promoted national and international policies aimed at improving world food security. Most delegates felt that in view of the great importance of the subjects discussed at the Committee and the volatility of the world food security situation, the Committee should continue to hold annual meetings. Some other delegates, while agreeing with the important role of the Committee in food security matters, felt that there was merit in considering

the holding of only one session of the Committee in each biennium. Some of these delegates also suggested that, if a radical deterioration in the world food security situation were to occur, additional sessions of the Committee could be convened.

I referred earlier in my statement to the Committee's timely discussion and concerns about emerging food security situation in the light of the anticipated decline in world cereal stocks during the current season. Unfortunately, developments this year reconfirmed how volatile the world food security situation can be and how indispensable it is to have a regular forum to discuss emerging food security problems. And that is the CFS, this is the adequate forum where all member-governments could undertake this very important function. In view of the uncertainty surrounding the current world food security situation and the importance of the Committee's annual deliberations, I would like to mention that the Director-General has decided, in consultation with me, to convene the Fourteenth Session of the Committee in Rome from Monday 3rd April to Friday 7 April 1989, so in fact a shorter five-day period from Monday to Friday, in line with the preference expressed by the Committee.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie M. de Rijk, Président du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale.

Ms. Marasee SURAKUL (Thailand): I would like first of all to thank the Chairman of the Committee on World Food Security and the Secretariat for the lucid presentation.

To improve the world food situation, it is essential for each food-deficit country to give agricultural the highest policy priority. It is fully recognized that securing food for its people is the very foundation of that country's economics and social development because the food problem is not just an isolated economic issue, but it is closely related to the social and economic development of a country.

Therefore, the food deficit countries should accelerate the growth of food production. The strategies recommended are to utilize agriculture and human resources, such as the engagement of women, in food production; introduce policies conducive to developing food production and guaranteeing food supply; build up reserves; vigorously popularize existing agro-technology; effectively increase agricultural input; accelerate the development of food production; and try to improve self-reliance in food.

It is suggested that in addition to sufficiency of food, attention must be paid to food production and investment in agriculture should be made. Moreover, it is also necessary to monitor - along with the level of investments - secondary factors such as possibility for transport, port facilities and marketing which are needed for distribution.

We should not forget the fact that there are still some considerable gaps between developed and developing countries in food production, trade, reserves and consumption. While the number of hungry and malnourished people is increasing and the international trade of agricultural commodities has stagnated, protectionism hindering trade development is being reinforced. To lessen those gaps, world trade in grain should be improved and promoted for developing countries to develop their economies. The strategies are to rectify and prevent various restrictions and distortions in trade for agricultural commodities, to improve the terms for farm products of the developing countries to enter the market of developed countries, and to strengthen discipline in agricultural trade and expedite its liberalization.

Whilst the structure of production needs to be improved and liberalization of trade is to be promoted, it is also necessary for developing countries to take supplementary social measures, such as family planning, in order that population growth corresponds to the improvement in living standards and food availability.

Those are all of our comments and suggestions.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Nos complace, Sr. Vicepresidente, intervenir bajo su dirección esta noche. La mesa directiva elegida para el bienio 1988-89 encabezada por el Presidente de Rijk, de Países Bajos, presidió muy bien el décimotercer período de sesiones. La presentación del Sr. de Rijk ha sido clara e ilustrativa. Por tanto, nuestros comentarios se limitarán a los asuntos que requiere la atención del Consejo.

Apoyamos plenamente el párrafo 8, en cuanto a la necesidad de que en la evaluación de la situación de la seguridad alimentaria, se ofrezcan más informaciones sobre las consecuencias negativas que se derivan de la deuda externa y el proteccionismo. Son elementos que vienen incidiendo negativa y profundamente en la seguridad alimentaria y deben ser analizados muy a fondo.

Es evidente la interrelación que existe entre este tema y el anterior sobre el Estado Mundial de la Alimentación y de la Agricultura. De manera, que no vamos a repetir nuestros comentarios sobre los párrafos 9, 10, 11 y 13 del documento, cuyos conceptos apoyamos firmemente.

El párrafo 14 contiene algunas sugerencias específicas, que podrían contribuir a mejorar la seguridad alimentaria, y que debería incluirse en nuestro informe.

En el párrafo 15 se habla de nuevo del decenio perdido de los 80 y de la necesidad de establecer un Nuevo Orden Económico Internacional más justo y equitativo, conceptos que el Gobierno de Colombia comparte plenamente. Sobre las medidas para aumentar el acceso de la población pobre a los alimentos y en relación con los párrafos 31 y 42, que hacen referencia a América Latina y el Caribe, la delegación de Colombia se complace en comunicar al Consejo que la Conferencia sobre la Pobreza, citada en el párrafo 31 se realizó en la linda ciudad colombiana de Cartagena del 29 de agosto al 1º de septiembre pasados, con asistencia de alto nivel de los 33 países de la región y observadores de importantes países desarrollados y organizaciones internacionales.

En nombre del Gobierno de Colombia, queremos reiterar nuestro agradecimiento a la FAO por la activa y eficaz participación que los Representantes de nuestra Organización tuvieron en la preparación y en la realización de esa Conferencia, en la cual tuvo brillante desempeño nuestro amigo el Dr. Rafael Moreno, Subdirector General, Jefe del Departamento de Asuntos Económicos y Sociales.

La declaración final de la Conferencia sobre la Pobreza contiene muchos puntos relacionados con la agricultura y la alimentación. Confiamos en que la FAO ofrecerá su asistencia a los gobiernos de nuestra región para implementar esas iniciativas.

Sobre la frecuencia con que debe reunirse el CSA, nos complace la información que nos ha transmitido el Presidente Sr. de Rijk, en el sentido de que el Director General, y él de común acuerdo, han convocado el Comité para abril de 1989. Esto está justificado porque refleja la opinión de la mayoría de los miembros del Comité y, además, como lo acaba de recordar la distinguida colega de Thailandia, la gravedad de la situación así lo justifica.

Finalmente, Sr. Presidente, deseamos reiterar nuestro aprecio positivo a la labor que la FAO viene realizando en favor de incrementar la seguridad alimentaria.

No sólo en reuniones de la FAO, sino también en otros organismos, los delegados de Colombia hemos destacado la gran importancia del nuevo, ampliado y revisado concepto sobre la seguridad alimentaria; tuvimos discursos y hasta votos en el Consejo y en la Conferencia para lograr la aprobación del Pacto de Seguridad Alimentaria. Y ahora, aquí en el Consejo, como lo expresamos en el CSA, nos preguntamos con desencanto, ¿qué ha quedado de todo ello?. Al pobre Pacto no se le mencionó en ninguno de los documentos presentados al CSA, y en este informe sólo aparece citado el Pacto en medio del olvido, al final del párrafo 15 como referencia accidental.

Son hechos decepcionantes que confirman nuestra larga experiencia en el sentido de que en general, repetimos, en general, las organizaciones internacionales periódicamente suelen agitar propuestas para atraer la atención, pretextos para buscar apoyos, desplegar intensas campañas propagandísticas, y luego todo desaparece.

¿Acaso podría alguien de la Secretaría de la FAO decirnos en qué parte de los archivos, en qué viejo y empolvado escritorio dormirá el sueño de los justos, el tan controvertido y difícilmente aprobado Pacto de Seguridad Alimentaria?.

José Ramón LOPEZ PORTILLO ROMANO (México): Nos complace verle a usted presidiendo esta reunión de nuestro Consejo. Agradecemos al Presidente del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial su clara y amplia exposición y las informaciones nuevas y positivas que nos ha proporcionado.

La delegación mexicana desea reiterar la importancia de los planteamientos hechos en la reunión del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria aquí reportados, actualizados, por otra parte, en este Consejo y, en particular, lo relativo a la disminución de la producción de los alimentos en los países más pobres y al incremento de la desnutrición, así como al hecho de que la falta de financiamiento y de un comercio estable para el crecimiento económico sostenido impiden alcanzar la meta de la seguridad alimentaria en la gran parte, sino en la totalidad de los países en desarrollo. Asimismo me permito señalar los efectos nocivos que para los países en desarrollo tiene el pago del servicio de la deuda

externa, y hacer alusión a la declaración de un alto funcionario de mi Gobierno en el sentido de que, indudablemente, México, como otros países, no quiere una guerra de trincheras con la comunidad financiera internacional, pero los acreedores deben entender que tenemos el imperativo de crecer por todo tipo de razones, inclusive de tipo ético o, de lo contrario, podríamos, tendríamos que asumir una posición unilateral; es decir, se nos da el financiamiento o lo tendremos de alguna manera que tomar. La deuda externa constituye, probablemente, el principal obstáculo para consolidar el desarrollo nacional en el futuro cercano y hacer valer las estrategias de austeridad que ahora pesan, después de una década perdida para nuestro desarrollo.

Nuestro país no tendrá sin duda otra salida si no se le prestan los recursos necesarios, sino actuar por su cuenta, aunque claro esto no quisiera que implicara caer en la moratoria. El abrumador pago del servicio de la deuda ha originado que los citados países en desarrollo se conviertan en exportadores netos de capital, reduciendo así su disponibilidad de divisas para importar alimentos o insumos para producirlos.

Por otra parte, es necesario que los países en desarrollo incrementen su nivel de actividad agrícola. Para esto se requiere un mejoramiento del ambiente económico mundial, en particular que los países desarrollados reviertan su creciente tendencia proteccionista. La delegación mexicana desea señalar que en virtud de la disminución generalizada en la producción de alimentos básicos y de la insuficiencia de recursos en divisas para financiar importaciones se ha hecho evidente que los países en desarrollo quedan a expensas de donaciones que ofrecen otros países para hacer frente a la escasez de alimentos en situaciones de urgencia.

Asimismo, cabe señalar que los Programas de Ayuda Alimentaria directa, han jugado un papel relevante en situaciones graves, sin embargo para que estos constituyan una solución de fondo al problema alimentario, deben incluir acciones que apoyen directamente actividades agropecuarias, tales como políticas de financiamiento agrícola, asistencia técnica, investigación agrícola, organización y capacitación, así como comercialización.

La preocupación de la FAO por apoyar a los países en desarrollo para obtener su seguridad alimentaria, se materializa en existencia del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial, que propone otorgar máxima prioridad al desarrollo agrícola alimentario en los países de bajos ingresos mediante la formulación en el marco de políticas adecuadas que consideren mejoras tecnológicas para incrementar la productividad, mayores incentivos a la producción, asistencia y capacitación a productores, el fortalecimiento de cooperativas, servicios de créditos y mejoramiento de las instituciones de mercadeo.

Al respecto, así como el delegado de Colombia lo ha hecho, nos cuestionamos que ha ocurrido, qué progresos ha tenido el ejercicio y la vigencia del Pacto Mundial de Seguridad Alimentaria. Información al respecto se hace indispensable en vista de la urgencia que conlleva el ejercicio pleno de tal Pacto y los grandes esfuerzos políticos para su aprobación.

Nuestra política nacional en materia de seguridad alimentaria, coincide en los aspectos generales con aquéllos que ha propuesto reiteradamente la FAO, y, en consecuencia, apoyamos sus propuestas, ya que están dirigidas principalmente a fomentar el desarrollo agropecuario y lograr que la población en general se beneficie con ello. Sin embargo, debemos considerar que cada nación presenta una problemática específica, lo que obliga a elaborar diagnósticos particulares para cada país con el propósito de evaluar su potencial productivo y definir acciones acordes a sus necesidades. Ello deberá ser una tarea conjunta de la FAO con los gobiernos.

Mi delegación, Sr. Presidente, se opone firmemente a la tendencia de varios países desarrollados a utilizar los alimentos como instrumento de control o intimidación política, y se manifiesta a favor de una política de soberanía alimentaria que considere el derecho de cada país a decidir internamente en que alimentos desea ser autosuficiente y como lograrlo, y obtenga de la Comunidad Internacional aquéllos que necesita en los precios justos.

En ese sentido, y entre otras acciones, resulta indispensable que la FAO continúe estudios sobre la evolución, extensión, penetración e influencias de las empresas transnacionales. En la determinación de los precios internacionales y nacionales de productos agrícolas y alimentarios, el condicionamiento del comercio y del consumo y la transferencia de tecnología para la producción, procesamiento, comercialización, investigación y desarrollo de tales productos. Las empresas transnacionales llevan a cabo actividades que no responden generalmente a las prioridades e intereses nacionales, por el contrario, con frecuencia sus intereses y decisiones extranacionales condicionan, o aun suprimen, la soberanía alimentaria que postulamos.

La FAO preparó un estudio general al respecto para el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial y el Consejo de la FAO, que en su oportunidad discutimos y consideramos, y concluimos que era insuficiente, a pesar de la petición reiteradas de muchos miembros de continuar tales ejercicios y estudios, nada más se ha hecho por parte de nuestra Organización.

Consideramos que un monitoreo, un seguimiento permanente de la acción de las empresas transnacionales es fundamental para un diagnóstico acertado de la problemática de la seguridad alimentaria y para perfilar estrategias coherentes, para superar obstáculos estructurales, como los que pueden representar los intereses y acciones de tales empresas.

Pedimos al Director General que incluya este tema como uno permanente en la próxima y siguientes reuniones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria y Mundial y que se lleven las conclusiones de dicho Comité al Consejo y Conferencia próximos. Instamos a la Secretaría de no olvidar tampoco incorporar este importante asunto en el proyecto de informe que elaborará para este Consejo.

Por ultimo, Sr. Presidente, deseamos reiterar nuestro firme apoyo a que el Comité continúe reuniéndose anualmente y por eso expresamos nuestra complacencia por el anuncio que acaba de hacer el Presidente del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria.

Sra. Monica DEREGBUS (Argentina): Permítame en primer lugar, Sr. Presidente, expresar la complacencia de mi delegación por verle presidir nuestros trabajos en esta delicada cuestión.

Habiendo participado nuestra delegación en el décimo tercer período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial, en abril pasado quisiera intervenir sólo brevemente resaltando algunos aspectos del Informe que estimamos de especial importancia.

Coincidimos plenamente con lo expresado en los párrafos 14 y 15 del Informe del Comité y en la última parte del párrafo 8.

Respecto de la necesidad de aplicar mejoras tecnológicas para aumentar la productividad del sector agrícola en los países en desarrollo, mi Delegación se refiere a la parte pertinente de su intervención en el Tema 4, que resulta ocioso repetir en esta ocasión pero que espera se dé por reproducida. En lo que se refiere a la necesidad de creación de condiciones estables para un comercio creciente y liberalizado de productos agrícolas, también nos remitimos a la larga exposición que sobre el particular efectuáramos en el día de ayer.

Quisiéramos asimismo proponer que el Consejo adoptara las formulaciones que figuran en la penúltima oración del párrafo 15 sobre la deuda externa de los países en desarrollo, la primera oración del párrafo 30 sobre las causas del hambre y la malnutrición, la formulación del párrafo 32 sobre los programas de reajuste estructural, y la del párrafo 40 sobre la labor futura del PASA.

En cambio, lamentablemente, tenemos que expresar que disentimos con la afirmación contenida en la última oración del párrafo 38. Estimamos que el PASA constituye un instrumento útil pero que el reforzamiento de su función consultiva en materia de políticas, no será el más eficaz ni el único con que cuenta la FAO para ayudar a los países a mejorar su Seguridad Alimentaria.

En lo relativo a la situación de la Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial y a las novedades recientes en materia de políticas, nuestra Delegación se remite a las conclusiones a que arribara el reciente Período de sesiones del Grupo Intergubernamental sobre Cereales.

Hacemos nuestro asimismo el llamamiento que figura en el Informe de dicha reunión a los grandes países donantes para que adopten medidas especiales a fin de asegurar que no disminuirá el volumen de sus embarques de ayuda alimentaria como consecuencia del creciente aumento de precios de los cereales.

El anuncio efectuado por el Presidente del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial me eximiría de efectuar consideraciones con relación a la frecuencia de las reuniones del Comité. No obstante, me voy a permitir leer lo que había pensado expresar mi Delegación porque creo que puede llegar a ser útil para el futuro, una vez que la actual situación crítica sea superada.

"Como fuera correctamente recordado por el Presidente del Comité, éste en su último Período de sesiones previo las condiciones que actualmente prevalecen en el mercado internacional de cereales. Ello confirma, a juicio de nuestra Delegación, la utilidad de las labores del Comité. Estimamos que la situación actual requiere de un seguimiento adecuado. Por ello, no podemos endosar las propuestas que tienden a reducir la frecuencia de las reuniones del Comité sin que se prevea un mecanismo idóneo que asegure su rápida convocatoria en el caso de un agravamiento de la situación de la seguridad alimentaria mundial".

Angus MACDONALD (Australia): The Committee on Food Security was established with the mandate to help countries ensure that every person has access to the food that they need for themselves and their families. This, simply stated, is what we mean by food security and in its thirteen years of existence the Committee on Food Security has produced a range of commendable and worthwhile initiatives towards this end. We commend the latest initiatives described in the report before us.

My delegation believes that responsibility for ensuring the elimination of hunger lies primarily with national governments and we acknowledge individual sovereignty is involved in putting together the appropriate agricultural policy mix, the right rural development strategy and in setting the environment for the correct market incentives and price levels in order to allow for access to food by all. When governments falter in their approach we believe that the Committee has a role to play in offering advice and guidance.

The Thirteenth Committee of Food Security had before it two case studies - Tanzania and Niger. We found these studies to be most informative. However, we feel that greater analysis and concrete recommendations would have improved the exercise. We believe that future case studies should address these points.

While internal domestic mechanisms and policies must be in place to enhance food security we also recognize the importance of external factors in the whole equation. It will little benefit a country if, despite it being a most efficient producer of a particular export commodity, it is denied access to international markets or meets barriers to its free trading.

You will be pleased to hear that I will spare the Council another recitation of our views on this issue of free and liberal agricultural trading policies and the benefits which accrue to both developed and developing countries, even food importers, in following such a course. You will recall my colleague covered this matter very thoroughly this morning. Suffice to say we believe the Committee on Food Security has a role to play in both domestic and international dimensions of the problem.

Turning specifically to matters in the Committee's report requiring attention by this Council. We have given some attention to ways of improving the work of the Committee. Quite frankly we have felt that the debate in the last two CFS sessions have lacked some specific focus and substance despite the complete and thorough documentation provided for the Committee members by the secretariat and the importance of the issues before us then. In its wider sense food security is now partly caught up in the broader issues of international agricultural reform and trade liberalization. As such, it is under active consideration in other UN fora. Therefore, should we not be considering whether or not the undoubted importance and status of the Committee could be enhanced by a move to the biennialization of its regular meetings? By meeting once in two years, and not annually, we would better ensure that the fullest attention is paid to its deliberation (in capitals) and that its recommendations and pronouncements are given the intention and action they deserve. Of course, there would always be provision to resort to more frequent meetings if deterioration in the world food security situation demanded. We believe that this could be decided by the Director-General in consultation with the Committee bureau. A biennium session would also have the advantage of saving scarce FAO resources and ease the burden on an already heavily pressured secretariat. We believe that less urgent food security matters needing consideration in intermediate years perhaps could be put to the Committee on Agriculture or other appropriate fora for resolution.

We recognize that such a change would require an amendment to the rules of procedure, but of course the Conference would need to consider this issue in detail.

Regarding the other issues, we endorse the general thrust of proposed future studies by the Committee as stated in the document. We note the proposed measures to improve access to food by the poor. We believe that the single most significant contribution by the poor to improve access would be through government action to ensure the correct mix of market or intended agricultural development strategies in conjunction with poverty reduction programmes. However, to achieve this food and agriculture must be given the highest priority by the food deficit and food insecure countries involved.

Finally, we support the Food Security Assistance Scheme while recognizing that there are some problems which exist at the individual project level.

V.R. SIBAL (India): The issues to which we are to address ourselves are clearly focussed on page 2 of document CL 94/10. The Indian delegation agrees with the assessment of the world food security situation by the Committee on World Food Security. We share the committee's concern at the anticipated large decline in food stocks of developing countries and the serious deterioration in

the food security situation in a number of low-income food-deficit countries. The locust menace is costing a further shadow on the food security of these countries. This has accentuated the need for higher levels of food aid to enhance the food security and improving the access to food by the poor.

We agree that the highest priority needs to be given to the food and agricultural sector of the low-income food-deficit countries under a suitable policy framework and the efforts of these countries in this area need to be supported with adequate technical and financial assistance. We also support the need for action to bring about a better balance in the cereal markets and greater export market access to enable developing countries to earn the requisite foreign exchange to meet their needs. In view of the importance of food security for the developing countries and the rapid fluctuation in the global set-up for world food security, annual meetings of the committee are imperative so that the situation can be monitored closely and effectively. In this context we welcome the holding of the next meeting in April 1989.

We support the need to analyze the impact of structural adjustment programmes on access to food by the poor and the compensatory measures that may be required and hope that the Secretariat can come up with a paper on this subject in the next session of the committee.

Research for development on indicators and for identification of target groups for improving access to food by the poor, more precise measuring of the cost effectiveness and viability of different interventions also needs to be initiated early.

We agree with the new terms of reference for the FSAS and the new structural arrangements that have been put in place. These would have to be monitored closely so that they could be further refined to make them more effective. The responsibilities here under the new scheme are larger and would therefore need more funds.

We also agree that the Food Security Programme should give particular attention to ECDC and TCDC and greater attention also needs to be given to the food security of the lowest income groups in these countries.

We thank you, for the opportunity given to us to express our views on this subject.

Sra. Miriam IHZAULGARAT GARCIA de FEREZ (Cuba): Yo también le felicito por estar con nosotros presidiendo esta reunión de esta noche. El Informe que se presenta a este 94º Consejo de la FAO refleja los debates sostenidos durante las sesiones de este importante Comité, y mi Delegación lo apoya totalmente. El programa que se ofrecía en aquellas sesiones del mes de Abril motivaron serias reflexiones que, meses después, han confirmado la gravedad de la Situación Alimentaria Mundial, y que ya fueron señalados tanto por el Director General en su declaración, como por los documentos presentados por la Secretaría para el tema 4.

La persistencia de fenómenos naturales están provocando descensos en la producción agrícola y habrá menos alimentos. Son los pronósticos que nos llegan a través de los estudios autorizados de la FAO, sin que haya podido avanzarse en otros problemas acuciantes que los países en desarrollo hemos venido denunciando sistemáticamente y así se hizo en el pasado Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial: los efectos nocivos de la deuda externa y sus servicios, el proteccionismo y otros.

La Delegación cubana, en este 13º Período de Sesiones, solicitó que en el futuro los documentos de evaluación de la Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial contuvieran mayor información sobre ellos y se pronunciasen por la implantación de un Nuevo Orden Económico Internacional más justo. Mi Delegación reitera hoy esos planteamientos.

Permítame referirme a un tema analizado en otras reuniones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial y en Conferencias Generales de la FAO, y en el Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación. Se trata de condenar la utilización de los alimentos como instrumento de presión política, el bloqueo económico y el embargo comercial. La reciente Conferencia Regional de la FAO para América Latina también hizo suya esta condena.

Mi Delegación quiere referirse además a los estudios monográficos sobre el Programa de la Seguridad Alimentaria en los distintos países que despertó interés en el Comité.

Esos estudios, si bien no presentaban alternativas de soluciones en los casos enunciados, sí destacaban una serie de cuestiones de política que era preciso tener en cuenta en el proceso de formulación de políticas y estrategias nacionales en materia de Seguridad Alimentaria. Y se subrayó que los esfuerzos para mejorar la Seguridad Alimentaria deberían formar parte integrante de una estrategia de desarrollo económico global. Por otra parte, se resaltó que las reformas macroeconómicas y la reforma agraria contribuirían de manera importante a la equidad y a una mejor distribución de los suministros de alimentos disponibles.

La Delegación cubana reitera la importancia de la aplicación del Programa de Acción aprobado por la Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural que este informe señala. Por segunda vez en este 940 Consejo, expresamos la importancia y necesidad de contar con la FAO al analizarse los programas de ajuste estructural en lo concerniente al sector agrícola.

Queremos también referirnos al Plan de Asistencia para la Seguridad Alimentaria, PASA, que debe formularse en estrecha consulta con los Gobiernos beneficiarios y que su ejecución exige una intensificación de la presencia y acción de la FAO a nivel nacional en lo cual tendría una participación decisiva el Representante de la FAO en esos países. Otra solicitud sobre el PASA y que mi Delegación apoya, es la necesidad de que éste no sólo formule políticas internas en los países en desarrollo sino también incluya las repercusiones de los factores económicos externos como son la falta de acceso de nuestros productos a los mercados mundiales, el proteccionismo, la deuda externa y sus servicios, los bajos precios de los productos básicos y el deterioro de las relaciones de intercambio que afectan a la seguridad alimentaria en los países en desarrollo.

Por último permítame decirle que apoyamos la decisión de celebrar las reuniones de este Comité en 1989 en la forma que ha sido decidida por el Director General.

EL PRESIDENTE: Honorable Delegada: La pido disculpas por haberla calificado de Delegado y no Delegada.

Bashir EL MABROŪK SAID (Libya) (Original language Arabic): Mr. Chairman, we are indeed delighted to greet you and welcome you now that you are chairing this session. It gives us great pleasure to see you here guiding the work of Council during this session. I would also like to express my thanks to the Chairman of the Committee on World Food Security. He gave us a splendid introduction, and in view of the limited amount of time available I shall be as brief as possible.

My delegation is of the view that these issues which were studied at the Thirteenth Session of the Committee on World Food Security are very important issues indeed. My delegation endorses the consensus reached during this Thirteenth Session. We agree with the contents of the report. Nevertheless the assessment of the situation of world food security is such that a high-level evaluation is indeed an excellent idea and we are grateful to the Committee for having reached such a decision. We recognize the fact that the Committee has done its utmost to achieve the consolidation of national policies guaranteeing world food security.

I should like to draw your attention to a number of specific points that I should like to make in connection with what was said by Cuba and Mexico. I can tell you that the guaranteeing of food security for developing countries has deteriorated because of very negative situations which have affected world food security, as is already mentioned in this document. We would more than ever encourage the need to move towards a new international economic order and we agree with the Compact for Food Security which is referred to in paragraph 15. There is this reference at the end of paragraph 15 to the World Food Security Compact.

We have to take into account the changes in economic and political conditions and it is necessary to have an appropriate assessment of these conditions. There is also a need to have close contact and consultations between governments and donor countries and all those other countries which may be benefiting from these services. We believe that all of them should be consulted. This was mentioned by our friend the head of the Indian delegation. So we reiterate with great enthusiasm our appeal that the Committee should meet every year as has been the case, and for all the various reasons that have been mentioned by other speakers.

Mme Evelyne SENGSWAN (France): Monsieur le Président, ma délégation se félicite de vous voir présider l'examen de ce point de l'ordre du jour. Je souhaiterais centrer mon intervention sur deux points importants qui relèvent de la compétence de ce Conseil.

En premier lieu, le Comité s'est déclaré préoccupé par la baisse de la production alimentaire par habitant dans un grand nombre de pays en développement et ses conséquences sur la consommation, c'est-à-dire la sous-alimentation et la faim. Je souhaite insister sur plusieurs éléments pouvant contribuer à renverser ces tendances.

Un premier point concerne la nature des politiques agricoles. La France soutiendra toute action visant à accroître la cohérence des politiques agricoles et alimentaires nationales autour de l'objectif de l'autosuffisance. Le développement des productions nationales de denrées alimentaires doit en effet constituer l'axe central des politiques de sécurité alimentaire. Recourir systématiquement au marché mondial constitue une fausse solution et amènerait à l'abandon d'un grand nombre de productions sans espoir, à l'orientation de l'activité agricole vers d'autres productions ou au transfert des ruraux vers d'autres activités non agricoles.

Un second point concerne la coordination régionale des politiques. Ainsi l'objectif d'une plus grande autosuffisance reste prioritaire. Il nous apparaît que cet objectif peut-être grandement favorisé par l'harmonisation et la coordination des politiques agricoles nationales au sein d'espaces régionaux. En effet, la coordination des politiques nationales en matière de prix à la production, de consommation, de taxation et de politiques douanières, autrement dit la constitution d'espaces régionaux protégés, peut contribuer grandement à l'obtention de la sécurité alimentaire. La mise en place de telles structures permettra de conduire une politique efficace de protection contre les importations à bas prix de céréales. La France soutient tout développement des échanges intrarégionaux entre pays en développement.

Le troisième élément de cette réflexion concerne l'aide alimentaire. En matière d'aide alimentaire, je rappellerai que la France considère que cette aide ne vient constituer qu'un volet limité d'une politique de sécurité alimentaire. En tout état de cause, lorsqu'elle se révèle nécessaire, elle devrait à notre sens prendre les formes suivantes: l'aide alimentaire doit être intégrée dans des projets de développement et des plans de développement; les aides sous forme de transactions triangulaires sont à encourager. La France a récemment réalisé des opérations de ce type, notamment avec le Zimbabwe et le Malawi, le Mali et la Mauritanie.

Le second point de mon intervention concerne les effets des politiques d'ajustement structurelles. On parle beaucoup actuellement, et non sans raison, des effets sociaux négatifs de l'ajustement. En premier lieu, il conviendrait d'améliorer l'information dont on peut disposer sur ces problèmes en engageant les études nécessaires à la détermination de l'incidence des programmes d'ajustement sur l'accès des pauvres à la nourriture. La France, par conséquent, soutient les activités que mènera la FAO dans ce domaine. Nous considérons que l'objectif d'une telle démarche ne doit pas être de colmater les effets négatifs de programmes d'ajustement qui sont certes justifiés. Mais au contraire, nous considérons que ces analyses doivent permettre de définir les programmes d'ajustement structurels en tenant compte de leurs conséquences sociales. Nous nous interrogeons sur l'utilisation qui sera faite de ces évaluations, si elles conduisent à la conclusion que les effets négatifs de la diminution de la demande annuleraient les effets positifs attendus des réformes.

L'essentiel n'est pas ici l'adoption de mesures palliatives en faveur de tel ou tel groupe particulièrement défavorisé. La définition de nouveaux programmes d'ajustement permettant un retour à la croissance, y compris de certains secteurs jugés prioritaires, devrait être l'objectif central de toute démarche dans ce domaine. Par son expérience et ses compétences, la FAO devrait contribuer de manière active aux réflexions menées pour résoudre ces problèmes avec les autres institutions multilatérales et bilatérales compétentes.

Enfin, pour terminer cette intervention, ma délégation rappellera qu'elle est favorable à la tenue d'une session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale chaque année. La situation alimentaire est par nature instable et mérite aussi chaque année une étude attentive.

Igor KIPMAN (Brazil): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On behalf of my delegation I am pleased to express our satisfaction to have you, sir, chairing the Council during discussion of this agenda item. I begin by thanking Mr. de Rijk for the clear and comprehensive introduction of the report. The Thirteenth Session of the Committee on World Food Security was a very fruitful one, and debates held during that meeting dealt with issues of the utmost importance for developing countries.

Even though running the risk of repeating some aspects my delegation already mentioned during discussion of agenda item 4, I consider it important to call the Council's attention to the contents of paragraphs 15 and 16 which underline the strong impact of adverse external economic factors on the food security situation in developing countries, such as restrictions on access to markets, the heavy burden of external debt servicing, low prices for export products, deteriorating terms of trade, as well as the development of substitute products.

Almost all delegations expressed their concern regarding the protectionist policies adopted by a number of developed countries which are detrimental to global economic growth and food security.

Regarding the external debt crisis I can shorten my intervention, by supporting the views expressed by the distinguished delegate of Mexico. As to the frequency of the CFS meeting, Mr. Chairman, my

delegation was pleased to learn its Fourteenth Session will be convened in 1989, since that was the will expressed by the great majority of the members of the Committee.

The great relevance of the subjects discussed and the volatility of the world food security situation are to be taken into account, and information delivered during the discussion of previous items of the current session of the Council, as well as the Director-General's opening remarks, seem to confirm that since the Thirteenth Session of the CFS circumstances in the world supply of food have already changed enough to confirm the wisdom of such a decision.

Discussion on item 4 of the Agenda of the Thirteenth Session of CFS was also very important. Measures to improve access to food by the poor. It goes without saying that such is a key issue not only in that Committee but, in fact, in the backbone of FAO activities, and the main concern of any country.

As it was agreed by the Committee, improving access of food by the poor is of vital importance, Mr. Chairman. I dare say, however, that even more important than that is reducing poverty so that we would not have to worry about people not having access to food. In that case, of course, there would not be a need for any meetings of the CFS. I am sure all member countries of the Organization would agree to that.

Dong QINGSONG (China) (Original language Chinese): The Chinese delegation carefully studied the Report of the Thirteenth Session of the Committee on World Food Security. An objective analysis is given in the report of the food security situation in the world, attesting to the success of the deliberations of the Thirteenth Session of the Committee on World Food Security. We endorse the report and hope that the Council will approve it. However, seven months after the meeting, the global food situation has changed unfavourably. The major food producers and exporters in North America have experienced a drastic decline in food production as a result of the drought, rendering the food security situation all the more serious for this year. According to the forecast by the end of this year, the world food reserve will have declined from 400 million tonnes of last year to 283 million tonnes, accounting for only 16 percent of the consumption needs for next year. It is the first time since the world food crisis in 1972/74 that the food reserve will fall below the minimum level considered by FAO to be necessary for ensuring world food security. The present world food security is marked by an aggravating hunger against the backdrop of food supplies.

Therefore, it is only fitting and proper that the Thirteenth Session took this important item on the agenda. We believe that work in the following three areas will be of practical importance to the promotion of world food security.

Firstly, it is essential to formulate and implement food security plans. As is well-known, the work in this regard has already begun in some countries, regions, or sub-regions, and results have been achieved. The food security of today is a global issue which is a source of great concern by the international community. It is our view that, in order to solve the problem completely, it is necessary that member countries and the international community at large take planned and concerted actions at all levels, and arrangements be made as far as production, circulation, distribution and final consumption with a view to ensuring food security.

Secondly, we find ourselves in total agreement with a view expressed in paragraph 15 of document CL 94/10. Some external factors are exerting serious and active influence on the food security of developing countries. To overcome these external factors is a complicated matter. However, the problem can be solved if all the parties concerned can take into account the need to invigorate world agriculture and take practical and sound measures, particularly those measures that offer preferential and discriminatory treatment to low-income deficit food countries, and these problems can be solved finally.

One of the main causes behind the uncertainty that characterizes the food security situation of developing countries, is the weak foundation of food and agriculture production. The overcoming of this fragile ability requires, on the one hand, the countries' concerned to make their own efforts and, on the other hand, the international community to provide technical and financial assistance which should help recipient countries to get over present difficulties and, at the same time, improve their production capabilities in the long run.

We have taken note of the discussion by the Committee on Food Security at its Thirteenth Session on the frequency of its meetings. Given the uncertainty in the world food security situation, we consider it necessary for us to have one meeting a year for the time being.

Luka RADOJOCIC (Yugoslavia): With regard to the Report of the Thirteenth Session of the Committee on World Food Security, I would like to state that the Yugoslav delegation supports the Report of this Committee and commends the positive trends in its work, particularly with regard to channelling the activities for ensuring world food security, especially in low-income and food-deficient countries.

Our country attaches great importance to the work of the Committee bearing in mind the benefits derived from it so far, as well as its role in mobilizing public opinion to deal with topical problems in the area of world food security. For this reason we feel that it is important that the Committee meet once a year.

We share the deep concern and regret that the world food situation continues to be characterized by the contrast between the abundance of food on the one hand and hunger and malnutrition on the other. Particularly worrisome is the continued trend of lower per capita food production and consumption, which certainly aggravates the problem of hunger and malnutrition in the world, and imposes the need of extending greater food aid to the afflicted countries.

We support the stance of the Committee that food must not be used as a political weapon, and particularly its recommendations for exerting efforts to improve national policies so that food security should be an integral part of the economic development strategy of developing countries.

Hasim OGUT (Turkey): I would like to extend my delegation's thanks to the Chairman of the CFS for his very clear and comprehensive statement which enabled us to refresh our memories of what took place at this Session and the main points contained in the report.

My delegation notes with satisfaction that the report of the Thirteenth Session of the CFS represents in a balanced manner most of the views expressed at the Session, including those of my delegation. I therefore can limit my intervention to stressing certain observations and conclusions which are of particular interest to us.

Firstly, I wish to call the attention of the Council to Paragraphs, in particular Paragraphs 9 and 10 which refer to the declines in global cereal stocks due to production failures and certain policies. These paragraphs touch also upon the deteriorating situation in developing countries with respect to production, consumption and stocks of staple foods and portray even a more disturbing picture in this regard. Our assessment of the State of Food and Agriculture in 1988 at this Council Session has likewise confirmed this undesirable development. My delegation, noting with concern this situation, calls on the concerned governments and the international community to intensify efforts to redress this situation in the light of the broadened concept of world food security.

We agree with the Committee's view that large-scale actions are needed first to deal with the adverse consequences of the present world food security situation under human nutrition and welfare. More importantly, joint efforts are needed to cope with the factors causing reduction in the capacity of countries and persons to produce or to buy food. In this connection, I would like to emphasize the need for the elimination of external factors leading to distortions in the international commodity markets as mentioned in Paragraphs 15 and 16 in view of their unquestionable adverse effect on the food security of developing countries, particularly low-income food deficit countries.

As for the future work of the Committee and the frequency of its sessions, my delegation feels that of the subjects suggested for future works the one entitled "Effects of Food Security on Structural Adjustment Programmes" deserves high priority as such programmes are presently widely implemented by many countries and their adverse consequences are mostly felt in the form of additional nutritional problems among the poorer sectors of population.

Coming to the frequency of the sessions of the CFS, we share the view of those delegations who stressed the need for examining the world food security situation at annual intervals. We are pleased to learn from the Chairman that the Director-General and the Chairman himself have agreed to hold the next session in April 1989. However, noting that some delegations could not associate themselves with this procedure and that this subject was suggested to be put on the agenda of the Programme or the Finance Committee we would like to put forth the following proposal for consideration at an eventual discussion in the Programme and Finance Committee. The Committee should meet annually but one of the sessions in a biennium could be held in a host country, preferably in the country whose food security policies and programmes are to be discussed at the session as a case study. In this way, case studies themselves could be made even more useful and meaningful.

I would like to conclude by saying that my delegation endorses the Report of the Fourteenth Session of the CFS and recommends that it be approved by the Council in full.

Roger PASQUIER (Suisse): Pour faire gagner un peu de temps j'ai le plaisir de parler au nom de deux délégations, celle de la Suisse et celle des Pays-Bas.

Les délégations de nos deux pays ont pris connaissance avec beaucoup d'intérêt du rapport de la 13ème session du Comité de la Sécurité alimentaire mondiale. Si ce rapport reflète bien les débats du Comité, nos délégations ne peuvent se cacher que les résultats de ces débats restent en-dessous de leur attente, malgré la présidence efficace de M. de Rijk. On aurait beaucoup de peine à tirer des conclusions concrètes et utiles aux Pays Membres de ce document.

La partie consacrée à la situation de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale contient un catalogue d'éléments qui ont tous leur importance à divers degrés selon les pays pour la sécurité alimentaire, mais nous aurions souhaité que le Comité soit en mesure de mieux lier les éléments pour en faire un tout logique donnant une orientation au Secrétariat pour son travail futur.

Pour nos délégations, la Sécurité alimentaire reste toutefois une responsabilité essentiellement nationale, comme l'ont souligné plusieurs délégations avant moi. La présentation des monographies sur les programmes de sécurité alimentaire de Tanzanie et du Niger nous semble un exercice qui procède d'une bonne intention, mais qui est resté trop superficiel.

Nos délégations aimeraient proposer d'intensifier cet exercice, comme elles l'ont indiqué à la session du Comité et suggèrent que, pour approfondir les débats, le pays faisant l'objet d'une monographie et qui choisit de la présenter au Comité invite un nombre limité de pays de toutes les régions, environ une douzaine de pays au total, à étudier le dossier en détail. Un tel exercice permettrait d'intensifier les échanges d'expériences et serait plus profitable aussi bien pour les pays examinés que pour les autres pays membres.

Le problème de l'accès des pauvres à la nourriture concerne pratiquement tous les pays du monde, même certains pays très riches qui ont naturellement plus de ressources pour le résoudre. Les échanges d'expériences, notamment sur l'identification des groupes cibles et les méthodes d'intervention, devraient à notre avis être intensifiés, non seulement entre les organisations internationales qui traitent de ce problème, mais également entre les pays afin de rationaliser l'approche et éviter que des groupes dans le besoin soient ignorés.

Finalement, en ce qui concerne le rôle du programme d'assistance pour la sécurité alimentaire, la délégation suisse et la délégation des Pays-Bas aimeraient aborder deux aspects complémentaires l'un de l'autre. Ces deux aspects sont, d'une part le renforcement des capacités de la FAO à offrir les services efficaces aux pays membres dans le cadre du concept élargi de la sécurité alimentaire, et d'autre part les relations entre la FAO, ces pays membres et d'autres organisations comme la Banque mondiale, les banques régionales, le PNUD, etc.

En ce qui concerne le premier aspect, nous constatons avec satisfaction que des mesures concrètes ont été prises pour donner suite aux recommandations de la mission d'évaluation et de divers organes de la FAO qui ont examiné ce problème.

Afin que l'unité chargée du PASA soit en mesure de faire un travail réaliste et utile aux pays membres, elle doit être en mesure de profiter des expériences de tous les services de la FAO qui, directement ou même indirectement, peuvent apporter une contribution utile, par exemple la division des ressources humaines et les services occupant des technologies alimentaires.

Lors de la dernière session du Groupe intergouvernemental sur les céréales, on a évoqué dans la même optique le rôle que peut jouer l'alimentation animale pour l'équilibre de la production et l'approvisionnement en céréales.

Nous aimerions également souligner l'importance des statistiques dans les pays comme base de travail.

Tous ces éléments, et d'autres encore, doivent pouvoir être pris en compte pour la formulation de politiques viables de sécurité alimentaire.

Nous pensons aussi que les équipes spéciales par pays (en anglais task forces) devraient être mises en place rapidement pour permettre un travail efficace.

D'autres ajustements des structures internes de la FAO seront peut-être proposés par les experts et les sociétés d'études qui examinent actuellement l'Organisation. Il conviendra d'en tenir compte, le moment venu, pour assurer une efficacité optimale du travail.

En ce qui concerne le deuxième aspect que je viens d'évoquer, voici notre opinion.

S'il est indispensable que la FAO démontre sa capacité, il est aussi important que les pays fassent appel à cette capacité, comme l'a souligné le Directeur général dans son allocution au début de la présente session.

J'aimerais illustrer ce propos en comparant la préparation et la mise en oeuvre d'une politique de sécurité alimentaire par un pays à la construction d'une maison par un particulier. Si je veux construire une maison, j'ai besoin de deux éléments majeurs: un architecte et une banque pour compléter mes ressources. Il ne me viendrait jamais à l'esprit de demander à ma banque le plan de construction pour cette maison, ni à l'architecte de financer cette maison. La FAO doit jouer le rôle de l'architecte, mais pas du banquier. De même une institution financière devrait servir de banquier, mais pas en même temps d'architecte. Une concentration d'influences savoir le rôle de l'architecte et du banquier dans une seule institution, ne nous paraît pas saine.

E. Wayne DENNEY (United States of America): Mr. Chairman, we would join with others in congratulating you, as well as Mr. di Rijk for introducing this item and, more importantly, we feel Mr. de Rijk did an excellent job of serving as Committee Chairman.

The United States actively participated in the Thirteenth Session of the Committee on World Food Security. In our view, the report accurately reflects what transpired during the meeting. Discussions were professional and sincere. Whilst not everyone was satisfied with the case studies on national food security programmes, there was widespread support for doing additional case studies taking into account suggestions made by the Committee. Most members felt that preparation of case studies would enable the Committee to address real world issues and offer practical solutions.

Perhaps the most important item discussed was improving access to food by the poor. Discussions once again revealed the difficulty associated with identifying vulnerable groups and targeting meaningful programmes for their benefit.

The United States and several other countries referred to the possibility of convening the CFS on a biennial basis. Paragraphs 20 and 45 accurately portray the sentiments of various countries on that issue. In this context, the United States believes that the length and frequency of all meetings, including the CFS, should be periodically reviewed.

Comments made by the United States during the Thirteenth Session were similar to those expressed earlier by Australia, but before we render further judgement on the matter we want to see what recommendations are made by the high-level group of experts.

Regarding comments relating to the status of the World Food Security compact, we would tend to believe that Ambassador Bula Hoyos of Colombia may have been right in suggesting that it appears to have been merely a proposal to attract attention.

Finally, we question the advisability of making a decision to reassess the role of trans-national corporations on a regular basis. Given proposals made at the Thirteenth CFS for specific agenda items to be addressed, the FAO reviews underway and concerns expressed about the frequency of future CFS sessions, we believe it is premature to consider such a decision at this time.

Noboru SAITO (Japan): My delegation fully agrees that whilst the prime responsibility for resolving food programmes in developing countries lies in their own efforts, assistance from international society to support their efforts is also important. Bearing this in mind, my Government attaches the highest priority to the increase of food production through agricultural assistance to food deficient countries. It also attaches high priority to food aid as a transitional or urgent measure for all low-income food deficient countries. My country is of the basic viewpoint that the principal role of agricultural policies is that of securing a stable food supply for the people. With this in mind, my country is endeavouring firstly to maintain the domestic supply and capacity for basic foodstuffs; secondly to secure a stable import; and thirdly to keep an adequate reserve of major cereals in preparation for an emergency.

Whilst the improvement in access to food by the poor should be approached basically under national long-term programmes relating to the economy, employment and income-generation of each country as a whole, urgent measures to assist the poor are also important. There are a number of policies and measures to meet the objectives mentioned above. It is vital that those measures be taken, placing priority on encouraging the efforts of the poor to overcome poverty for themselves.

My delegation also appreciates FAO's having placed priority in the FSAS to promote relevant activities and hopes that the recipient countries themselves will endeavour to consolidate domestic institutions and to strengthen follow-up action so as to achieve maximum effect with limited resources in the future, and that sufficient consideration will be given in order to keep efficient corporate relationships between FAO, other international organizations like UNDP, and donor countries.

As to the proposed structural arrangement for the intensification of FSAS activities, FAO's efforts for the reorganization should be conducted by the best use of current available financial as well as human resources. At the same time, it might also be important that those matters proposed by FAO be examined in the context of the review of FAO as a whole.

Finally, although my delegation agrees with the importance of committee work in this field, we suggest that biennial meetings would be preferable unless there is an urgent need to convene a meeting.

Hidayat Ganda ATMADJA (Indonesia): Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to see you chairing these deliberations.

The Indonesian delegation would like to join other delegates in endorsing the report of the Committee, and in commending the Committee for its comprehensive report and sharp observation on various issues concerning world food security.

My delegation is in full agreement with the conclusion emerging from the two case studies, as stated by the Chairman of the Committee on World Food Security in his introduction, that there is no unique guideline on food security issues which would be applicable to all countries, and that the strategy and the choice of appropriate policies would depend on the specific situation of each country.

We agree with the view that efforts to improve national food security should be an integral part of an overall economic development strategy which should, inter alia, take into account resource endowments, comparative advantage, population growth and ecological factors.

In this respect, allow me also to stress that strengthening of stocks at national, regional and sub-regional levels is urgently needed to overcome food problems and to achieve the objective of world food security. The need for developing more adequate arrangements for reserve stocks at national, regional and international levels should in this respect be given particular consideration and be promoted accordingly. It would naturally be equally important to take into account the need for strengthening the necessary infrastructures in the developing countries such as adequate storage facilities, transportation, communications, as well as ports and shipping facilities. These can only materialise with sufficient flow of resources devoted to the efforts of food security advancement provided at national government level and supported by external sources in terms of technical as well as financial assistance.

At the outset my delegation would like to reiterate its support for the prominent role that FAO plays in promoting and coordinating Food Security Assistance Schemes. My delegation would also like to appeal to the developed member nations and international donor agencies to increase their assistance to the developing countries to enable them to improve their food security situation.

Michael McGILL (United Kingdom): The United Kingdom participated in the Thirteenth Session of the Committee on World Food Security but I have to say that we were disappointed with the quality of the meeting. In our view, the debates lacked substance. Whilst we found the country case studies stimulating and informative, we wonder whether the Committee on Agriculture would not have been a more appropriate forum for full discussion.

It is true that poverty lies at the root of the problem of hunger and malnutrition. The resumption of sustainable economic growth is a prerequisite for improving food security.

May I thank the Chairman of the CFS for the news of the reduction in the working days allocated to the Committee meetings. This is indeed most welcome.

Let me say that whilst we generally support the concept of the CFS and believe it could have the potential to play a significant role, our experience of the actual meetings leads us to question the need for the Committee to meet every year. Given the present financial position and budget shortfall, there is a need for administrative flexibility in the non-operational activities. In this respect, we agree with the distinguished delegates of Australia and Japan that consideration be

given to make the Committee on World Food Security a biennial event, with, of course, a provision to call an emergency meeting should the overall picture of world food security rapidly deteriorate. The Director-General and the Chairman of the CFS could keep in close liaison over food security matters and call for an emergency meeting if and when required. The financial savings incurred by the "biennialization" of the CFS could be channelled into operational areas which must have priority, and there are many priorities as we have heard so far during the Plenary. We know that there has been a drop in cereal production for the second successive year, but grain is not grown by the CFS. Less meetings mean that more money can be given to projects to raise food production.

My delegation hopes that serious consideration is given to this matter. It would also be helpful if the Secretariat could provide a breakdown of savings if the CFS were to be held biennially. I should be grateful for that.

Finally, we should like to record a note of caution about generalization as to the impact of structural adjustment programmes on food access by the poor. This is dealt with in paragraph 32 in document CL 94/10. As of yet there is a lack of hard evidence on the impact of structural adjustment programmes on the poor, but in some cases the introduction of higher producer prices for foodstuffs will increase production and actually make food more readily available.

Gerhard LIEBER (Germany, Federal Republic of): My delegation would like to thank the Committee on World Food Security for the work done at its Thirteenth Session. We welcome the informative and realistic report of the CFS. Much could be said and commended, but I will keep my statement short.

We agree especially with the assessment of the world food situation. We have to state with regret that the world food situation has deteriorated since the last CFS meeting. As we all know the cereal harvests in 1988 were below consumption accompanied by the decline in stocks below the minimum level FAO considered to be necessary to safeguard world food security. Already this has resulted in a marked increase in cereal prices. This increase in price has already led to a deterioration of the food supply situation in particular, and that is most worrying for the poorest sections of the population in the low-income food deficit countries.

In view of the present food situation, which is particularly critical for many developing countries, we feel that for the time being it is necessary that the CFS should maintain its sessions on an annual basis in order to be able to respond adequately to any new development.

My government is fully aware of the fact that solutions of general validity to achieve food security worldwide do not exist. The necessary measures have to be adapted to the special conditions prevailing in every country concerned. Nevertheless, we feel that there are some basic important requirements that must be met in order to be able to increase sustained food security in developing countries throughout the world. We feel that these basic requirements are inter alia. The list is certainly not complete.

First, there should be an increase in local food production and control of population growth also through social development.

Secondly, liberalization of food markets and, in our opinion, very important, realistic internal price policies.

We are prepared to take an active part in the elaboration of viable solutions in these fields. For this reason the Federal Republic of Germany has always endeavoured to keep the markets of the European Community open for food imports from developing countries. Moreover, we hope that a strengthened role of agricultural policies within the framework of GATT negotiations, in particular for tropical products, may be able to achieve at least limited success.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you honourable delegate of the Federal Republic of Germany for your short and precise statement. I think I will close the meeting at this stage.

The meeting rose at 20.00 h.

La séance est levée à 20 h 00.

Se levanta la sesión a las 20.00 h.

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 94/PV/7

Ninety-fourth Session

Quatre-vingt-quatorzième session

94º período de sesiones

**SEVENTH PLENARY MEETING
SEPTIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
SEPTIMA SESION PLENARIA**

(18 November 1988)

The Seventh Plenary Meeting was opened at 09.45 hours,
Rudolf de Pourtalès, Vice-Chairman of the Council, presiding

La septième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 45,
sous la présidence de Rudolf de Pourtalès, Vice-Président du Conseil

Se abre la séptima sesión plenaria a las 09.45 horas,
bajo la presidencia de Rudolf de Pourtalès, Vicepresidente del Consejo

LE PRESIDENT: Honorables Délégués, j'ouvre la séance de ce matin qui continue avec le point 5 de l'Ordre du Jour.

- II. WORLD FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SITUATION (continued)
- II. SITUATION MONDIALE DE L'ALIMENTATION ET DE L'AGRICULTURE (suite)
- II. SITUACION MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)
- 5. Report of the Thirteenth Session of the Commission on World Food Security (Rome, 13-19 April 1988) (continued)
- 5. Rapport de la treizième session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (Rome, 13-19 avril 1988) (suite)
- 5. Informe del 13 periodo de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial (Roma, 13-19 de abril de 1988) (continuación)

Real LALANDE (Canada): Permettez-moi tout d'abord, Monsieur le Président, de vous exprimer la satisfaction de ma Délégation de vous voir présider le débat à ce stade de la réunion. J'aimerais également remercier Monsieur de Rijk qui a fait une excellente introduction à ce document; il a également dirigé de façon magistrale les débats de la dernière réunion du Comité sur la sécurité alimentaire.

J'aimerais limiter l'intervention de ma Délégation sur le Rapport de la treizième session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale aux propositions formulées aux paragraphes 18, 19 et 20 du Document CL 94/10 qui traitent des travaux futurs de ce Comité, de son rôle et de la fréquence de ses sessions.

Lors des douzième et treizième réunions de ce Comité sur la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, de nombreuses délégations ont présenté différentes propositions visant modifier son rôle et la nature de ses travaux. Suite à de telles propositions, la treizième session du Comité a déjà adopté une nouvelle pratique visant à examiner les programmes nationaux des différents pays en matière de sécurité alimentaire.

De même, d'autres propositions formulées lors des deux dernières sessions du Comité entraîneront certainement de nouveaux sujets à l'Ordre du Jour, lors de sa prochaine réunion.

Lors de la tenue de la treizième session, la Délégation canadienne, tout en reconnaissant le bien-fondé de la plupart des propositions ainsi formulées, de même que l'importance de procéder à la discussion de telles questions, la Délégation canadienne avait néanmoins soulevé la possibilité de ne convoquer de telles sessions qu'une fois tous les deux ans.

Notre délégation avait également suggéré que compte tenu de l'importance de suivre régulièrement la situation de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, la fréquence de la préparation des rapports sur ce sujet puisse être maintenue sur une base annuelle et, si requis, que ce rapport annuel puisse être étudié par le Comité sur l'agriculture au cours des années où le Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale ne se réunirait pas.

Différentes délégations, dont la nôtre, avaient également souhaité qu'une réflexion plus approfondie sur le rôle et la nature des travaux ainsi que la fréquence des sessions puisse se tenir au sein du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier. Ma délégation considère aujourd'hui qu'une telle réflexion est toujours de mise et devrait être tenue au sein de ces deux Comités.

Les propositions formulées par la délégation canadienne lors de la 13ème session du Comité, en avril dernier, et dont je viens de vous fournir un bref résumé avaient été présentées dans le but d'identifier l'importance relative et la priorité qui devraient être accordées à la tenue des sessions, de ce Comité, comparées à la fréquence de la tenue de nombreuses autres rencontres que la FAO organise chaque année.

Le Directeur général, dans sa déclaration d'ouverture, nous a déjà indiqué que de nombreuses réunions avaient dû être éliminées au cours des années 1987 et 1988. C'est en pleine connaissance des nombreuses contraintes financières qui confrontaient alors la FAO et qui, malheureusement, continuent de la confronter à court terme que les propositions de la délégation canadienne avaient été avancées lors de la dernière session de ce Comité. Malgré le fait que la tenue de la 14ème session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale maintenant proposée pour le mois d'avril 1989 puisse nous apparaître justifiée une année seulement après la tenue de la 13ème session - et ceci à cause des incertitudes actuelles des marchés des céréales - nous aimerions aujourd'hui nous associer aux autres délégations qui ont proposé que la question de la tenue biannuelle de cette rencontre soit de nouveau considérée par le Comité du Programme et le Comité financier de même que le Comité d'experts de haut niveau consultant ces deux comités, et cela afin d'assurer le maximum d'efficacité et d'impact à la tenue de l'ensemble des réunions de la FAO, y compris les sessions du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale.

Nous aimerions ici nous associer à la proposition formulée par la délégation de la Grande-Bretagne visant à connaître les économies qu'il serait possible de réaliser en réduisant la tenue de cette rencontre à une fréquence biannuelle.

Permettez-moi de conclure en indiquant que ma délégation considère que la flexibilité proposée par certaines délégations avant moi, qui permettrait au Directeur Général et au Président du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire de convoquer des réunions plus fréquentes lorsque les conditions l'imposent, devrait permettre de répondre au besoin réel de nous réunir, et cela selon les circonstances, tout en limitant les duplications possibles dans le travail des différentes organisations des Nations Unies.

Sous cet aspect, la comparaison offerte par le délégué de la Suisse, en son nom et au nom des Pays-Bas, des rôles respectifs distincts du banquier et de l'architecte qui peuvent venir tous deux en aide à l'individu qui cherche à construire sa maison nous est apparue très intéressante. Nous devons en effet reconnaître que le banquier et l'architecte pourront tous deux aider à la construction de la maison mais chacun selon ses connaissances et sa spécialisation propres et à partir, bien sûr, des ressources financières différentes pour l'un et pour l'autre.

Antti NIKKOLA (Finland): The Report of the Thirteenth Session of the Committee on World Food Security deals also with the frequency of the Committee sessions. May I emphasize that my country highly appreciates the work of the Committee. We have participated in the activities of the Committee since 1975, when the Committee was established. We believe, however, that the meetings of the Food Security Committee should be held every two years, not annually as is the case now. Only one session in each biennium would not in our view diminish the influence of the Committee in the wider field of food security. Of course the Director-General of the FAO and the Chairman of the Committee should have an opportunity to call an extra session if the food security situation so required.

Winston RUDDER (Trinidad and Tobago): My delegation subscribes to the view that the world food security must be founded on sustainably viable national food security systems. However, given the interdependent nature of the world in which we live, regional and international affairs inevitably condition the scope which individual countries have in this regard. Accordingly, my delegation supports the contention, as indicated in the document under discussion, that the primary responsibility for achieving national food security rests with individual countries and their efforts in pursuing policies, plans and programmes to enhance self-reliance. However, we recognize this to be a shared responsibility, with the international community accepting some obligation to support the efforts of developing countries with adequate appropriate technical financial assistance.

We would remind you, however, that unless such assistance is backed by market access and reduced barriers to trade frustration will set in, for trade and not merely aid is critical to enhancing the capacity of developing countries to improve food security, the assumption being of course that complete self-sufficiency in all food needs is not a viable option to be pursued by any country.

We also imply that market access is not merely limited to primary products but more vitally also to manufacturers, especially output from agro-industry.

A number of international agricultural issues influence, and perhaps to a degree constrain, the realization of domestic agricultural policies in countries like ours, small countries with a limited natural resource base and limited internal markets for which economic growth, expansion and development critically depend on exports. It has already been highlighted, the effect of general oversupply of certain commodities, some of them substitutes which we produce.

The economic policy in certain countries and the question of protectionism and subsidization have already been highlighted. There is one point, however, the rapid growth in science and the continuous technological change, genetic engineering and biotechnology, which may yet render obsolete many products produced by tropical countries. These we have to take into account as we flexibly adjust and modify our policies and programmes.

My country has recently formulated a national agricultural development policy within the framework of a medium-term macro planning framework 1989-95. Food security is high on the policy agenda. We are determined that agricultural development policies and implementation strategies must be coordinated with other sectoral development policies as well as fiscal, financial, monetary and tariff policies. They must also be integrated within the broader endeavours to improve enhanced physical and social infrastructure and enhance the quality of life in rural areas. Likewise they must be promoted by appropriate marketing strategies in which prices provide accurate signals to agents in the marketplace. We deem that social objectives such as guaranteed minimum nutritional

requirements to low income groups may be better sought by other policy measures and that a cheap food policy will input negatively to agricultural growth and development. They must also be facilitated by adequate water management and control and supported by institutional reorganization providing amongst other things greater opportunity for people participation in policy plans and programme formulation and implementation, and of course they must be grounded in ecologically sustainable programmes and projects.

However, there are major constraints which we, like many others, suffer from in a capacity to translate these laudible policies into programmes and projects with clear priorities establishing complementarities between projects in the realization of the objectives of national food security. It is precisely for this reason that we support the Committee's view on the expanded role of the FSAS. We believe that FAO has a continuing and expanding role in assisting in the development of national food security programmes. We further support the view expressed by many other delegations that the Organization is uniquely poised by virtue of its long and rich involvement in the area of agricultural development to lend its accumulated experience and competence to current efforts at structural adjustment being undertaken in many developing countries. After all, some of the major policy prescriptions emanating from these exercises have to do with building sustainably viable agricultural production systems.

Washington ZUÑIGA TRELLES (Perú): En primer lugar, Sr. Presidente, mi delegación está complacida por verlo presidir esta reunión. Su elección ha sido muy bien recibida por mi delegación en vista de la enorme simpatía de la que usted goza, así como su patria que tanto colabora con la mía.

El informe es muy bueno y bastante sintético y voy a referirme a algunos pequeños problemas. Uno de ellos es el acceso a los alimentos por los pobres, y sobre este asunto hay algo que me tiene bastante preocupado: la situación de los cereales. Tenemos dentro de la situación mundial, por una parte, que los países desarrollados exportadores indudablemente tienden a una política de reducción de áreas de cultivo. Esta reducción de áreas de cultivo ha hecho que la producción haya disminuido y que se agraven éstas por los desastres naturales a los que se han referido el Comité de Cereales. El Director General en su informe, manifestó que esta reducción de cereales ha hecho que este año los precios aumenten un 40%. Esta situación resulta preocupante para aquellos países importadores netos de cereales, que son principalmente los países en vías de desarrollo y los países más pobres. Esta política de reducir las áreas de cultivos hace que los precios tengan que subir con objeto de reducir los subsidios en los países ricos. Por otra parte, si no se reducen las áreas de cultivo en países ricos los países exportadores en vías de desarrollo también sufrirían por la baja de los precios. Esta es una situación muy complicada.

Alguna vez oí a la delegación de Suiza referirse a que no era conveniente una reducción de áreas de cultivo cuando había un mundo que estaba subalimentado y un mundo que requería de estos alimentos y que era algo cruel el tener que disminuir estas áreas de cultivo habiendo tantas bocas que alimentar. Es muy importante que se le dé a estas políticas la importancia que se merece para no afectar a los países importadores netos con estos precios tan altos. Que se efectuen reajustes que no pudieran afectar a los más necesitados.

Otro asunto, Sr. Presidente. En el punto 15 se habla de que muchos delegados insistieron en la necesidad de establecer un nuevo orden económico internacional. Efectivamente fuimos varios los delegados que insistimos para que se establezca un nuevo orden económico internacional. Ese nuevo orden económico internacional estaba descrito con la solución de varios puntos a los que se refiere el párrafo 40. Y estoy de acuerdo con alguna delegación, creo que la de Cuba, en que el PASA no sólo se ocupe de formular programas, sino que se ocupe de estos asuntos estructurales. Yo creo que si bien la deuda externa, aunque según señaló alguna delegación no está en manos solucionarlo que era competencia de organismos como el Banco Mundial y el FMI, yo creo que, como ya se ha ocupado anteriormente la FAO debe seguir interesándose por tratar la incidencia que tiene la deuda externa en el desarrollo agrícola. Y nadie puede negar que esto incide en la producción agrícola y nosotros tenemos que mencionar en qué forma y en qué porcentaje. Yo recuerdo que en el Programa Mundial de Alimentos, en el pequeño monograma que hace en cada proyecto nos muestra como algunos países tienen que utilizar más del 50% de sus exportaciones para el pago del servicio anual de su deuda. Recuerdo, también, de un país que necesitaba para hacer el pago anual de sus compromisos en la deuda externa al Fondo Monetario Internacional, invertir el 150% de sus exportaciones. Dígame, cómo no va a ser necesario tratar este asunto para poder analizar los inconvenientes con que tiene que tropezar el desarrollo agrícola.

En consecuencia, yo creo, que el PASA debe tratar estos problemas estructurales. Otro aspecto es el de financiación del desarrollo agrícola que está muy ligado al pago de la deuda externa. Los países en desarrollo que no pueden pagar su deuda externa, que son el 99,9%, tampoco tienen acceso a la finalización del desarrollo agrícola. Sus organismos financieros, como sus bancos agrarios no reciben préstamos y, por consiguiente, el crédito agrícola no se puede cumplir. También, es otra forma de trabar el desarrollo agrícola. El acceso a los mercados mundiales es otro aspecto importante. Alguien acaba de hablar sobre los sucedáneos, por ejemplo. Analizar este problema

para ver en qué forma está afectando, por ejemplo, a los países productores de azúcar. Los bajos precios de los productos de exportación nos hacen ver cómo año tras año, los productos de exportación que con tanto trabajo producimos siguen manteniendo precios bajos, con ligeras variaciones y que son causa de los deterioros de las relaciones de intercambio. Alguna vez me ocupé en una de las reuniones sobre la necesidad o la posibilidad de que se pudieran establecer precios de paridad.

Yo recuerdo que dentro de los Estados Unidos, existen deterioros entre sus relaciones de intercambio entre sus productos industriales y sus productos agrícolas, establecieron un sistema de precios de paridad, de tal manera que cuando subían los productos industriales, subían en esa misma proporción los productos agrícolas. Entonces, quizás no sé, no conozco, estoy hablando con un buen deseo y nada más, quizás podían establecerse estos precios de paridad entre los productos industriales y por lo menos los insumos agrícolas que vienen a nuestros países con los productos que ellos nos compran. No sé, es un buen deseo que quizás el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria podría estudiar.

Coincido con varias delegaciones que han manifestado que deben realizarse con frecuencia las reuniones de Seguridad Alimentaria. Debido a estas situaciones tan anómalas, yo creo que es una razón fundamental para que pueda realizarse una reunión el próximo año. Si la situación no hubiese cambiado, si no hubiese habido sequías, no hubiese habido reducción de cosechas, yo estaría de acuerdo con aquellos países que propugnan que cada dos años nos reunamos. Pero existiendo problemas que estamos confrontando, es necesario que se realice una nueva reunión. En este sentido, apoyo el deseo del Director, o la decisión del Director General de efectuar una reunión en abril.

Finalmente, para terminar, coincido también con la Delegación de Indonesia, sobre cuyo aspecto ya me ocupé con amplitud en año pasado, sobre la necesidad de la creación de infraestructuras. La FAO con el Programa Mundial de Alimentos, debe propiciar la creación de infraestructuras, de almacenamiento, por ejemplo, en los países subdesarrollados. Yo veo que hay muchas zonas que tienen grandes potenciales de producción, por ejemplo de arroz, y a veces esos agricultores no quieren cultivar arroz porque no tienen dónde almacenarlo. Si no tienen almacenes, el arroz se amarillea por las lluvias o los roedores terminan con ello. Pero si tuvieran almacenes, estos agricultores producirían más. Y estoy hablando por la experiencia que hemos tenido. En nuestro país se les han creado silos, almacenes, y la producción ha subido varias veces sobre lo que antes existía.

Danilo VALLE (Nicaragua): El documento contentivo del 13° Período de Sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial lo consideramos completo y muy ilustrativo de la situación de crisis y deterioro de la situación alimentaria mundial, sobre todo en lo relativo a los países en vías de desarrollo. La situación económica sigue siendo negativa para todos nuestros países. La crisis económica internacional juega un papel determinante y en relación directa con la situación de la seguridad alimentaria. El endeudamiento externo, el injusto orden económico internacional, la inflación, la escasez de divisas, el proteccionismo de los países desarrollados, y en fin, todos los esfuerzos que tienen que realizar nuestros países en materia de política económica para mantener el servicio de la deuda, conforman un cuadro desfavorable y negativo, en los momentos actuales, para la producción y el comercio, y en fin, para la seguridad alimentaria, en todos nuestros países pequeños y pobres que luchamos para sobrevivir.

Nos sentimos preocupados por la disminución en la producción de alimentos en un 4% en 1987. Nos preocupa la reducción de reservas alimentarias, según los requerimientos de la FAO, por parte de los países desarrollados. Es preocupante que el consumo per cápita de los países pobres en relación al consumo, esté a los niveles de hace quince años, y también es preocupante la imposibilidad de parte de estos países y de estos pueblos para importar los productos alimenticios necesarios para la vida por no disponer de las divisas requeridas.

Hacemos nuestro el llamamiento del Comité sobre la no utilización de los alimentos como arma política debiéndose condenar asimismo el uso del bloqueo comercial y el boicot económico porque atentan directamente contra la vida de nuestros pueblos.

Apoyamos las reuniones anuales del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria. Y para finalizar; queremos expresar que en Nicaragua la seguridad alimentaria ocupa la prioridad número uno en nuestro marco estratégico de desarrollo económico. Seguridad alimentaria digna y justa que seguiremos buscando crear para bienestar de los nicaragüenses a pesar de las guerras y la imposición de medidas económicas negativas que nos imponen desde fuera, situación que estamos seguros poder vencer por decisión de nuestro Gobierno, de nuestro pueblo y de la ayuda internacional.

Gian Luigi VALENZA (Italia): Je voudrais vous féliciter, M. le Président, pour votre élection et féliciter le Président du Comité de la Sécurité alimentaire pour l'exposé complet du Rapport des travaux qui se sont déroulés au mois d'avril dernier.

Je ne veux pas prolonger outre mesure le débat, et je serai donc bref.

Le document dont il s'agit, et les nombreux orateurs qui m'ont précédé, ont déjà, avec beaucoup d'efficacité, souligné l'ampleur du problème, les nombreux domaines dans lesquels il faut intervenir, le rôle de l'aide alimentaire, la nécessité de coordination, le cadre général dans lequel il faut programmer les interventions, ainsi que la nécessité de suivre de très près l'évolution du problème.

Je voudrais ajouter tout simplement un mot pour ce qui concerne l'accès des pauvres à la nourriture.

A cet égard, la délégation italienne réitère ici qu'elle est favorable à l'approfondissement des mesures tendant à faciliter l'accès des pauvres à la nourriture, à mieux identifier les destinataires, même si cet exercice entraîne une augmentation des coûts des projets. Dans ce contexte, la Délégation italienne ne pouvait pas manquer cette occasion pour souligner encore une fois l'attention qu'à son avis il faut réserver à une catégorie, même si elle n'est pas traditionnelle, mais qui est parmi les plus défavorisées: la population urbaine marginale. Economiquement déracinée, elle augmente progressivement aux dépens du développement industriel et urbain, en dehors désormais de la vie et de la petite économie d'échanges. Je crois que c'est là un problème que nous devons suivre très attentivement.

Mlle Faouzia BOUMAÏZA (Algérie): M. le Président, votre plaisir de me donner la parole est égal au mien de vous voir présider notre débat.

Notre intervention sur cette question sera brève, car la plupart des problèmes qui nous tenait à coeur et que nous voulions aborder l'ont déjà été par d'autres délégations. Aussi me limiterai-je à vous faire part du point de vue de la délégation algérienne sur trois idées précises.

En premier lieu nous partageons la vue du délégué du Mexique quant à la nécessité d'approfondir l'examen de l'Influence du transnational sur la sécurité alimentaire.

Nous sommes d'accord également avec les idées développées au paragraphe 15 du Doc CL 94/10.

Enfin nous partageons pleinement l'idée exprimée au paragraphe 30 sur les mesures propres à faciliter l'accès des pauvres à la nourriture.

Par contre, concernant l'avis exprimé par quelques délégations quant au fait que l'accès des pauvres à la nourriture et la garantie de la sécurité alimentaire sont de la seule responsabilité des gouvernements et devraient être réglés par des mesures internes, nous ne sommes pas d'accord sur cet avis. Certes, les gouvernements doivent prendre des mesures adéquates pour assurer la sécurité alimentaire. Toutefois ces mesures et les efforts des gouvernements trouvent leur limite dans les ressources dont ils disposent, et cette décennie a été marquée par un désordre du système économique international tel que tous les efforts et la bonne volonté des gouvernements n'ont pu aboutir aux résultats escomptés.

Enfin nous ne sommes pas d'accord non plus sur la proposition du Royaume-Uni appuyée par le Canada, qui souhaite connaître les économies qui seraient réalisées par une réunion bi-annuelle du Comité de la Sécurité Alimentaire, au lieu d'une réunion annuelle.

Je voudrais moi-même savoir quelles seraient les économies réalisées si on interrompait l'examen des réformes de la FAO. Je crois que de nombreux millions de dollars seraient épargnés. Donc je ne partage pas du tout cet avis.

András SZABO (Hungary): Throughout my life I have attended sessions of several organizations within the United Nations system but it is the first time that I have the opportunity to make a statement within the FAO, so I shall remember forever that the date of my maiden speech delivered in your Organization under your Vice-Chairmanship is the 18th of November 1988.

Concerning the issues under discussion, I shall concentrate my remarks only on some major points. First let me express my delegation's appreciation for the work accomplished by the Committee. This assessment of the current food security situation is realistic. We can go along with the main findings on which the Committee agreed, particularly as they are contained in paragraphs 15 and 16. We also share the view that the solution of problems of the individual countries lies first of all in the hands of their own governments and policies they pursue. At the same time we do not hesitate to urge actions for the elimination of artificial barriers hampering the development of normal

international economic relations and call for the creation of conditions for the sustained economic growth. We are also of the opinion that foreign assistance or aid, with the exception of emergency cases, should serve first of all as additional means contributing to the evolution of stable long-term economic processes, thus inducing incentives for the stabilization of the economies of the countries in the long run.

Secondly, concerning the two case studies in the food security programmes of the two African countries, we find it quite natural that opinions on the contents somewhat differ. The next ones might be formulated or elaborated in an improved manner. In our opinion the main point is that FAO has taken up this exercise through its expertise, strengthening its advisory role to governments in agricultural policy issues.

As to the future work of the Committee, my delegation sees some guidelines for it very clearly formulated in the report of the Brundtland Commission, "Our Common Future" in its chapter "Strategies for Sustainable Food Security". May I quote only one sentence, "Strategies for sustainable food security must take into account all the policies that bear upon the three-fold challenge of shifting production to where it is most needed, of securing the livelihood of the rural poor and of conserving resources". I am convinced that if our Committee, with due regard to these challenges and within this general framework, scrutinizes the components of food security programmes it will serve in the most appropriate way the welfare of all countries.

In conclusion I want to stress that my country attaches great importance to the activity of the Committee on World Food Security. We consider it as an FAO body which through its advice and recommendations helps governments in the formulation of priorities in the agricultural policies. For this reason we endorse the proposal of those delegates, among them the charming representative before me of Algeria, who accepted the Director-General's suggestion to convene its next meeting April 1989.

Namukolo MDKUTO (Zambia): I want to take this opportunity to thank the Chairman of the Committee on Food Security for a very clear presentation of the Report on the Committee's Work during the year. Yesterday when we were discussing the state of food and agriculture in the world, we noted a worsening situation. Today as we discuss the state of world food security, we also observe a situation which is getting worse year by year. This is very alarming and precarious. As we all know, the world food situation and world food security are different subjects requiring to a large extent different solutions. Whereas the world food situation deals with total world food and agriculture production, the world food security deals with the availability and distribution of food at the family level. It deals especially with access to food by the very poor. Some solutions to improving the availability of food to the very poor are obvious; and these include, the equitable accessibility of the poor to all factors of production, these being; accessibility to land; accessibility to capital; accessibility to improved management.

What seems to be required to Improve Food Security, for all, is the courage and determination of individual national governments to undertake land reforms. Reforms which will make it possible for the majority of poor people to grow their own food. What is required, what is needed is the courage and determination to provide credit to the poor for them to purchase the requisite farm inputs such as seeds, fertilizers and implements, need for courage and determination for agricultural research and extension services to be geared to serve the purposes of the very poor, the needy and the presently neglected groups of our rural societies. The courage to give rural people attractive producer prices without fear of increasing the cost of living in the urban populations.

As I have already stated, the solutions to food security lie at national levels, because food must be produced by those who need it. In other words for food security to happen, food must be produced by the masses, and not mass production of food by the few people or companies who may own all the land in some developing countries.

At the international level, food security can be improved by the liberalization of trade, the payment of attractive prices for goods from developing countries and indeed the provision of adequate food reserve stocks at international, regional and subregional levels. The Report presented by the Committee on Food Security has addressed all the important issues required to solve the problem of food security. What is required are not more studies. The truth of the matter really lies in the determination of the individual governments to remove injustices in the allocation of productive resources; for the individual governments to genuinely want to improve the lot of the rural people. If the political will is lacking, there is no amount of FAO work which will improve the food security situation at the family level. All that will happen is that we shall continue to produce more and more paper work as the food security situation gets worse and worse. The volume of paper work will be chasing, in hot pursuit, the rate of hunger. As the situation is

today, if paper were food, the whole world would be very well fed. I want to conclude by stating that the problems of food security have been correctly diagnosed by the Committee. Each country needs its own characteristic approach to address the problem. The role of FAO will be facilitated by individual governments' determination to resolve the issues.

Lastly, my delegation agrees there is a need for a meeting next year but that as a principle, we should hold these meetings biennially.

A.K.M. Fazley RABBI (Bangladesh): The present world food situation and the outlook are far from being satisfactory. In spite of some positive and optimistic trends in the world economic environment the state of food and agriculture continues to be a matter of great concern, not only to the developing countries but also to the developed countries. Poverty, hunger and malnutrition not only persist, they are increasing. In the context of this background, the deliberations of the FAO Committee on World Food Security and the concept of world food security are of much importance to the millions of poor and hungry people of the world.

The Report of the Thirteenth Session on World Food Security refers to policies, trends and factors affecting world security and also some decisions and suggestions for improving the situation. It is an excellent Report both in terms of substance and presentation. We take this opportunity to express our thanks to the members of the Committee.

I would like to refer to some of the items in the paragraphs which caught our attention and on which we have some observations or comments to make. The deteriorating food security situation affects most seriously the low-income food deficit countries whose per capita food consumption is below the level of 15 years earlier - reference paragraph 10 of the Report. It has rightly been asked in paragraph 14 that the highest priority be given to the development of the food and agricultural sector of these low-income food deficit countries. In this context and in this paragraph a number of remedial measures have been suggested for implementation. It has also been emphasized that developing countries need adequate technical and financial assistance.

The chapter on improving access to food by the poor also deals with the dimensions of the issue and the factors leading to the problem of lack of access to food by the poor, the importance of and need for improving access, and possible measures to address the problem. The problems and their remedial measures have been identified; needs have been recognized. However, mere identification or recognition are not enough. We need to translate them into action and solution.

In paragraphs 18 and 32 the need for analysis and assessment of the effects of structural adjustment programmes on food security has been recognized and suggested. My delegation attaches great importance to this issue and hopes that FAO undertakes the study at the earliest opportunity. We feel that the results would be revealing and of significance.

My delegation is in full agreement with paragraph 35, and we emphasise the need for continued and increased food aid or improving access to food by the poor.

On the issue of future work and the role of the Committee, we are in full agreement with paragraphs 18 and 19 of the Report. Regarding the frequency of each session, my delegation favours the continuation of annual sessions.

Uncertainty of production is one of the factors leading to food insecurity, and one of the major factors of uncertainty of production is the natural calamities over which we have actually no control. This is of particular relevance for the current year which has been termed by the Director-General as a difficult year because of disasters. Natural disasters, among many other direct effects of losses and destruction, cause heavy crop damage in many regions of the world, including my own country of Bangladesh. Drought, cyclones, locusts, etc. have become almost a recurrent impediment to food security. We express our thanks and gratefulness to the donor countries and also to the major agencies who have been extending generous assistance to meet emergency situations caused by natural disasters. However, we feel that more coordinated and increased assistance are essential in this situation.

Mounir KHORAYCH (Liban) (langue originale arabe): La délégation de mon pays voudrait exprimer ses remerciements et ses félicitations au Président du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire qui nous a présenté cet important document de façon exhaustive. La situation, malheureusement, persiste depuis quelques années et nous voyons d'un côté un surplus et de l'autre deux millions de personnes qui n'atteignent pas le seuil alimentaire fondamental.

Cette situation devient de plus en plus grave en raison de la régression de la production des produits alimentaires au cours des années 1987 et 1988, ce qui a eu pour résultat que les stocks sont arrivés à un niveau minimum inacceptable.

Cette situation devient de plus en plus grave d'autant plus que les informations qui nous sont parvenues nous indiquent une détérioration chez certains pays à déficit vivrier et à faible revenu, avec pour résultat une baisse de la consommation par habitant, baisse qui atteint le niveau en vigueur il y a quinze ans.

L'invasion acridienne augmente la gravité de cette situation et pour y remédier tout cela nous incite à demander de plus grands efforts internationaux. Cela implique l'augmentation des contributions des pays donateurs.

Les raisons qui ont abouti à cette situation sont tout à fait claires pour tout le monde. Nous voudrions insister sur certains facteurs qui à notre avis sont les principales raisons de cette situation, à savoir la dette extérieure exorbitante dont souffrent la plupart des pays en voie de développement; le protectionnisme auquel se heurte le commerce international, la faiblesse des pays en voie de développement sur les marchés internationaux, d'où leur faible revenu en devises.

A cette occasion, le Secrétariat pourrait-il nous dire s'il a des informations complémentaires récentes sur le Round d'Uruguay, au sujet des négociations commerciales multilatérales ? La délégation du Liban réitère son attachement au principe en vertu duquel la nourriture ne doit pas être utilisée comme arme politique, et sur la nécessité d'instaurer un ordre économique plus juste; elle insiste également sur son attachement au pacte international sur la sécurité alimentaire.

Nos recherches pour augmenter la production alimentaire ne doivent pas se faire aux dépens de l'écologie; il est important de concilier ces deux objectifs et de prendre en compte au mieux ces deux aspects.

Enfin je voudrais souligner les difficultés extraordinaires dont souffrent des millions de personnes dans les différents pays du monde et plus particulièrement le Liban, du fait de raisons indépendantes de sa volonté, à savoir les victimes de guerres et des litiges régionaux et civils. En mentionnant cela, nous ne pouvons qu'exhorter la FAO à poursuivre comme toujours sa coopération avec les autres institutions internationales dans le but d'alléger les souffrances de ces victimes qui dans de nombreux cas sont maintenant sans patrie et sans abri.

Muhammad Saleem KHAN (Pakistan): Mr. Chairman, we are pleased to see you in the Chair.

The reasons surrounding the current disconcerting food security situation in the world have been referred to and discussed exhaustively both under Agenda Item 4 and the present Item by several speakers including ourselves. We will, therefore, not dwell on these now. I would, however, like to refer to a remark made by the delegate of the United Kingdom under Agenda Item 4 yesterday, when he referred to a more objective approach by developing countries towards a balanced economic growth rather than an untenable self-sufficiency in every case. We also subscribe to the principle of self-reliance, as against mere self-sufficiency, in each product which is the most plausible approach keeping in view the meagre resources and the numerous demands of the developing countries. However, as has been said by several speakers from developing countries over here, a more conducive international atmosphere has to be created for this purpose.

In my intervention yesterday on Agenda Item 4, based on figures of yield potential and yield gap, I indicated the possibilities of increased food production in the developing countries, given a conducive atmosphere. The specific role of food security in Pakistan has been identified to be the attainment of a desirable level of food production including the stability of food supply and ensuring universal access of food to all its population. Hence, we have adopted measures to increase food grain production by providing incentives to producers, ensuring equitable distribution of food grains, price stabilization, and to promote exports of surplus food grains. In this line, we have also framed a national agricultural policy receiving all possible and necessary support in terms of research and development support, credit supply, and improved market conditions. Equitable distribution of benefits to all, particularly the smaller farmers, has also been kept in view as a key criterion.

On a regional level, Pakistan is actively participating under the aegis of the Food and Agriculture Organization, and is a member of the Regional Commission of Food Security for Asia and the Pacific. A proposal for maintaining a food security reserve for SAARC countries has also been approved. The modalities have yet to be finalized for the security reserve. However, the Government of Pakistan has earmarked 40 000 tonnes of wheat as its contribution to the SAARC food security reserve.

Another important regional development with which Pakistan has been associated in close relationship, and to which I would like to refer here, is the creation of an OIC food reserve resolved upon by the recent third Ministerial Conference of the Organization of Islamic Countries on Food Security and Agricultural Development held at Islamabad from 18 to 20 October 1988.

Finally, we agree with the assessment of the world food security situation contained in the Committee's Report. The Committee plays an important role in securing world food supplies and world food security. We feel, along with the many other delegates of the developing countries here, that in view of the ever fragile world situation the need for holding a session of the Committee on World Food Security should continue to be on an annual basis.

Apolonio V. BAUTISTA (Philippines): The Philippine delegation endorses the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee on Food Security and wishes to highlight the following points the priorities recommended by the Committee in paragraphs 14-20 to reverse the unfavourable trends in food security, as well as measures to improve the access to food for the poor should be addressed by the appropriate technical and governing bodies of FAO so that they can be taken into full account in the ongoing review of FAO and in the formulation of programme work and budget. The cases studied provide useful information and an analysis of food security developments and national food security policies and programmes in various countries and should be continued. Food security assistance schemes remain a valid instrument to help countries formulate their own national food security programmes and should be available to countries on request by Member Governments.

The future documents assessing the situation should include more information on the negative consequences to food security of external debt and protectionism, since the external economic environment remains a major determining factor of the food security situation in developing countries.

Finally, the Philippine delegation agrees with the majority view on the frequency of the sessions because the important issues, often of crisis proportions, needing the specific and immediate attention of the Committee cannot wait for two years.

Atif T. BÜKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (ORIGINAL LANGUAGE ARABIC): I SHOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS THE great satisfaction of our delegation at seeing you chair this session which is dealing with the review of this extremely important item on our agenda. We would also like to thank the Committee for the excellence of this very exhaustive report. Which is, indeed, very clear. We also wish to say that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is attaching very special attention to the activity of this Committee and we are taking full account of the conclusions of the Committee after having given them an exhaustive review. We wish to pay tribute to the extremely important role of the Committee on World Food Security and would reiterate our conviction that FAO plays an important and indispensable role in the field of food security on a national, regional and international level.

No one can deny the fact that the just way to integrate economic development is the way of world food security and it should be developed by opening the markets of industrialized countries to the commodities of developing countries. It should go hand in hand with the removal of protectionist measures adopted by such developed countries. We wish to urge that these developed countries meet these two requirements.

We reiterate that a consolidation of world food security programmes and policies should be based on efforts made on a national level by Member Countries. On a regional level these states should also achieve a full regional complementarity. Thanks to an appropriate restructuring of our Organization we also believe that most member countries are fully aware of the need for this complementary action and many Member States have adopted measures for a radical reform of their policies in the field of agriculture. This has already lead to very interesting results in terms of food security.

However, we still believe that all the efforts made by many developing countries and especially by food deficit countries must be further complemented by material, financial and technical support on the part of the international community, donor countries and specialized international agencies.

We have listened to different speakers and interventions concerning the Committee meeting annually. We have also taken note of the different opinions and we have heard those who spoke in favour of holding the meeting every other year. I am sure that the Programme and Finance Committee will deal with this problem, however, we should like to have their opinion before coming to a decision.

Furthermore, we reiterate our support for the Director-General's proposal made during his Inaugural Statement during the last session of the Committee on World Food Security. The Director-General suggested a step-by-step gradual implementation of the recommendations of the General Conference and he asked the consolidated opinion of FAO for all regional programmes. We support the proposal of the Director-General and also that this proposal be taken in due and serious account during the next session of the Committee on World Food Security and that the Council provide full support for this proposal of the Director-General.

Yousef Ali Mahmoud HAMDY (Egypt) (ORIGINAL LANGUAGE ARABIC): Allow me to congratulate you as today you are chairing this session of the Council. The item before us is the Thirteenth Session of the Committee on World Food Security. I also congratulate the Chairman of the Committee on World Food Security. We support the analysis made by the Committee on the factors which determine the world food situation at the international level and all the measures to be adopted at regional and international levels.

It is certain that we are very seriously concerned about the precarious situation of grain production in that it has a negative impact on the price of grains and cereals. We are specifically concerned about the price of wheat as this has a negative impact on the resources of developing countries. We support the activities of this Committee and also the fact that annual meetings should be held.

LE PRESIDENT: La liste des orateurs étant épuisée, je vais donner la parole à M. Dutia, Directeur de la Division des produits et du commerce international de la FAO, pour qu'il réponde aux différentes questions posées.

B.P.DUTIA (Director, Commodities and Trade Division): I shall try to be very brief in view of the fact that Council is behind schedule. I have four questions to answer the first concerning the clarification of the follow-up to the World Food Security Compact. As the Council is aware the World Food Security Compact was adopted by Conference in 1985. Secondly, FAO has taken action to bring the Compact to the attention of government and non-governmental organizations to whom the recommendations of the Compact are primarily addressed. Thus, FAO has widely publicized the World Food Security Compact and some 8,000 copies in all official languages of the Organization have been distributed to governments, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, other UN organizations, as well as the UN Information Offices and FAO Depository Libraries.

As far as concerns non-governmental organizations the Compact was also discussed in meetings with the non-governmental organizations as well as during the World Food Security activities with a view to enlisting their interest and support for the Compact.

As most of the recommendations of the Compact are made on a voluntary basis and are addressed to Member Governments, action to implement them widely depends on their policy decisions and programmes. As regards FAO's own supportive action, the objectives and principles of the Compact are taken into account in the programmes and activities of the organization as a whole. Moreover, through its Food Security Assistance Scheme and other action programmes FAO is engaged in cooperating with interested developing countries in helping them to devise follow-up action to the Compact, particularly in the formulation and implementation of food security policies and programmes. This includes the establishment of national and regional early warning systems as well as national preparedness plans for meeting shortages as called for in the Compact.

In line with the Compact objectives special attention is also being given to the problem of improving access to food by the poor and lastly with the expanded terms of reference and the mandate of the food security assistance scheme. FAO would be ready to assist in cooperating with donor countries in the formulation of comprehensive national food security programmes of selected interested countries.

A question was also raised concerning the possible savings if meetings were held only once in the biennium. The direct cost of convening a five-day meeting of the Committee on Food Security is about US\$40,000. Several members of the Council also commented on the importance of undertaking an analysis on the impact of structural adjustment programmes on the food security aspect of the poor. I am glad to inform the Council that this subject will be on the agenda for the next session of the Committee which is scheduled to be held in April 1989.

Lastly, a question was raised concerning more information on the Uruguay Round. This subject has already been commented on yesterday and the day before. I do not want to take up much time on

reporting on that subject. I would only invite the attention of the distinguished delegate of Lebanon, who raised the question, to document CL 94/12, paragraphs 51 to 72, which gives detailed information about the Uruguay Round negotiations.

The only point I would like to add is that the next important event concerning the Uruguay Round is the mid-term review which will be held at ministerial level at the meeting to be held in Montreal in early December.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Dutia, for those clarifications and answers to the questions. (Continued in French): Je ne vais pas, pour ma part, reprendre ce qui a été dit par une grande majorité des membres du Conseil. J'aimerais simplement retenir quelques points de ce débat qui me paraissent importants.

Il me semble qu'un consensus s'est dégagé pour dire que la responsabilité de la sécurité alimentaire est essentiellement au niveau national, sans oublier pour autant l'importance des problèmes extérieurs comme le commerce international, la situation monétaire, les ajustements structurels, qui doivent être suivis avec attention par les gouvernements ainsi que par la FAO.

Un deuxième point important que je retiendrai, c'est l'étude de la facilitation de l'accès des pauvres à la nourriture, problème qui touche des couches de population importantes dans les pays les plus pauvres surtout mais également dans les pays plus aisés; des échanges d'expériences et des études importantes devraient être effectués dans ce domaine.

Comme troisième point, je retiendrai le souhait du Conseil de voir l'intensification du rôle de la FAO dans le domaine de la sécurité alimentaire, de l'analyse des politiques et de l'aide à la formulation de politiques de sécurité alimentaire ainsi qu'à la mise en oeuvre de ces politiques.

Enfin, en ce qui concerne le Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, je constate qu'une majorité des membres du Conseil sont en faveur d'une fréquence annuelle des réunions avec toutefois une certaine tendance à la tolérance, si la situation mondiale de l'alimentation devait s'améliorer, pour espacer ces réunions tous les deux ans.

Je crois que ce sont là les points les plus importants et généraux que je peux retenir de cette discussion sur la sécurité alimentaire mondiale.

J'aimerais maintenant vous remercier de votre participation active au débat et rendre le siège de la Présidence à notre Président indépendant.

Lassaad Ben Osman, Independent Chairman of the Council, took the Chair

Lassaad Ben Osman, Président indépendant du Conseil, assume la présidence

Ocupa la presidencia Lassaad Ben Osman, presidente independiente del Consejo

III. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP

III. ACTIVITES DE LA FAO ET DU PAM

III. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y EL PMA

6. Report of the Ninth Session of the Committee on Forestry (Rome 9-13 May 1988) including date and venue of the Tenth World Forestry Congress 1991

6. Rapport de la neuvième session du Comité des forêts (Rome, 9-13 mai 1988), y compris date et lieu du dixième Congrès forestier mondial de 1991

6. Informe del noveno período de sesiones del Comité de Montes (Roma, 9-13 de mayo de 1988), incluida la fecha y lugar del Décimo Congreso Forestal Mundial, previsto para 1991

J.P. LANLY (Sous-Directeur général par intérim du Département des forêts): Le Comité des forêts du Conseil de la FAO a tenu sa neuvième session au siège de l'Organisation, à Rome, du 9 au 13 mai 1988. Y ont participé les délégués de 79 Etats Membres du Comité, les observateurs de 11 autres Etats Membres de la FAO et du Saint Siège, des représentants de la Commission économique des Nations Unies pour l'Europe, du Programme alimentaire mondial, du Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement, du Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement, de l'Organisation internationale du travail, de la Banque mondiale et de la Communauté économique européenne, ainsi que les observateurs de neuf autres organisations.

M. Konisi Tabu Yabaki, Directeur du service forestier de Fidji, a été élu Président du Comité et M. Ben Kakoma, Ministre des terres et des ressources naturelles de Zambie, premier Vice-Président.

Quatre points de politique forestière étaient à l'ordre du jour de la session. Celui qui était d'intérêt le plus général pour le Comité concernait l'examen des questions importantes soulevées par la mise en oeuvre du Plan d'action forestier tropical. C'était en effet la première fois que le Comité avait l'occasion de faire le point sur la réalisation du plan après qu'il l'ait approuvé, à sa huitième session, en mai 1986.

Au cours des discussions sur ce point, le Comité a recommandé que la FAO remplisse encore plus activement et renforce son rôle de coordination du plan afin de faciliter la collaboration entre partenaires internationaux et nationaux intéressés. Il a également recommandé à l'Organisation de soumettre le plan à l'attention du Comité de l'agriculture afin de faire mieux comprendre les principes et les stratégies énoncés dans le plan aux responsables de l'agriculture et de l'élevage. Il a également recommandé à la FAO qu'elle étende à d'autres régions du monde en développement les activités récentes de régionalisation du Plan entreprises pour la région Amérique latine et Caraïbes. Il convient de signaler à ce point de vue que le Département des forêts procède actuellement à une formulation régionalisée du Plan pour l'Afrique qu'il est prévu de soumettre à la prochaine session de la Commission des forêts pour l'Afrique qui se tiendra au Malawi, du 1er au 5 mai 1989, en suivant en cela la procédure adoptée pour la région Amérique latine et Caraïbes.

Les trois autres points de politique forestière concernaient des éléments importants de la contribution de la foresterie et de la faune sauvage au développement rural et au développement socio-économique en général. A propos du rôle important joué par la faune sauvage dans la sécurité alimentaire et le développement rural, le Comité a reconnu que ce rôle avait été jusqu'ici négligé. Il a recommandé que les pays intègrent l'aménagement et l'utilisation de la faune sauvage dans les plans nationaux de développement; que les pays et les donateurs y consacrent une partie plus importante de leurs crédits, notamment dans le cadre des plans nationaux d'action formulés au titre du Plan d'action forestier tropical: il a recommandé enfin que la FAO accorde une plus grande priorité à l'aménagement de la faune dans ses programmes. La prise de conscience de l'importance de la faune dans la sécurité alimentaire et le développement rural se traduit, entre autres manifestations, par la requête faite au Conseil par la Commission des forêts pour l'Afrique de changer son nom et de s'appeler dorénavant Commission des forêts et de la faune sauvage pour l'Afrique. Ce point particulier est soumis à votre approbation au point 20 de votre ordre du jour.

Le Comité a recommandé que les gouvernements et la FAO prennent les initiatives nécessaires pour traduire dans les faits l'importance qu'ils reconnaissent désormais aux petites entreprises forestières. Il a notamment recommandé que la FAO continue activement à appuyer le développement rationnel de ces entreprises dans le cadre de son Programme de terrain; que l'Organisation redouble d'efforts dans la collecte, l'analyse et la diffusion des informations et des statistiques sur les matières premières et les débouchés des petites entreprises forestières; et que la FAO s'emploie à faire comprendre les facteurs socio-économiques qui conditionnent le développement des petites entreprises forestières.

A propos des questions de récolte forestière et des liens entre gestion et utilisation des ressources forestières, le Comité a recommandé que la FAO renforce son programme de collecte, d'évaluation, d'adaptation et de diffusion des informations sur les méthodes et les systèmes dans ce domaine et qu'elle accorde plus d'attention aux questions relatives à la récolte des produits forestiers autres que le bois. Le Comité a également recommandé que l'Organisation continue à apporter, et même accroisse, l'assistance technique aux pays en développement, dans le domaine de la récolte et l'utilisation de leurs ressources forestières.

Conformément à une décision antérieure du Conseil, le sujet de la conservation des forêts est un point qui figure dorénavant à l'ordre du jour de chacune des sessions du Comité. C'est ainsi que le Comité a pris connaissance des nombreuses initiatives importantes prises en 1986 et 1987 par les gouvernements et les organisations internationales, dont la FAO, dans le domaine de la conservation des forêts. Il a recommandé que l'excellent outil que constitue le Plan d'action forestier tropical soit pleinement utilisé pour la promotion d'une approche intersectorielle de la conservation des forêts aux niveaux national, régional et mondial. Le Comité a reconnu l'importance du dépérissement des forêts attribué à la pollution atmosphérique et a recommandé que les gouvernements prennent les mesures correctives nécessaires. Il a insisté sur la nécessité d'une réévaluation des ressources forestières tropicales pour mettre à jour l'enquête réalisée en 1980 et a recommandé que les donateurs envisagent de mettre à la disposition de la FAO les fonds supplémentaires éventuellement nécessaires pour mener à bien ce programme. Il convient à ce sujet de porter à la connaissance du Conseil que trois donateurs ont indiqué leur intérêt à contribuer au financement de cette enquête pour un montant qui permettrait d'en réaliser la première phase.

Le Comité a procédé en outre à l'examen des activités forestières de la FAO dans le cadre de ses programmes ordinaire et de terrain. Il a recommandé que les gouvernements et les organismes de

financement redoublent d'efforts en vue d'une sensibilisation encore plus marquée au rôle crucial de la foresterie pour un développement socio-économique viable et pour la conservation de l'environnement. Tout en notant que le financement du programme forestier de terrain a encore augmenté durant le dernier exercice, le Comité a aussi recommandé que les gouvernements accordent la priorité voulue à la foresterie en veillant à ce qu'une plus grande partie des allocations du programme des Nations Unies pour le développement dans l'enveloppe des chiffres indicatifs de planification soit consacrée à des projets forestiers. Il a enfin recommandé que la FAO utilise plus le mécanisme des fonds fiduciaires pour les actions forestières, que l'Organisation alloue une plus grande part de son budget ordinaire aux activités forestières et enfin qu'elle concentre ses efforts dans les domaines où elle a sans conteste un avantage comparatif.

Le Comité a aussi examiné les objectifs à moyen terme de la FAO dans le domaine des forêts et a recommandé que l'Organisation porte une attention particulière à l'évaluation et au suivi des ressources forestières, ainsi qu'aux domaines suivants: études prospectives, activités visant au renforcement de la contribution de la foresterie au développement rural, amélioration de l'aménagement des bassins versants, intégration des arbres dans les systèmes de production agricole, protection des ressources forestières, notamment dans les écosystèmes fragiles, rationalisation des pratiques de culture itinérante, industries forestières et évaluation et développement des marchés locaux et internationaux.

M. le Président, au titre des questions diverses, le Comité des forêts a noté que la présente Session du Conseil devait décider de la date et du lieu du dixième Congrès forestier mondial. Cette question est présentée dans le document CL 94/16 intitulé "Dixième Congrès forestier mondial". Le dernier Congrès forestier mondial s'est tenu en 1985 au Mexique. Les Congrès forestiers mondiaux ont lieu tous les six ans. Le dixième Congrès forestier mondial devrait donc se tenir en 1991. Il est important de noter que c'est à cette session que le Conseil doit prendre une décision sur le pays hôte afin que celui-ci dispose du temps nécessaire à une bonne préparation du Congrès.

Une lettre circulaire a été envoyée en mai 1987 par le Directeur général à tous les Etats Membres leur demandant de bien vouloir indiquer s'ils désiraient éventuellement être l'hôte du dixième Congrès forestier mondial. Six pays ont présenté officiellement leur candidature, à savoir, dans l'ordre alphabétique, le Burkina Faso, le Canada, la France, la Guinée équatoriale, l'Italie et la Tanzanie. Les Annexes C à H à la note de Secrétariat présentent de façon très succincte la situation forestière des six pays. Il est à noter cependant qu'après la distribution du document 94/16, le Canada a notifié au Secrétariat qu'il ne maintient pas sa candidature. Il y a donc cinq pays en lice: Burkina Faso, la France, la Guinée équatoriale et la Tanzanie.

Les principes gouvernant les congrès forestiers mondiaux et les dispositions devant être incluses dans leurs règlements qui sont indiqués à l'annexe B de la note de Secrétariat, seront transmises officiellement par la FAO au pays hôte que le Conseil aura désigné.

La responsabilité et le financement de l'organisation d'un congrès forestier mondial incombe au pays hôte. Plus de 2000 personnes ont participé à chacun des trois derniers congrès (à Buenos Aires en 1972, à Jakarta en 1978 et à Mexico en 1985). La note de Secrétariat donne aux paragraphes 4 et 5 de l'Annexe A quelques indications sur l'importance et le coût de l'organisation d'un congrès forestier mondial. Enfin, il convient de rappeler que, depuis le sixième congrès en 1966, la FAO a constitué, à la demande du pays hôte et financée par celui-ci, une unité temporaire au siège afin de fournir conseils et assistance technique au pays hôte pour la préparation du Congrès.

Sra. Evangelina BELTRAN PIMIENTA (Mexico): La Delegación mexicana expresa su satisfacción por los objetivos alcanzados en el Programa de Campo de la FAO, especialmente en el sector forestal y enfatiza su importancia para el desarrollo económico y social de los Estados Miembros.

Felicitamos al Sr. Lanly por la clara exposición del Informe del noveno período de sesiones del Comité de Montes.

Nuestro país consciente de la importancia de este sector, impulsa sus políticas y programas en esa materia. Por ello, manifestamos nuestra satisfacción por las medidas de la FAO para dar cumplimiento a las recomendaciones adoptadas en el Comité de Montes, y pedimos a la Organización que continúe con la aplicación de estas decisiones con el fin de lograr una mejor utilización y conservación de los recursos forestales a nivel mundial, toda vez que nuestros países afectados por los problemas comerciales y financieros que dañan nuestras economías, muchas veces están impedidos a dirigir recursos para la conservación y optimización de la explotación de sus recursos forestales.

Consideramos que la flora y la fauna silvestre ofrecen un gran potencial al desarrollo rural por lo que reiteramos su importancia en los objetivos de seguridad alimentaria y denunciemos las implicaciones que tiene su explotación sobre el equilibrio ecológico mundial.

México, Sr. Presidente, participa en la Red de Cooperación Técnica en parques nacionales, otras áreas protegidas y flora y fauna silvestre, y estudia, a solicitud del Comité de Montes, la inclusión de este tema dentro de sus planes nacionales de desarrollo.

Asimismo, a través de la Red de Cooperación Técnica en Sistemas Agroforestales instrumenta actualmente un Programa de Estufas Rurales a base de leña. Finalmente, y con gran empeño, instrumenta también el Plan de Acción Forestal en los Trópicos para lo cual se ha establecido un Programa de Misiones de Asesoría con apoyo de la FAO que revisa la integración final del PAFT-México, así como la promoción y organización de una Mesa Redonda con organizaciones nacionales e internacionales en apoyo a este Programa de México.

Consideramos, Sr. Presidente, que las iniciativas del Comité han contribuido a fomentar la conservación de los bosques tropicales, y en particular a disminuir el alarmante ritmo de deforestación, a atenuar los daños causados por la contaminación atmosférica, las plagas e incendios, a intensificar estas actividades de explotación, evaluación y recolección de semillas de especies leñosas, así como a la difusión de información que favorezca el desarrollo agrícola de los países en desarrollo.

Datuk Puvanarajah THIAGARAJAH (Malaysia): My delegation would like at the outset to commend the representative of the Director-General for his lucid introduction of the Committee's report. Needless to say, we welcome the report. It is interesting to note that attention is finally being drawn to the importance of forest-based, small-scale enterprises in the world economies. We fully support the action for these enterprises, especially in developing countries. We feel that such efforts are of paramount importance in order to assist developing countries to play a more effective and meaningful role in helping agricultural development.

As far as Malaysia is concerned, prospects for development in this area in the development of rubber-wood and rattan production have potential for development in down-stream production of furniture and finished products. In line with this, the Government is currently giving priority to the construction of furniture complexes for the export market. Priority will be accorded to integrated timber complexes to process rubber-wood and the setting up of timber-processing zones in Sabah and Sarawak to encourage greater down-stream processing activities. Among the products which are being encouraged are mouldings, wood panels, wood components and furniture. In the light of these opportunities, our country is keen to turn Malaysia into a centre for furniture making, and other timber-related products. In this, Malaysia will welcome all the assistance that FAO can offer us, as well as foreign timber entrepreneurs for joint ventures.

With respect to the Tropical Forestry Action Plan, TFAP, Malaysia notes with great concern critical policy issues in the said plan. I reiterate Malaysia's already declared support of the plan and recommendations therein. We believe that the Committee has come up with recommendations which faithfully adhere to the needs of member countries taking into cognizance the pressing needs and problems faced by the agricultural sector in developing countries. We are therefore pleased to say that we are agreeable to and supportive of the recommendations contained in paragraph 96 of document CL 94/8 with details of the priority to be given to activities within the general framework of the TFAP.

The curse of the human environment is deforestation and soil erosion. From the time of the Greek philosopher Plato to modern times much has been said about the adverse impact of cutting down the tree cover on both the landscape and the climate. Plato's observations some 2400 years ago about the impoverishment of Attica in Greece, due to the deforestation and soil erosion, apply with ever greater force to many parts of our world today. In this connection we are proud to say that Malaysia realises the importance of reafforestation and management of sustained yield timber production every since the mid-seventies. We have, since then, been providing incentives for reafforestation, launching compensatory forest financing projects, the Forestry Research Institute project and adoption of the TFAP as a plan of action to ensure the preservation of timber supply and a healthy environment for generations to come.

Under the Compensatory Forest Plantation Project, and those under the silviculture treatment programme, a total of some 850,000 hectares of forest land were cultivated with fast-growing timber species in Península Malaysia alone by 1987. Similar projects are being undertaken in Sabah and Sarawak with equal vigour.

On this matter of forest conservation, my delegation therefore fully endorses the recommendations made towards enhancing and intensifying efforts in the implementation of forest conservation measures. We are strongly supportive of the idea of establishing an inter-sectoral approach to forest conservation at national, regional and international levels, as mentioned in paragraph 65 of the document under reference.

Malaysia is proud to be one of the countries to take the lead in the preparation of the TFAP forestry sector review. A task force comprising the Forestry Department, the Department of Wildlife Management and Department of Science and Environment has been established under the Ministry of Primary Industries to prepare the Tropical Forestry Action Plan for Malaysia.

On the matter of wildlife contribution to food security and rural development, my delegation here again fully endorse the recommendations made thereon. More specifically, there is a lack of basic information on the dynamics of wildlife resources. We support the urgent need for studies to redress the situation which must also include studies in respect of their management, marketing and utilization. The lack of appropriate training in wildlife management at all levels in developing countries should be remedied. We in Malaysia are looking to our wildlife resources both in the form of farming and as a genetic pool as supplementary resources of red meat. We will certainly welcome any available collaboration from FAO and other sources who have the expertise in this field.

Roger PASQUIER (Suisse): La Delegation Suisse centrera son intervention sur deux points.

J'aborderai d'abord le plan d'action forestier tropical qui est une formule optimale réunissant dans une action conjuguée le gouvernement du pays en développement concerné, la FAO et les principaux bailleurs de fonds intéressés à ce secteur dans ce pays. Ces partenaires procèdent ensemble à une analyse, puis à une programmation du développement en tenant compte des financements disponibles; il en résulte un programme réaliste qui devrait intégrer tous les financements s'adressant à ce secteur.

Dans cette optique, notre Conseil devrait recommander aux trois banques régionales de développement de participer plus activement au plan d'action forestier tropical à l'exemple de ce que fait la Banque mondiale. Le plan d'action forestier tropical est un modèle et nous voulons souligner cet aspect tout particulièrement: c'est "le" modèle de ce que devrait être l'approche du développement, même dans le secteur agricole au sens plus large, la FAO pouvant jouer au mieux dans son domaine de compétences, son rôle d'agence spécialisée; elle a d'ailleurs l'occasion de le faire notamment à l'occasion des tables rondes sectorielles organisées dans les pays les moins avancés qui le demandent, et ce avec le concours du PNUD.

Mon second point porte sur le Congrès forestier mondial de 1991. Pour autant que ce Congrès ait lieu dans un pays voisin de la Suisse, ce dont nous serions heureux, notre pays s'offre à l'organisation d'une excursion dans nos forêts de montagne afin d'observer les résultats de cent ans d'application d'une politique forestière ayant permis entre autre de juguler l'érosion.

John Redman GOLDSACK (United Kingdom): We welcome and endorse the high priority given to the Tropical Forestry Action Plan by FAO at previous sessions of Council and Conference and by Dr. Saouma in his opening statement to the Ninth Session of COFO. The United Kingdom strongly supports the Tropical Forestry Action Plan and FAO's role in it. The scale and complexity of the Plan in its programmes in over 50 countries requires more intensive and continuous support from FAO on behalf of the donor community and the recipient countries, both through the central TFAP Coordinating Unit and through FAO involvement in individual countries in TFAP missions, round tables, and other preparatory or facilitating actions. The increased recognition of forestry's central role in rural development and land use, together with the increased demands for international support associated with the TFAP necessitate an increased share of FAO's regular programme budget to forestry.

The essential strengthening of the TFAP coordinating capability in FAO's forestry department should be achieved by the reallocation of the manpower resources within FAO as a whole and should form an important focus for the overall programmes of the forestry department in future.

Philippe PIOTET (France): Le Comité des forêts au cours de sa neuvième session en mai dernier a examiné et débattu de plusieurs questions importantes, centrées sur la forêt et les activités forestières dans le cadre de la sécurité alimentaire et du développement rural.

La Délégation française, qui a participé aux travaux du Comité, a pu donner en détail son point de vue sur ces questions. Je ne les présenterai donc pas à nouveau ici si ce n'est pour confirmer notre plein accord avec les conclusions du Comité, lesquelles figurent dans son rapport.

Je m'attacherai plutôt, dans le prolongement des travaux du Comité, à aborder la contribution de mon pays aux réflexions de l'Organisation sur les orientations à retenir en matière de politique forestière tant pour les forêts tropicales que pour les forêts tempérées.

Le Plan d'action forestière tropicale, que la France a soutenu dès l'origine, constitue désormais, comme nous le souhaitons, le cadre de référence des actions de la FAO dans le domaine forestier. Il constitue un très bon exemple de coopération internationale permettant à la fois de promouvoir la conservation des ressources forestières et de renforcer sa contribution au développement socio-économique. Il ne sera toutefois pleinement efficace que dans la mesure où il pourrait mobiliser, autour d'objectifs communs, un potentiel de développement qui dépasse largement le seul secteur forestier.

Sont en effet concernés les grands secteurs économiques, l'agriculture, l'industrie, les transports, mais aussi la plupart des partenaires sociaux, publics, privés, urbains, ruraux: tous sont concernés.

La France pense, avec beaucoup d'autres pays, que le renforcement de la coordination est une condition essentielle de la mise en oeuvre efficace du PAFT. Nous nous félicitons des dispositions déjà prises en ce sens par la FAO et nous avons l'intention, dans les prochains mois, d'apporter à l'Organisation une contribution particulière pour lui permettre de renforcer ses moyens de coordination. La France, dont le territoire comporte plus de quinze millions d'hectares de forêts de nature très variée, est également directement concernée par la protection et la mise en valeur des ressources forestières. La plupart des problèmes que nous connaissons sont également ceux auxquels ont à faire face d'autres pays, et nous nous attachons à les aborder en commun.

Ces questions ont été largement évoquées lors de la Conférence régionale de Cracovie pour l'Europe; elles le sont régulièrement aussi au sein de la Communauté économique européenne, et d'une manière générale dans le cadre de nos relations avec les pays de la zone tempérée.

Je me limiterai ici à deux exemples où un effort particulier a été fait au cours des deux dernières années.

Tout d'abord la préservation des forêts en zone méditerranéenne: un conservatoire de la forêt méditerranéenne, doté de cent millions de francs, a été créé dans mon pays et un effort sans précédent a été réalisé en faveur de la prévention des incendies, de l'équipement du terrain, et de la reconstitution de la forêt.

Le second exemple que je citerai concerne les travaux d'observation et de recherche engagés face au problème grave du dépérissement des forêts auquel nous sommes confrontés. Un réseau permanent d'observation a été mis en place, permettant d'évaluer les dégâts et d'en assurer un suivi objectif. Parallèlement, en étroite concertation avec la RFA, nous nous sommes attachés à définir les bases d'une coopération scientifique étroite au niveau européen, en vue d'intensifier les recherches sur la physiologie de l'arbre.

Lors du neuvième Congrès forestier mondial, qui s'est tenu à Mexico en 1985, le Ministre français chargé de la forêt a annoncé la candidature de mon pays à l'organisation du dixième Congrès forestier mondial qui se tiendra en 1991. La Délégation française a confirmé cette candidature à diverses reprises, notamment lors de la neuvième session du Comité des forêts et de la Conférence régionale de Cracovie pour l'Europe.

Nous savons, et le Secrétariat vient de le rappeler, combien est lourde et complexe l'organisation d'un tel congrès, et nous tenons à rendre hommage aux neuf pays qui ont déjà assumé cette charge. Aussi, depuis un peu plus d'un an, nous avons engagé en France, avec des spécialistes des forêts tropicales et des forêts tempérées, une réflexion préliminaire afin de présenter des premières propositions. Celles-ci figurent sur un bref document d'information que la Délégation française est bien entendu prête à exposer plus en détail, si le Conseil en exprime le souhait.

A ce stade du débat, ma délégation tient surtout à mettre l'accent sur la manière dont la France conçoit l'organisation de ce Congrès. Comme je l'ai souligné il y a un instant, les questions forestières dépassent très largement le cadre d'un pays, voire d'une région. La France n'envisage en aucune manière de préparer et d'organiser seule ce Congrès. Au contraire, elle a la ferme intention d'associer les pays qui le souhaitent aux toutes premières phases de conception, de définition et d'organisation du Congrès.

Nous savons en particulier toute l'importance qu'accordent au dixième Congrès forestier mondial les pays du continent africain et nous partageons leurs préoccupations. Je puis leur assurer, au nom de la Délégation française, que nous ne songerions pas un instant à organiser un Congrès forestier mondial sans leur participation active à tous les stades du Congrès, y compris bien entendu les phases de conception et d'organisation. Le même esprit nous anime aussi, naturellement, en ce qui concerne nos voisins et partenaires européens, notamment l'Italie, ainsi qu'avec tous les pays de la zone tempérée qui ont de nombreux problèmes communs et coopèrent activement pour y faire face.

Dans ces conditions, la Délégation française est toute disposée à approfondir, cours de ce Conseil les réflexions à ce sujet avec tous les Etats Membres qui le souhaiteraient.

Juan NUIRY SANCHEZ (Cuba): En aras del tiempo y desarrollo de la sesión, seremos lo más breves posible. Sr. Presidente, el informe del 9º período del Comité de Montes de la FAO, que hoy se somete a aprobación de este Consejo, recoge los aspectos fundamentales de los debates y las propuestas allí presentadas. Se destacó el reconocimiento a la labor de la Organización en el sector forestal, que debe continuar desarrollándose de modo que los países beneficiarios de esta ayuda puedan disponer de las facilidades y tecnologías adecuadas para la explotación, conservación y aprovechamiento de los recursos forestales, que inciden de manera particular en el desarrollo económico-social.

Mi delegación quiere manifestar su reconocimiento a las actividades desarrolladas por el Plan de Acción Forestal de los Trópicos de la FAO y la contribución que algunos países donantes han realizado para echarlo a andar.

Sr. Presidente, la importancia de este tema y de otros ya analizados anteriormente, nos impulsa a demandar que la crisis financiera de la Organización debe concluir, cumpliéndose con las obligaciones contraídas, a fin de que nuestra Organización pueda continuar ejerciendo a cabalidad sus funciones.

Por ultimo, mi Delegación acoge con satisfacción la celebración del 10º Congreso Forestal Mundial, en 1991. La sede puede ser decidida en consulta entre los países que se han ofrecido.

Santiago MARRACO (España): Permítame en primer lugar, Sr. Presidente, resaltar el excelente trabajo y exposición del informe, ágil y concreto, por parte del representante del Director General. La Delegación española se congratula de los avances y evolución producidos en el seno del Comité de Montes, indicativos de que el sector forestal mantiene la importancia que le corresponde, no sólo por su valor para el mantenimiento de las rentas y la actividad económica de un gran número de colectivos rurales, sino también por el papel fundamental del bosque, en cuanto a la conservación de los suelos, de las aguas y prevención de catástrofes; sin el bosque, muchas actividades económicas no serían posibles. Además, constituye el "habitat" privilegiado para la flora y fauna silvestres.

Convencidos de que el bosque es un sistema de aprovechamientos múltiples, no sólo madereros, apoyamos de forma expresa las recomendaciones de fomentar la protección, conservación y utilización racional de la fauna silvestre y que ello se refleje en las actividades de la FAO. Queremos resaltar aquí la necesidad de coordinación, que es precisa sobre todo en acciones que afecten a las especies migratorias que recorren países e incluso continentes diferentes en su ciclo vital. En esta misma línea apoyamos la necesidad de poner en valor los productos forestales no madereros y el mejor aprovechamiento de los residuos forestales; ambos, elementos de vital importancia para la revalorización de los bosques complejos, como es el caso de los tropicales, e incluso de los mediterráneos. El bosque tropical debe seguir siendo la mayor preocupación de FAO, no sólo por la situación de deterioro en que se encuentra, dificultando el futuro desarrollo de muchas comunidades rurales, agrícolas y forestales, sino también por el papel fundamental que estos bosques cumplen en la regulación del ciclo del carbono, contribuyendo a equilibrar la contaminación producida por los países más desarrollados. Todo esfuerzo económico que se haga en este sentido será poco. La lucha contra la desertificación se ha convertido en objetivo prioritario para países como el nuestro, de clima árido. El bosque contribuye al mantenimiento del potencial productivo de la nación. Por ello creemos necesario hacer hincapié en los beneficios indirectos del bosque a la hora de evaluar los proyectos FAO. El mapa de suelos debe complementarse con el mapa de riesgo de la erosión.

A los incendios, principal amenaza del bosque, se añade, en los últimos años, la contaminación atmosférica. No obstante, conviene recomendar una utilización prudente de los datos proporcionados por las redes de vigilancia, ya que, al menos los de la Comunidad Económica Europea, se refieren a defoliación y decoloración en general, que en el estado actual de conocimiento del fenómeno, no pueden ser atribuibles en su totalidad a la llamada lluvia ácida.

Finalmente, el alarmante ritmo de desaparición de seres vivos -animales y plantas- exige una acción decidida en la conservación de las especies en peligro de extinción, sobre todo con acciones "in situ". En este sentido, apoyaremos cuantas iniciativas surjan para el mantenimiento de los recursos fitogenéticos, y haremos cuanto sea posible por transferir tecnología e intercambiar experiencias. FAO tiene aquí un gran protagonismo y una gran responsabilidad. El bosque, que es, sin duda, fuente de empleo y motor de desarrollo rural, constituye, además, en cuanto a ecosistema, el mayor banco de recursos genéticos a disposición de la humanidad.

Masahiko YASUMURO (Japan): To begin with, I would like to thank Mr. Lanly for his excellent introduction. Also, my delegation would like to express its appreciation to those countries which have kindly extended offers to host the next World Forestry Congress.

My delegation has no difficulty in endorsing the Report of the Ninth Session of the Committee on Forestry. My delegation hopes that when preparing the next biennium's Programme of Work and Budget due attention should be paid to the forestry sector, and that due consideration should be attached to the priorities which were identified by the Committee on Forestry.

My delegation considers the following areas of priority to be especially important, which should be backed by FAO. Firstly, the collection, analysis and distribution of information. Secondly, the promotion and coordination of the TFAP activities. Thirdly, forestry for rural development, including social forestry. Fourthly, technical issues for measures against forest fires, landslide and watershed management which would act as one of the essential activities to be taken on by the UN system under the UN General Assembly Resolution 42/169 on the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction.

Ms. Ljiljana VELASEVIC (Yugoslavia): With regard to the Report of the Committee on Forestry, in view of the critical state of forest resources, the Yugoslav delegation supports FAO's activities aimed at elaborating stances and guidelines for forestry development. We are well aware of the critical state the environment has reached as a result of the overall development of modern civilization, the excessive exploitation and pollution of natural resources, particularly in the highly developed countries but increasingly and frequently in dramatic proportions and with even graver consequences in the developing countries as well.

The situation is particularly dramatic in forestry, as if man cannot learn the "lessons" of nature and change his behaviour accordingly. He is making the same mistakes on millions of hectares of world forests, although excessive forest felling leads to water- and wind-based erosion, reduced soil fertility and even its degradation into barren areas, disruptions in the water regime, floods, threats to agricultural land in lowlands, settlements and thoroughfares, with all their negative repercussions on societies, national economies and even the very survival of man.

The other dominant problem in forestry is widespread forest dieback in Europe and North America, most probably caused by excessive air pollution. Yugoslavia devotes close attention to this issue, although we are well aware that only by joint and multi-disciplinary action pursued with equal intensity at local, national and international levels can the crucial issues of forestry be resolved. Therefore, the Yugoslav delegation fully supports FAO's action to identify an international approach to the resolution of this problem along with ensuring greater intersectoral linkage.

Within the framework of FAO's field programmes, as well as national development plans, higher priority should be accorded to forestry, primarily in view of the importance of forests for overall socio-economic development and nature conservation. It is necessary to increase the share of funds in the FAO budget allocated to forestry, but without this entailing additional contributions on the part of member countries.

The contribution of wildlife to food security and rural development should be reviewed as a specific issue in the forestry area. In this connection, national development plans should make provisions for adequate forestry husbandry and wildlife use as well as adequate budget funds for the permanent use of these resources. At the same time, within its programmes, FAO should attach greater importance to wildlife management issues as one of the many ways for at least partially mitigating the problem of hunger and malnutrition in one part of the world.

The development of forestry based on small-scale enterprises is one of the aspects of the overall socio-economic development of certain developing countries. For this reason, through its field programmes, FAO should make a more active contribution to the rational development of such enterprises. FAO has a particularly important role to play in collecting and disseminating information concerning raw materials and markets for these enterprises.

The Report of the FAO Committee identified six areas in which FAO can provide greater assistance. Our country supports FAO's actions through all forms of assistance to member countries, including information, studies, the development of technologies and their application, training, counseling and technical assistance. This is also one of the recommendations of the Committee on Forestry, particularly in the part dealing with the more adequate exploitation of forests. In this connection, Yugoslavia supports the establishment of an Advisory Body on Forest Harvesting.

Regarding the part of the Tropical Forestry Action Plan on critical policy issues, Yugoslavia shares the opinion of most of the member countries that FAO should continue to expand its role in coordinating the Action Plan. Our delegation supports the proposal of the Committee on Forestry that the Action Plan should be submitted to the Committee on Agriculture for information and consideration.

Bearing all this in mind we expect this Council to reaffirm that, with regard to global forestry resources, we must stop behaving like a rich heiress who "can afford" to lavish forests indefinitely and without fear of consequences. Instead, we must resolutely embark upon an international drive to save forests, so that they might meet man's multifold needs to the greatest possible degree.

Thomas YANGA (Cameroun): Je voudrais présenter à M. Lanly nos félicitations pour la présentation brillante et succincte qu'il nous a faite du rapport de la neuvième session du Comité des forêts.

Notre assemblée a discuté longuement et de façon approfondie de la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture ainsi que du rapport du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale. Dans son concept le plus élargi, la sécurité alimentaire devient l'épicentre des actions et des programmes menés dans tous les secteurs de la vie économique. Parmi ceux-ci, la forêt constitue une source potentielle capable à elle seule de contribuer à une sécurité alimentaire confortable pérenne, en plus de son rôle fondamental dans l'équilibre biologique et chimique de la biosphère.

Dans les pays en développement, la forêt peut jouer un rôle fondamental dans la sécurité alimentaire des populations qui y sont plus ou moins rattachées à condition toutefois que des mesures concrètes et efficaces soient prises en concomitance pour tirer le meilleur de ces immenses ressources végétales et animales et assurer leur renouvellement et leur conservation.

Quelques aspects extrêmement importants de l'utilisation harmonieuse de la forêt par les hommes et pour les hommes ont fait l'objet de recommandations pertinentes de la part de la neuvième session du Comité des forêts, recommandations que nous appuyons pleinement car elles rejoignent les préoccupations et les objectifs de notre gouvernement. Il s'agit en l'occurrence du rôle de la faune sauvage dans la sécurité alimentaire et le développement rural et celui des petites entreprises forestières dans le développement de la récolte forestière, entre autres.

Cependant, il nous semble nécessaire de relever que les immenses potentialités de la forêt en général, et de la forêt tropicale en particulier, ne sont pas encore pleinement exploitées, voire même complètement identifiées. Dans le cas du Cameroun, les formations forestières couvrent près de la moitié de l'étendue de notre territoire et elles se caractérisent par une densité et une variété d'essences très élevées. Mais le secteur forestier ne contribue que pour 3% à la constitution du produit intérieur brut. Le gouvernement camerounais est particulièrement conscient de l'insuffisance de l'exploitation de ce patrimoine précieux en même temps que des exigences de sa conservation. C'est ainsi, par exemple, que l'un des objectifs primordiaux de l'action du Gouvernement camerounais consiste à promouvoir les nombreuses essences nouvelles mal connues ou méconnues et, avec le précieux concours des institutions et des pays amis, à mener des recherches appropriées qui permettraient la mise en valeur de leurs qualités et de leur utilisation industrielle. Naturellement, cette action se fait en conciliant dans toute la mesure possible les deux exigences mentionnées ci-dessus.

Aussi sommes-nous d'avis que le Plan d'action forestier tropical constitue un cadre idéal permettant à la fois de restituer aux-populations rurales et à l'ensemble de la société nationale, voire internationale, la forêt comme source d'amélioration de leur bien-être et comme propriété commune à préserver, entretenir et gérer. Nous nous félicitons tout particulièrement de l'unanimité que cette perception intégrée et globale du rôle de la forêt tropicale a reçue tant de la part des pays donateurs que de celle des pays bénéficiaires dont mon pays fait partie.

S'agissant tout particulièrement du Cameroun, mon pays a été honoré d'être parmi les premiers à bénéficier d'une mission d'identification et d'évaluation sectorielles dans le cadre de la mise en oeuvre de ce plan. Je voudrais ici renouveler la reconnaissance et les remerciements du Gouvernement camerounais de cette sollicitude manifeste et concrète de la part de la FAO, des autres institutions multilatérales et surtout des pays amis et des organisations non gouvernementales.

Le gouvernement camerounais examine actuellement le rapport préparé à cet effet et soumettra prochainement aux organismes et pays amis l'ensemble des propositions concrètes qu'il juge indispensables et bénéfiques pour son secteur forestier.

S'agissant enfin du dixième Congrès forestier mondial, compte tenu de son impact sur le plan national et régional, nous souhaitons qu'il soit tenu compte de la rotation géographique du lieu du Congrès ainsi que de la proposition avancée par la délégation cubaine, à savoir discuter d'abord du Congrès et parler ensuite du lieu.

Joao Augusto de MEDICIS (Brazil): I can assure you that the length of my statement will not be proportionate to the extent of our forests.

The Brazilian delegation took an active part in the Ninth Session of COFO and therefore we endorse the Report submitted to this Council and reiterate the importance of the issues raised in pages (iii) and (iv) of document CL 94/8. In that regard, I would like to mention the contents of paragraph 57 of the report. It underscores that developing countries should be thoroughly involved in all discussions regarding tropical forestry and that coordination of TFAP should be maintained in the competent intergovernmental body, namely, the Committee on Forest Development in the Tropics.

Last month, the President of Brazil launched an important Programme, targetted at the protection of the environment, in particular of our Tropical Forest. This Programme, entitled "Our Nature", sets six main objectives: (a) To restrict predatory incursion against the environment and renewable natural resources; (b) To enforce the environmental protection system; (c) To promote environmental education and public awareness regarding the necessity of conservation of the environment in the Amazonian Region; (d) To regulate rational settlement and exploitation of the Amazonian region; (e) To reclaim ecosystems affected by the action of man; and, last but not least (f) To protect the indigenous communities and the populations involved in the extractive process.

At the presentation of the Programme, our President stressed the need to preserve natural resources for future generations. I quote his words "In protecting our natural heritage, we will not only be ensuring the welfare of today's Brazilians, but we will also be guaranteeing, at the same time, the survival of future generations. Fortunately, the heart of the Amazon has not been touched by the predatory action of man. However, the stigma of environmental degradation can be seen over large expanses of the states of Tocantins, Mato Grosso, Pará, Maranhao, Rondônia and Acre. These senseless blights which satellites have shown were caused by the voracious force of large fires and by the predatory activities of gold mines.

In many rivers indiscriminate fishing is now threatening the natural replenishment of the species. So, a reversal of this grave situation is mandatory and will be implemented. This will bring economic activities into areas with specific aptitudes and will promote the integration of the use of renewable natural resources with the imperatives of environmental protection".

The Programme confirms the Brazilian willingness to acknowledge the undeniable and untransferable responsibility of the people and Government of Brazil, namely, to use our resources in a non-predatory manner to enhance the well-being of the present generation and in such a way that nature will be preserved for the use of future generations. We are sure that other countries share our views.

However, the international community should also be aware of its responsibility towards developing countries and help create an economic environment that will allow them to accomplish socio-economic development, without having to resort to activities that might endanger their ecological systems. Rather than pressuring these countries, they should accept a more equitable new international economic order. As it was quite adequately pointed out in the Brundtland Report, and also recognized in the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond which said "the roots of the problem of poverty and the pressure it exerts on the environment are in an international economic system which widens instead of reducing the inequalities among nations".

Amin ABDEL MALEK (Liban) (langue originale arabe): Je tiens à remercier M. Lanly d'avoir si bien présenté les documents CL 94/8 ET CL 94/16 relatifs à la neuvième session du Comité des forêts, qui s'est tenue à Rome du 9 au 13 mai 1988, et au dixième Congrès forestier mondial.

A ce sujet, je voudrais rendre hommage à la FAO pour l'intérêt qu'elle porte aux questions relatives à la préservation et à la conservation des forêts afin de réaliser l'objectif du développement

économique et social tout en sauvegardant le patrimoine et l'environnement. C'est une tradition de la FAO dans les services qu'elle rend à la communauté internationale. Nous souhaitons que cet intérêt en faveur des activités forestières aille croissant.

La délégation du Liban souhaite apporter son appui à certaines des recommandations et conclusions du Comité des forêts, en particulier pour inciter les gouvernements à consacrer dans leur budget les crédits nécessaires au développement de l'exploitation des ressources forestières au bénéfice des communautés rurales. Il s'agit également d'inciter les gouvernements à prendre des initiatives et à adopter des mesures en faveur des petites entreprises forestières étant donné le rôle important que celles-ci jouent en matière de développement rural.

Quant à la question qui retient le plus notre attention, c'est celle de la position que doivent prendre les gouvernements pour adopter les orientations et entreprendre les démarches nécessaires à une exploitation rationnelle des ressources de la forêt pour mettre au point et pour établir un rapport entre la forêt et son utilisation, surtout en cette période d'utilisation excessive des ressources forestières à des fins énergétiques, sans renouveler le patrimoine forestier, ce qui risque d'entraîner la suppression des ressources forestières dans plusieurs régions du monde. Une utilisation rationnelle des ressources concourt à un développement intégré et contribue à assurer la sécurité alimentaire.

Hidayat Ganda ATMÀDJA (Indonesia): At the outset my delegation expresses its satisfaction for the quality of the documents which have been prepared by the secretariat and also for the comprehensive presentation made by the representative of the Director-General. I am happy to say that the documents under consideration cover all related aspects of forest and forest development currently of paramount importance and which my delegation fully supports.

However, I would make a few comments and emphasize important matters which require our attention. First, while the wildlife resources development as a sub-system in maintaining some environment should be developed as an integral part of the forestry development system. In Indonesia these wildlife development systems have been taking place for several years and have reached a convincing result. The impact is mostly on rural development and employment generation instead of food resources. However, there is one aspect on which wildlife could directly contribute to food security by providing sufficient ground to enable wildlife to live in a sound environment in order to prevent them disturbing the agricultural areas surrounding the forests. Taming white elephants which usually trespass on agricultural land in the vicinity of the forest areas, particularly in Sumatra, is one example of the Indonesian experience.

Regarding the issue concerning forest small-scale enterprise, my delegation agrees with the view that this sector plays an important role in rural development. It provides employment opportunities and generates income to the rural poor. However, the conduct of the small-scale business cannot compete with bigger enterprises in terms of capital and technological capabilities as well as in the marketing of their products. To cope with these problems the Government of Indonesia has adopted a policy of introducing a "parenthood" approach or nucleus system. This system means that the big enterprise acts as father which gives guidance, technological services and marketing of the products made by the smaller-scale Industries.

The improper practice of harvesting logs in the tropical forests often has a harmful effect on other products in the forests such as raffia collection, medicinal plants and orchids as well as other genetic resources. An approach to forest management in this regard to maintain sound ecological environment is considered a prerequisite by my delegation. Therefore we would like to stress the importance of this matter and hope that FAO will continue to develop activities in this area.

Dong QINGSONG (China): (original language Chinese) At the outset I should like to thank Mr. Lanly for his introduction to this agenda item. Document CL 94/8 reflects very well the conclusions of the 9th COFO Session on the principal issues related to world forestry. Therefore we suggest that the Council approve this report.

Now I am going to make two points. First, concerning rational development and conservation of forestry resources, we fully agree with the Committee on Forestry that conservation and development activities should be combined and a conservation strategy to promote the rural integrated development. Therefore intersectoral approaches at the national, regional and international levels should be adopted for the conservation of forests. The Tropical Forestry Action Plan, the development of small-scale forestry and of prices implemented or proposed by FAO are effective ways to rationally conserve and develop forestry resources. In our view it is important to improve legislation and technical exchange in this regard. We hope that FAO will continue to undertake these activities.

Second, about the coordination between agriculture and forestry, this is mentioned in paragraph 47 of document CL 94/8 and was one of the major items during the Nineteenth Session of the Asia and the Pacific Regional Conference. Experience has proved that integration of agriculture and forestry development can yield social, economic and environmental benefits. In recent years agro-forestry has received attention in China as an important means to develop agriculture, forestry and rural economy and protect the environment, and this approach has generated some impact. Our government is going to extend this practice over larger areas so as to obtain greater overall benefit. Meanwhile, we hope that FAO will take relevant measures to help Member States to launch activities in this field.

Muhammad Saleem KHAN (Pakistan): We would start by commending the Ninth Committee on Forestry and Mr. Yabaki and members of his Bureau for an excellent report as well as Mr. Lanly for his excellent presentation.

My delegation endorses the views expressed in the report on the importance of wildlife and its contribution to world food security. We in Pakistan have already set up a national council for conservation of wildlife. We would welcome FAO's support for setting up a national wildlife institute to cater for research on endangered species of flora and fauna as well as the provision of training facilities in the field. Small-scale enterprises in the forestry sector not only optimizes the use of forestry produce but is a valuable source of employment for the rural poor and a meaningful source of income through the sale of value-added products. We support the proposed FAO role in this sphere and the findings and recommendations in paragraphs 19 to 30.

In the context of access to credit and our experience with mobile credit mentioned at paragraph 26, we would be pleased to share it with any country so desiring.

We agree that inappropriate forest harvesting practices can have a devastating effect on the forest stands and on the environment. We have had our own bitter experiences in this respect and have initiated various remedial measures. These include improved harvesting techniques, increased plantations in blanks in forested areas, plantations along roadsides, seasonal and perennial flows and reforestation of harvested areas. Emphasis has also been laid on social and farm forestry, watershed management projects and establishing national parks to preserve wild flora and fauna. In line with the recommendations of the Pakistan National Commission on Agriculture, an authority to manage watershed and arid lands is under consideration. A master plan to address the policy issues mentioned in the Tropical Forestry Plan is under preparation with collaboration of the Asian Development Bank. As such we endorse the proposals regarding continuation and intensification of FAO's role in the forestry sector, increased technical assistance for planning and extension of proper harvesting operations and the recommendations of the Committee to extend FAO's support for manpower development and conceiving new projects. In our own context we would welcome FAO's support to design and implement projects for arresting and rectifying the severe degradation in the mountainous areas perpetuated by heavy and rampant grazing and particularly intensified of late by the presence of 3 million Afghan refugees and several hundred thousands of their cattle.

In net, Sir, we individually and severally endorse and support the findings and recommendations of the Committee on Forestry but we realize that whereas we are asking the FAO to assume a monumental task we will have to support the Organization with the concomitant resources. The present financial crisis cannot create a conducive environment for working of the Organization according to our requirements and expectations and can only end up in situations like the termination/suspension of Unasylva which we would like to see restored.

Earl W. WEYBRECHT (Canada): The Canadian delegation wishes to express its appreciation for the papers provided under this item, which include the Report of the Ninth Session of the Committee on Forestry, document CL 94/16.

Forestry is a sector of great importance in Canada. In addition to being a vast national resource it represents a major source of employment and revenue as well as an important component of our international development assistance programmes.

Canada wishes to reiterate the global importance of the Tropical Forestry Action Plan and to stress the role that has been assigned to FAO as coordinator of the plan.

We welcome the reference made in the keynote statement of the Director-General to the Committee on Forestry last May on the priority he attaches to the Tropical Forestry Action Plan.

With respect to matters requiring attention as outlined in document CL 94/8, we wish to focus on point 6 in particular and to stress the importance that Canada attaches to the recommendation that FAO allocate an increased share of its Regular Programme budget to forestry activities.

We would point as well to paragraphs 87, 88 and 89 of the same document and the emphasis placed on the mobilization of resources available in the Forestry Department and FAO to support the Tropical Forestry Action Plan. Canada would like to see the integration of TFAP goals within a strong FAO forestry organization. Indeed we could have gone further than the committee and encouraged a restructuring of the Forestry Department along the lines of the main components of the TFAP.

Finally, we would expect that the changing priorities in forestry would be relevant to the study currently under way by the group of experts examining FAO's roles and priorities.

Gian Luigi Valenza (Italie): Je voudrais avant tout remercier le Secrétariat pour l'exposé intéressant et complet qu'il a fait du rapport du Comité.

Les forêts, ce grand patrimoine de la nature, de l'homme, ont désormais démontré toute leur importance et je crois qu'il est universellement reconnu aujourd'hui que pour assurer leur sauvegarde le temps que nous avons à disposition commence à nous faire terriblement défaut. Encore une fois c'est l'humanité dans son ensemble et son avenir qui sont particulièrement concernés.

Ainsi, à la lumière de l'expérience et des nouvelles connaissances, l'Italie, qui compte sur son territoire plus de 8 millions d'hectares de forêts diversifiées, s'efforce d'orienter au mieux des possibilités son engagement et de mettre en oeuvre, sur le plan interne comme sur le plan international et sur celui de la coopération au développement, l'action concrète et coordonnée la plus efficace possible dans les différents secteurs intéressés.

Des études se poursuivent dans ce domaine et l'on voudrait conférer à cette action une contribution toujours plus importante de ressources, en tenant compte des priorités fixées par les lois internes et en suivant les lignes que les enceintes internationales indiquent comme les plus utiles.

Nous sommes particulièrement heureux, je dois l'avouer, de pouvoir constater que maintenant on s'est déjà acheminé chez nous sur les lignes directrices mentionnées dans le plan d'action pour les forêts tropicales et donc les conclusions tirées par Bellagio UN.

L'Italie a posé depuis longtemps sa candidature pour accueillir le dixième congrès forestier mondial qui devrait se tenir en 1991. L'Italie avait du reste accueilli déjà en 1926 le premier congrès et elle considère un honneur tout particulier de pouvoir tenir à nouveau sur son territoire, après plus d'un demi siècle, cette importante réunion dont l'importance va bien au-delà des frontières nationales ou continentales.

A cet égard je voudrais réitérer ici bien clairement que mon pays considère qu'il est tout à fait indispensable d'associer à l'organisation du 10ème congrès tous les pays qui peuvent être intéressés, et particulièrement les pays africains qui ont présenté une candidature analogue. La CEE n'a pas manqué du reste d'exprimer elle aussi, à l'occasion de la neuvième session du Comité des forêts le souhait que le 10ème Congrès puisse avoir lieu dans un pays de la Communauté. Si ce souhait pouvait, comme nous l'espérons vivement, être réalisé, l'Italie est évidemment prête à définir très prochainement, notamment avec la France autre pays communautaire, les modalités de la tenue de la Conférence.

Antti NIKKOLA (Finland): The Finnish delegation would like to use this opportunity to emphasize the importance of forestry for the future development of Member States for economic as well as social and environmental reasons. We believe that this importance should be seen in the use of resources too. Therefore we would like to support the proposal made by the 9th Session of the Committee on Forestry that FAO allocate an increased share of its Regular Programme budget to forestry activities.

FAO has made a great and valuable work in preparing the Tropical Forestry Action Plan. Now its work should be fully utilized. FAO has an important role as the leading international coordinating agent for the plan. So the forestry plan should get the resources needed for this task.

In this context I would like to emphasise that FAO should also expand its co-operation with the international financing institutions so that maximum use of resources could be employed for the tropical forestry activities and programmes.

The Ninth Session of the COFO also recommended that the Tropical Forestry Action Plan should be brought to the attention of the Committee on Agriculture. There is a general agreement that rural development has to be an integrated effort to prove successful. For administrative reasons agriculture and forestry are, however, often promoted through separate channels.

FAO's in-house activities are also organized along these lines. Nevertheless, a closer cooperation between the two sub-sectors at all levels of administration would be very fruitful, and it will be needed to gain good results in the implementation of the Tropical Forestry Action Plan.

Regarding the FAO actions in the field of forestry in general, priority should be given to those actions where FAO is particularly well qualified, and where there is no other comparable source of support. The emphasis should be given to providing the informational and analytical base.

FAO has an important role in improving the information needed to assess various forest policy matters. Without adequate and reliable data on production, trade, prices, forest resources and the potential resources supply in the forms of wood and non-wood benefits, it is impossible to make right decisions, may the decision-maker be a government forest industry company or a small-scale entrepreneur. Therefore the improvement of information-base data collection and production statistics should have a high priority among FAO activities on the forest sector.

Concerning the question of the next host for the Tenth Forestry Congress to be held in 1991, we consider that France, as one of the leading forest countries in the world, would be a very appropriate host for this very important gathering.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Deseamos apoyar plenamente la declaración que hizo la primera oradora sobre este tema, nuestra colega y amiga Evangelina Beltrán, de México. México, fraterno país latinoamericano, donde se celebro, con buen éxito, el 9º Congreso Forestal, en 1985. Apoyamos, Sr. Presidente, lo que dice el párrafo 8 del informe del Comité, sobre la necesidad de que se conceda la atención debida a la protección de la fauna silvestre, a la seguridad alimentaria y al desarrollo rural. Queremos, Sr. Presidente, expresar nuestra preocupación por la manera como se están llevando a cabo las actividades en el seno de la FAO sobre el Plan de Acción Forestal Tropical. En el párrafo 53 se dice que el PAFT debe ya pasar de la fase de planificación a la de plena ejecución. Si la Secretaría aceptase esta opinión, estaríamos reconociendo una actitud pasiva de nuestra Organización, que, a juicio de los representantes de Colombia, no corresponde, por lo menos de lo que ya está actuándose en nuestro país, donde ese Plan ha tenido colaboración valiosa en las autoridades colombianas y avanza satisfactoriamente en el logro de sus objetivos. Quisiéramos conocer la reacción de la Secretaría y recibir mayores explicaciones acerca de si en verdad el PAFT está todavía planificándose, en teoría, sobre el papel, o está ya en actuación plena.

Queremos apoyar lo que dijeron nuestros colegas de Yugoslavia y Finlandia, en el sentido de que el PAFT se ha estudiado en el seno del Comité de Agricultura. El colega de Finlandia se refirió a un aspecto importante, y es a la necesidad de los recursos externos fuera del Programa Ordinario de la FAO, sobre todo en este momento de crisis. Queremos apoyar naturalmente esa opinión de que conviene arbitrar recursos externos; pero llama la atención, Sr. Presidente, el hecho de que, tanto en la presentación que se hizo esta mañana como en todo este informe, se haga poca referencia al PNUD, al Programa de Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo. La FAO sigue siendo la agencia de ejecución más importante del PNUD. Notamos también este vacío ayer, cuando discutimos el tema de la lucha contra la langosta del desierto. No se hizo mención del PNUD, y todos sabemos, por documentos y por informaciones periodísticas inclusive, que el PNUD está participando también en esa lucha contra la langosta del desierto. En el párrafo 78 consta justamente esta preocupación. Algunas delegaciones de América Latina expresaron la esperanza de que les ofreciera mayor asistencia; y, precisamente por reconocer que los recursos del Programa Ordinario son insuficientes, sugerimos la posibilidad de que esto se hiciera a través del PNUD. De manera que es muy importante que esto se tenga en cuenta, Sr. Presidente.

Dentro del Plan de Acción Forestal Tropical, quisiéramos apoyar particularmente la agrosilvicultura. En la Conferencia Regional para América Latina y el Caribe, que se celebró hace poco en Recife, Brasil, la Delegación de Colombia propuso, y así consta en el informe, que se considerara la posibilidad de identificar y preparar un proyecto regional con el PNUD. Ojalá, Sr. Presidente, que la Secretaría nos diga -sabemos que ha transcurrido poco tiempo- cuál ha sido su primera reacción. Naturalmente, estamos de acuerdo con el párrafo 78, en cuanto a que corresponde a los gobiernos, dentro de la CIP del PNUD, decidir sus propios proyectos; pero pensamos que la coadyuvación efectiva de la Secretaría podría contribuir a que se logren esos propósitos.

Queremos también, Sr. Presidente, apoyar lo que dijo aquí el colega de Brasil, un país que tiene una gran riqueza forestal que Colombia comparte, sobre todo en la región amazónica.

Finalmente, llegamos a la posible sede del 100 Congreso Forestal Mundial. Aunque, como se nos ha recordado y ya sabemos, este Consejo debe decidir al respecto, nos han llamado la atención las declaraciones, generalmente tímidas, de nuestros colegas, que no han expresado ninguna preferencia concreta, con excepción del colega de Finlandia sobre todo, que se expresó claramente al respecto. Hemos estudiado las posibilidades que ofrecen los países que están dispuestos ser sede de ese congreso, y, naturalmente, nuestra actitud es muy vacilante, sobre todo después de haber oído las declaraciones de Francia y de Italia; declaraciones muy competentes, pragmáticas, generosas y flexibles, todo lo cual nos induce a que compartiéramos el deseo de que el Congreso se celebrara en Francia o Italia. Paralelamente, quedan tres países de la región africana. África, parece una paradoja, no ha tenido hasta ahora la sede del Congreso Forestal Mundial. Tal vez ello se debe al hecho de que muchos de los países africanos sólo en los últimos años han obtenido su propia independencia, pero creemos que ya ha llegado la hora de que este Congreso se celebre en un país africano.

El colega de Cuba, mi amigo y vecino de la derecha, hizo una propuesta muy diplomática, que además se ha puesto en práctica en ocasiones anteriores en el seno de este Consejo, en el sentido de que los representantes de los países interesados traten de ponerse de acuerdo. Sin embargo, Sr. Presidente, con todo respeto por los dos países de la Comunidad Económica Europea y por los otros dos países africanos, nosotros pensamos que Tanzania es un país que ofrecería todas las facilidades, todas las atenciones, condiciones muy agradables y atractivas. Hemos estado en Tanzania, en reuniones internacionales, y allá, sobre el terreno del propio país, hemos comprobado el esfuerzo que hacen las autoridades y el pueblo de Tanzania para poder acoger bien y satisfactoriamente a quienes participamos en actividades internacionales. El Gobierno de Colombia considera que cualquiera de los cinco países sería una sede adecuada y conveniente; pero, de manera muy cordial y respetuosa, expresa su preferencia por Tanzania.

Finalmente, Sr. Presidente, agradecemos a los representantes de Suiza el generoso ofrecimiento que han hecho para actividades complementarias. Suiza es el país que tiene, sin duda, las montañas más lindas del mundo, y esto es muy grato para todos nosotros.

Ms. Roberta VAN HAEFTEN (United States of America): The United States has for many years put high priority on FAO's work in the forestry area. We have also argued, in many past fora that FAO should do the same. In recent years the United States Government has been particularly supportive of FAO's role in the development and implementation of the Tropical Forestry Action Plan. The United States, along with other countries, participated in the development of this plan and used this programme as a vital framework for worldwide co-operation towards solving many of the serious problems confronting tropical forests and the people who live in and benefit from them.

The United States, through the United States Department of Agriculture's Forest Service, and its Agency for International Development are now supporting FAO in its efforts to carry out its role in the Tropical Forestry Action Plan. For example, in recent months the United States Forestry Service provided FAO with consultants to assist in the development of the Tropical Forestry Action Plan's activities and supported a Tropical Forestry Action Plan Seminar held in conjunction with a Latin-American Forestry Commission. The United States Government therefore agrees with the COFA recommendation that FAO shift a higher proportion of its resources into forestry and forest conservation programmes and, in particular, into the Tropical Forestry Action Plan. Such action is particularly important in light of the growing concern worldwide about forestry in the impacts of tropical deforestation.

The United States also agrees with the COFO recommendation that FAO strengthen its role as the leading international coordinating agency for the Plan. The United States is concerned, however, as it was last spring during the COFO meeting, that FAO take the steps necessary to enable it to respond adequately to the demands that are going to be placed on it as more countries become involved in the implementation of the Plan. The United States delegation would like to know from the Secretariat, therefore, what progress has been made in recruiting a permanent Tropical Forestry Action Plan coordinator and what steps are being taken to make sure that the unit in the Forestry Department responsible for the implementation of Tropical Forestry Action Plan activities will be adequately staffed.

The United States supports the COFO suggestions that wildlife management forest-based small-scale enterprises and forest-resource monitoring receive greater emphasis.

The United States agrees with the Committee's conclusion that the Tropical Forestry Action Plan is an excellent vehicle to promote forest and wildlife conservation as well as forest management.

The United States also believes that agriculture and forestry activities need to be better coordinated within FAO through the incorporation of more forestry activities within agricultural

programmes and agrees with the Committee that the Tropical Forestry Action Plan should be brought to the attention of the Committee on Agriculture. The need for better coordination and integration on forestry and agricultural activities has been a perennial problem.

Finally, in discussing individual components of FAO's medium-term objectives, the Committee recommended that FAO dedicate special attention to the monitoring of forestry resources and to supporting the development of national capabilities in this subject through better information dissemination and training. The United States supports this effort and will be glad to participate in it since the needed specialized expertise in remote sensing is a well-developed speciality in the United States.

The meeting rose at 12.45 hours.

La seance est levée a 12 h 45.

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.45 horas.

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**EIGHTH PLENARY MEETING
HUITIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
OCTAVA SESION PLENARIA**

(18 November 1988)

The Eighth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours.

Lassaad Ben Osman, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La huitième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 45,

sous la présidence de Lassaad Ben Osman, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la octava sesión plenaria a las 14.45 horas.

bajo la presidencia de Lassaad Ben Osman, Presidente Indipendiente del Consejo

III. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP

III. ACTIVITES DE LA FAO ET DU PAM

III. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y EL PMA

6. Report of the Ninth session of the Committee on Forestry (Rome, 9-13 May 1988) including date and venue of the Tenth World Forestry Congress 1991 (continued)
6. Rapport de la neuvième session du Comité des forest (Rome, 9-13 mai 1988), y compris date et lieu du dixième Congrès forestier mondial de 1991 (suite)
6. Informe del noveno periodo de sesiones del Comité de Montes (Roma, 9-13 de mayo de 1988), incluida la fecha y lugar del Décimo Congreso Forestal Mundial, previsto para 1991 (continuación)

Joseph ANGWENYI (Kenya): The Kenyan delegation wishes to thank the Secretariat for a very comprehensive Report on forestry. I have a few brief comments to make. First, we are delighted to note that the Report pays a lot of attention to the contribution of forest-based small-scale enterprises, especially in their role in stabilizing rural communities by offering employment. This is very much in line with our rural development strategy in Kenya.

There is a need to involve the local communities particularly in afforestation and conservation. We also noted that besides the traditional role of forestry in supplying industrial wood requirements, the role of supplying non-wood requirements, particularly in areas where we have a growing population, has been given prominence in this report. The role of forestry, particularly in watershed management, erosion control and the provision of habitat for wildlife, forestry also serves as a gene pool for a lot of flora and fauna. We welcome the suggestion to have the integration of wildlife and forestry. To achieve a balance it is necessary to invest more resources, particularly in surveys of both forestry resources and other natural resources in the area, in order to facilitate the drawing up of long-term programmes to achieve sustained yields.

The combination of the report on inter-sector approach to forestry planning is very welcome. In my own country we have just completed a forestry sub-sector review and the report has been published. In that report there is a lot of scope for integrating forestry planning together with agricultural development and other relevant sectors.

We would welcome very much the support of FAO, particularly in programmes to strengthen the local capability in resource survey and management. This is particularly crucial in marginal areas, the arid and semi-arid areas of, for example, the African region because with sustainable development in those areas we may be able to overcome the problem of desertification. In other areas interventions on agro-forestry and farm-forestry will assist in giving the farmers in those areas some of the wood they require and will enable them to have an environment conducive to development.

We also note that the Tenth World Forestry Congress that is being held in many regions of the world and at the moment there is a lot of interest in the Tropical Forestry Action Plan. We feel it would be helpful if this Congress is held in the Tropics. I would like to support the suggestion of the Colombian delegation that our sister state in East Africa, namely Tanzania, would be a good venue to hold this Congress. I would also like to note the support expressed by France to support the organization of this Congress. I hope that this support will be extended wherever the Congress is held.

Gerhard LIEBER (Germany, Federal Republic of): I apologize for being late. First of all I should like to thank Mr. Lanly for his introduction to the very informative and well-prepared report which is before us. We welcome the fact that the Ninth Session of the Committee on Forestry was attended by so many highly qualified representatives of Member States. This stresses the importance which is attached to forestry at national and international levels.

The Ninth COFO session dealt with important questions relating to the biological and technical forestry production, forest protection and in particular the further development of the Tropical Forest Action Plan. The most important issue in this connection proved to be the assessment of the planning concept of the Tropical Forest Action Plan and the state of its implementation in the individual Member States. As the TFAP endeavours to achieve a comprehensive and critical assessment of the forestry and forest product sectors of a country in its economic and social environment, all important questions of forest management and conservation have to be raised for discussion. We think that that is a great advantage of the plan.

My delegation welcomes the fact that, especially in view of the progressive decline in tropical forests, high priority is given to the question of the practical implementation of TFAP at the regional and national levels. I can assure you that the Federal Republic of Germany fully supports the current worldwide activities in this respect. This was also reaffirmed by our Minister for Economic Cooperation on the occasion of his recent visit to FAO ten days ago. Considering the tasks involved we feel that the strengthening of FAO's Forestry Department should receive the necessary priority so that the Department is able to respond to the challenges ahead.

Let me mention another aspect which was discussed by the Committee on Forestry, namely, the new types of forest damage occurring in the forests of the Northern Hemisphere. My country welcomes the fact that a coordinated forest damage survey has led, in European countries, to an at least reasonable overview of the current state of forest damage thus providing the basis for appropriate measures to be taken. We also welcome the fact that forestry research is coordinated and speeded up at the same time in a European research network.

The Council also has to deal with the question of the site for the next World Forestry Congress in 1991. As you may well imagine my country supports the proposals to celebrate this important meeting in an EEC member country. As we, in Europe, enjoy a very close cooperation in European forestry, the Congress would have the full support of European forestry science policy bodies, administration and professional organizations. European forestry with its century-old traditions and experiences, with the beauty of its woodlands, would certainly be a fitting background for the Tenth World Forestry Congress.

Washington ZUÑIGA TRELLES (Perú): La presentación de los documentos y la exposición efectuada del tema, es muy buena. Hago llegar la felicitación de mi delegación por este hecho. No quiero repetir aquí las posiciones adoptadas por mi país cuando vimos estos temas en el Comité de Montes, el Perú había expresado ampliamente su apoyo y su decidida colaboración al Departamento de Montes de la FAO. Todos ellos saben, a través de nuestras exposiciones, a veces extensas y prolíficas, cuál ha sido nuestra posición respecto al desarrollo de la forestería en el mundo, no solamente como un medio de ayuda económica para nuestros pueblos sino de mantenimiento y mejoramiento del ambiente y de los sistemas ecológicos que son tan necesarios para la supervivencia de la humanidad.

Solamente quiero referirme en esta oportunidad al hecho de que en mi país ya se ha preparado el Plan Forestal Tropical y también que contamos con el apoyo auspicioso del PNUD a cuyo delegado hago llegar nuestro agradecimiento, para que comiencen a prepararse los proyectos prioritarios contemplados en este Plan, a fin de poder iniciar los proyectos necesarios para cooperar con este esfuerzo mundial en la preservación de nuestros bosques y en la utilización racional de los mismos.

Quiero referirme también muy brevemente a las industrias forestales. Estamos a la espera de un proyecto, que debe ser apoyado posiblemente por los Países Bajos, sobre el desarrollo de industrias forestales. En nuestro país, desde hace muchos años sobre todo en las comunidades campesinas, hemos desarrollado acciones de forestación y estos árboles han crecido, y en estos momentos, los campesinos no saben qué hacer con los árboles porque antes se utilizaban en minería, y la minería en este momento atraviesa una grave crisis. Los minerales están con precios sumamente bajos y, por consiguiente, no hay demanda de estos árboles para utilizarlos en esta actividad económica. Entonces la industria forestal, que ya tiene cierta experiencia, necesita del apoyo de estos organismos internacionales y agradecemos a los Países Bajos el interés que ellos están tomando para que dentro de la Comunidad pueda ser aprobado este proyecto, que ya se ha presentado hace más de un año.

Asimismo, estamos haciendo proyectos de capacitación con Suiza, con especies nativas para utilizarlas como leña y evitar la depredación de algunos bosques naturales que existen.

Y en fin, venimos actuando con bastante entusiasmo en todo lo que se trate de la conservación y explotación racional del bosque y de la vida silvestre, nosotros siempre estaremos presentes para apoyar en todo lo que sea posible y positivo.

En cuanto al Décimo Congreso Forestal Mundial, yo quisiera manifestar que mi Delegación sigue el criterio de Cuba en el sentido de que sean los propios países que se han ofrecido como sede los que definan, porque nosotros tenemos igual simpatía por los cinco países y creemos que los cinco están en condiciones de realizar un evento de esta naturaleza, y la verdad, no sabemos por quién inclinarnos. Que sean ellos, quienes viendo sus posibilidades de último momento, definan dónde debe realizarse este importante certamen que, seguramente como los anteriores, va a generar la atención mundial.

András SZABO (Hungary): First, I want to declare our support for the Tropical Forest Action Plan. We are aware of the gravity of the problems concerned which by far exceed national, and even regional, frameworks which is why we treat these issues as a global problem calling for concerted actions by the international community as a whole. In these endeavours FAO would play a central and even more intensified role supported by appropriate financial appropriations. The Hungarian Government is ready to participate in the implementation of the action plan by making available the experience we have gained and sending our experts to the spot if our assistance is required.

As regards the place of the Tenth World Forestry Congress we see that countries from only two continents remain in the competition. In order to facilitate and alleviate our work we consider it would be desirable if countries of the same continent could agree firstly among each other (through informal discussions) which of them will host the Congress. Then our Council would be expected to choose from only two countries. Without final decision my country is inclined to see the place of the Congress in one of the African countries since Africa and its problems have been in the centre of our attention in recent years. We should also bear in mind that until now this continent has never had the opportunity to host such a Congress. However, we will be flexible and can accept the decision of the majority of the Council Members.

Taghi SHAMEKHI (Iran, République islamique d'): A propos des petites entreprises nous considérons que c'est une très bonne chose car, étant déjà une ressource économique pour les paysans, elle sont en outre importantes pour la conservation des forêts.

En République islamique d'Iran, la forêt est un patrimoine commun, en dehors de la propriété privée, tel que cela a été décidé par la Constitution. Le terrain est donc prêt pour déclencher le mouvement, et cela fait partie du programme du gouvernement.

A propos de la conservation de la forêt, je voudrais observer que dans les pays en développement la conservation de la forêt est avant tout un problème socio-économique et non pas un problème technique. La conservation de la forêt dans les pays en développement ne sera possible que si les problèmes de la pauvreté, de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture sont résolus. Les paysans pauvres n'ayant pas d'autre possibilité n'ont pour survivre que les ressources forestières.

Dans les pays en développement, il y a deux sources importantes de destruction de la forêt et donc de destruction de l'environnement. La première est l'exploitation industrielle qui ne tient pas compte des réalités socio-économiques et écologiques, surtout quand entre en jeu l'avidité des entreprises capitalistes étrangères. La deuxième raison est le fait que les paysans pauvres n'ont d'autres ressources que la forêt.

A propos de l'exploitation, j'insiste sur l'importance d'une activité plus intensive des recherches et des méthodes d'utilisation des forêts des régions sèches et demi-sèches du Proche-Orient qui ne produisent pas de bois, mais peuvent produire beaucoup d'autres ressources nécessaires, et la FAO peut avoir un rôle actif dans ce domaine.

En second lieu, dans l'exploitation de la forêt il faut donner une grande importance d'abord aux problèmes socio-économiques, puis aux problèmes de l'environnement et enfin à l'exploitation du bois.

Dans la République islamique d'Iran, après la révolution islamique, l'activité des entreprises capitalistes privées et des entreprises étrangères a été arrêtée. Nous avons accompli un dur effort pour résoudre des problèmes socio-économiques en insérant le plan d'aménagement forestier dans un plan plus vaste d'aménagement de ressources naturelles et même de développement régional, donnant une plus large place au rôle des paysans dans cet aménagement.

L'augmentation de la superficie forestière au nord du pays, où nous avons 2 millions d'hectares de forêt productrice de bois, a atteint 15 mille hectares par an, ce qui est encore très peu mais qui représente trois fois plus que le maximum atteint avant la révolution.

Le problème de la désertification et de l'érosion est important dans notre pays, comme dans la plupart des pays du tiers monde, et nous sommes en train de déclencher une vaste campagne nationale pour maîtriser ce réel fléau.

Roberto E.E. DALTON (Argentina): Debemos agradecer al señor Lanly su clara y concisa presentación del tema 6 de nuestra Agenda. Mi país participó activamente en los debates del 9º Período de Sesiones del Comité de Montes con una delegación encabezada por el titular del Instituto Forestal Nacional, órgano rector en la materia en nuestro ordenamiento interno.

La Delegación argentina reitera hoy, en este foro, su respaldo al Informe del Comité distribuido bajo las siglas CL 94/8.

Quisiera hacer una breve referencia a la realización los días 28, 29 y 30 de este mes, en la ciudad de Corrientes, de las Jornadas para el Desarrollo del Sector Forestal Argentino en el marco del Plan de Acción Forestal en los Trópicos. Esta reunión tiene por objeto someter a la consideración de países, Organismos multilaterales gubernamentales y no gubernamentales, los perfiles de proyectos que muestran las posibilidades de inversión así como las necesidades de cooperación técnica y de capacitación de recursos humanos que tiene el sector forestal argentino.

Para concluir, Sr. Presidente, quiero hacer publico el reconocimiento de mi Delegación al Departamento de Montes de la FAO por su invaluable asistencia en la organización de este evento al que mi Gobierno asigna alta prioridad.

Thana THONGTAN (Thailand): My delegation would like to express appreciation to Mr. Lanly for his excellent presentation of the document. My delegation would also like to comment on some of the crucial issues as follows.

As regards training, Thailand would like to draw the attention of FAO to give fuller support to high level training in wildlife management in developing countries, as proposed by the committees, because we believe that this type of specific training is needed in order to promote the development of a relevant approach to wildlife utilization and management.

Regarding forest harvesting, Thailand has the will to support and urge FAO to provide more technical assistance to developing countries in the planning and execution of a sound forest harvesting operation.

With regard to the Tropical Forestry Action Plan, Thailand would like to reiterate that my country strongly urges FAO to intensify its role as a leading international coordinating agency for the plan, because it will help to strengthen international cooperation in the field of forestry. In this sense it would be appropriate that our Council should invite regional development banks to participate more actively in the Tropical Forestry Action Plan.

In regard to the Tenth World Forestry Congress, my delegation concurs with the previous speaker that the Congress should be held in 1991. As to the venue of the Congress, my delegation would like to draw to your attention that the African Region should be given favourable consideration to host. However, my delegation can go along with the will of the majority and would like to suggest that all the countries who offer to host kindly consult among themselves and come up with unanimous consent as to which country should have the honour of hosting the Congress.

Michael J. RYAN (Australia): Australia has in the past urged that FAO forestry activities be better prioritized and that these activities have appropriate linkages with other FAO programmes, particularly agriculture, and that they promote integrated land use systems through, for example, agro-forestry; we have urged this in the past.

The Committee on Forestry we believe is operated very constructively, with a minimum of political overtones. It has been well-supported at the technical level by Member States and with the co operation of the Secretariat. Thus we have seen some progress in recent years. Accordingly, Australia endorses the use of the medium-term objectives as proposed and set out in the document. We would point out, however, that it is important that FAO's work does not duplicate that of other bodies, such as the International Tropical Timber Organization and the World Food Programme.

Regarding the wildlife issue, as raised in the document, Australia supports the three proposals of the Committee on Forestry. Those proposals are in line with the sustainable use of wildlife and in keeping with broad conservation ethics. Thus, we support in principle the initiative to encourage the development of wildlife management plans but based on sustainable use principles, with the proviso that there will always be some species which will require total protection and in some cases manipulative population management to ensure that they continue in survival.

We believe that FAO should seek to conserve the diversity of wildlife through promoting the rehabilitation of degraded ecosystems and the conservation of representative samples of ecosystems within LDCs through a system of protected areas. Further we would suggest that FAO assist governments to identify how protected areas contribute to development objectives and should promote the establishment of such areas as integral parts of a nation's development plans. This will require major new approaches to management of protected areas, and those approaches should be far

more responsive to the needs of people in the surrounding land. FAO can assist governments also in conducting national level reviews of the adequacy of current protected area coverage with a view to continuing their protected area systems before land use options are foreclosed. A broad range of protected area categories could be used to give protected area systems greater flexibility to give at least some protection to areas that can never be acquired as totally protected areas and to help integrate conservation more closely with development and production. These reviews could be carried out as part of the process of preparing national development plans and conservation strategies.

To close, very briefly a couple of detailed comments. As the process of industrialization occurs the demand for wood fibre increases. The increasing demand and consumption patterns are likely to increase. The demand for fuelwood in poorer rural communities is also likely to continue.

The current shift to fossil fuels relates to their present low price, and would shift back to fuelwood were oil prices to rise. We learn that 13.3 million hectares of forest are lost each year for fuelwood and agricultural production. In this context Australia commends FAO on its continued co-ordination of the TFAP, and we believe it is important to extend the results beyond the boundaries of individual countries to maximise the effectiveness of the efforts in the international community.

Douramane MOUSSA (Niger): Je voudrais tout d'abord insister sur trois points concernant ce document.

J'aborderai en premier le rôle de la faune et de son aménagement. Notre pays, grâce à l'assistance bilatérale et multilatérale, a toujours accordé une place importante à l'aménagement de la faune dans le cadre de ses plans de développement économique et social. Ainsi, plusieurs projets dont le projet d'aménagement de la réserve de l'Aïre et du Ténéré, le programme conjoint Niger-Bénin-Burkina d'aménagement du grand parc du W, le projet d'aménagement de la réserve de Gadabedji, sont en cours de démarrage, traduisant ainsi la place que nous accordons à la faune dans l'équilibre de la nature et la recherche de l'autosuffisance alimentaire. Nous sommes donc favorables à la haute priorité que devrait accorder notre Organisation à la faune.

Toutefois, nous avons toujours soutenu que l'aménagement de la faune doit prendre en compte non seulement la gestion des animaux et l'amélioration de leur habitat, mais également le développement des populations humaines autour des parcs et des réserves en vue de la prise en charge, par ces populations, de la protection et de la gestion de la faune.

S'agissant des points sur les petites entreprises forestières - les récoltes forestières, les plans d'action forestiers - notre pays approuve les positions du Comité sur ce point et souligne l'importance de l'intégration des actions d'agriculture, d'élevage et de foresterie dans une politique d'aménagement harmonieux des ressources naturelles.

Concernant la conservation des forêts, notre pays reconnaît l'importance du dépérissement des forêts attribué à la pollution atmosphérique ainsi que cela a été développé à la Conférence sur l'arbre et la forêt à Paris en 1986, et approuve la décision du Comité. Il convient néanmoins, pour ce qui concerne l'essentiel des forêts tropicales et les zones arides et semi-arides, de mettre l'accent sur le déboisement et l'importance des facteurs climatiques dans la dégradation des ressources forestières. Pour ce faire, la sécheresse, les feux de brousse, et l'érosion, doivent nécessairement être pris en compte comme facteurs de régression.

Masuhla LETEKA (Lesotho): Firstly, let me commend the Secretariat for the document before us and also Mr. Lanly for his far-reaching introductory remarks on the document. We are definitely in agreement with opinions already expressed by many delegations who have spoken before us on the role that forestry plays towards contributing to food security in the social and economic development of developing countries.

Lesotho is a member of the Southern African Development Co-ordinating Conference and, in this regard, has been charged with the role of soil conservation. We have since realized that forestry would be a major positive component of soil conservation. The Government of Lesotho is currently engaged in activities which would in future guarantee attainment of this objective.

After careful study of the document before us, we are also inclined to agree with the paragraph 20 conclusion that forest-based small-scale enterprises could play a crucial role in stabilizing rural communities by offering mainly offices and employment. Naturally, since this would mean the need to strengthen the national potential to benefit from and have market access for products of "forest-based small-scale enterprises, we realize an increasing interest of IFAD to release funds for

projects associated with forest-based small-scale enterprise development. With an improved coordination between FAO and IFAD, we could optimistically utilize the potential which exists in developing countries. Food aid could be another resource which could be utilized to develop this potential.

Lesotho lacks experience with enterprise and would be happy to gather technical assistance from any source in this regard. We are therefore tempted to suggest that, in future, the topic activities of FAO and WFP should be extended to include IFAD. In this way IFAD's contribution in FAO and WFP and vice versa could be highlighted. After all, these three Organizations are involved in alleviating the plight of persons and small farmers. They are all based in Rome to ensure close coordination of activities. Their reports therefore should reflect this reality. We are using this occasion to convey the same message to IFAD and WFP.

We have already expressed our concern on the plight of developing countries vis-a-vis the servicing of external debt and other problems in our earlier interventions. Our views regarding this therefore remain the same. We agree with the conclusion that this continues to have a decisive/negative effect on forestry development, and on other natural resources of developing countries.

Last but not least, we wish to express some sentiment here that, while we support the TFAP and its implementation, we also want to stress that assistance in forestry's development should go beyond TFAP. Countries outside the tropics should be included as long as they have plans to develop their forestry. We would naturally also support the active participation of women in all stages of forestry development exercises, bearing in mind that in Lesotho, because of our political and socio-economic position, women are a measured component of labour for any economic activity.

We cannot conclude our intervention without making reference to the venue for the Tenth Forestry Congress. On the principle of rotation, which is highly respected in this Organization, and considering the multitude of problems of economic development in different regions, I believe Africa deserves a right to host this Congress and wish to express our gratitude to the Ambassador of Colombia and our colleague from Kenya, that the Conference be held in Tanzania.

Danilo VALLE (Nicaragua): Yo quiero felicitar primeramente a la Secretaría por la exposición del documento, el cual ha sido muy bueno, y por el que manifiesto mi agradecimiento. Apoyamos también el Plan de Acción Forestal en los Trópicos, por ser ésta una preocupación de primer orden dentro de nuestro país.

Sr. Presidente, la mayor parte de la población del trópico americano practica la agricultura principalmente para la subsistencia, y estos sistemas agrícolas constituyen una parte intrínseca de su cultura. A pesar de los esfuerzos por hacerles comprender a nuestros campesinos el concepto moderno de cosecha-venta, continúan considerando la agricultura como una ocupación de naturaleza tradicional, más que técnica comercial. Los campos y los bosques se han deteriorado y empobrecido, debido a que el campesino cree que cuantos más pastizales tienen los animales, mayor es su seguridad alimentaria. La implantación de programas que tengan como objetivos finales tierras más productivas y mejor conservadas de nuestros bosques y campos, no sólo depende de mejoramientos tecnológicos, sino que exigen, en primer lugar, una modificación de las costumbres básicas de nuestra gente, sobre todo en el aspecto de la ganadería. Es posible que si conjugamos conocimientos agrícolas tradicionales y modernos, además de un cambio en el proceso educativo general y en la dirección social, resulte ser altamente beneficioso para el diseño de nuevos sistemas agrícolas. Cubrir la necesidad de alimentos y energía en una sociedad en continuo crecimiento es un tarea difícil. Las experiencias en décadas pasadas son altamente preocupantes, y definitivamente se debe procurar un cambio en el uso de la tierra si queremos evitar un mayor agotamiento en los recursos naturales, base de la existencia de la humanidad.

En las siguientes cifras se puede apreciar el perjuicio ecológico por prácticas del uso de la tierra incompatibles con la capacidad de sustentación de los suelos y de los recursos naturales. Alrededor del 20 por ciento de la tierra cultivada en el mundo está afectado por la erosión. Las tierras agrícolas con irrigación, cuya capacidad de producción está gravemente menoscabada o amenazada por la salinidad, se estima en alrededor de un 50 por ciento del área cultivable.

Nicaragua es todavía una sociedad principalmente rural, su supervivencia depende de lo que produce nuestra tierra. Uno de los problemas grandes en nuestro país y que afectan a nuestros bosques lo constituye el hecho de tener cerca de 20 000 familias que viven de la agricultura migratoria, afectando así de 40 000 a 60 000 hectáreas de bosques en nuestro territorio. Esto se ha visto últimamente agravado con el paso por Nicaragua del huracán Joan, el cual arrasó prácticamente 6 000 km² de nuestros bosques. Pero, ante esta situación, ¿cuál es la alternativa? Nicaragua debe producir para cubrir sus necesidades internas y para poder exportar. Una solución podría ser

intensificar la producción en algunas zonas; pero nosotros consideramos que debe haber una integración entre la agricultura y la silvicultura a fin de obtener un sistema de producción más armonioso para nuestra población. Con la agrosilvicultura, nosotros tendríamos leña, productos agrícolas y carne en un solo terreno, y esto protegería nuestros bosques, nuestra flora, nuestra fauna.

La existencia también de sistemas agroforestales es otra forma de producción que se practica en Nicaragua de acuerdo con las posibilidades que poseen el mediano y el pequeño productor. Los sistemas agroforestales tradicionales que ha utilizado nuestro país son, entre otros, la siembra de café con sombra, la siembra de cercas vivas, la agricultura migratoria y los huertos caseros o familiares. Estos últimos se pueden considerar como un caso ejemplar de un sistema agroforestal.

También hemos echado a andar varios proyectos desde 1979, con el componente agroforestal, pero de acuerdo a una problemática localizada, como parte de un proyecto específico, pero no de una forma integrada. Tenemos, por ejemplo, algunos de ellos, como son las plantaciones de cortinas rompevientos, para detener tolvaneras producto de la erosión eólica. Tenemos también proyectos de asociación de caña de azúcar con árboles productores de leña. Esto forma parte de un proyecto azucarero de 23 320 hectáreas de las cuales 4 828 están dedicadas a la siembra de plantaciones energéticas. Tenemos también un proyecto lechero integral, que contempla plantaciones energéticas, cortinas rompevientos, arborización, cercas vivas, frutales, viveros, etc. El uso del componente agroforestal forma parte de nuestra estrategia de desarrollo, ya que puede contribuir a solucionar problemas en el uso de los recursos naturales, debido a las funciones biológicas que puedan cumplir.

Al combinar la producción agrícola y ganadera con la producción forestal, se está cumpliendo un grupo de tareas de desarrollo simultáneamente, y se evitan así conflictos en el uso de la tierra.

La investigación en este campo está enfocada a resolver los problemas existentes en materia del uso de la tierra para su adecuada utilización; al desarrollo de sistemas silviculturales y de agricultura apropiadas a las condiciones locales y realización de estudios socio-económicos en la aplicación de distintos sistemas de desarrollo, y así determinar su rentabilidad. Los resultados de estas investigaciones nos darán la tecnología adecuada para desarrollarse en nuestro medio ambiente, la que deberá ser transferida a los sistemas rurales.

Sr. Presidente, dentro del interés que Nicaragua le da al sector forestal, podemos concluir que nuestro Plan Nacional de Desarrollo Forestal, constituye uno de los mayores esfuerzos de planificación, en el manejo ordenado de nuestros recursos, y contempla acciones a corto, mediano y largo plazo. Nuestros programas y proyectos se enmarcan dentro de los componentes del PAFT, coincidiendo con los conceptos y objetivos primordiales del mismo.

Para concluir, Sr. Presidente, deseo expresar que el 6 de febrero de 1988, el Presidente de Nicaragua declaró ante la Unión para la Conservación de la Naturaleza y los Recursos Naturales, que uniendo esfuerzos con los hermanos costarricenses se estaba trabajando y avanzado en el establecimiento de reservas naturales en la frontera común. Expresó también el Presidente, que consideraba que estos impresionantes sistemas naturales son patrimonio de la Humanidad y que deben ser protegidos por las generaciones futuras, ya que la naturaleza no reconoce las fronteras humanas y porque su conservación y protección es una responsabilidad de todos.

Naaukolo MUKUTU (Zambia): Zambia endorses fully the views and recommendations of the Ninth Session of the Committee on Forestry.

Wildlife and forest conservation demand the total attention of the international community. Without forest conservation and wise use of forest resources there can be no sustained agricultural development. Total world food production would decline and the world food security would be impaired and jeopardized permanently. The international community should join forces to preserve tropical forests which are so important for the global climate that they are now regarded as the lions of the world.

Under such circumstances my delegation eagerly awaits the preparation of the Regional Forestry Plan for Africa. FAO should be given all the necessary support for the preparation of the plan and implementation of the programme and projects which may arise therefrom.

My delegation is most delighted to learn of the support given to the FAO by the donor countries in the field of forestry. The support of the United States of America is most welcome and appreciated.

We support the recommendation to include wildlife management and its exploitation as part of the rural development thrust. The inclusion of wildlife management in rural development will be highly appreciated by the local communities who derive their livelihood more directly from wildlife and who will in turn be motivated to stop those who are bent on destroying wildlife for short-term benefits.

My delegation supports fully the redesignation of the Forestry Commission into the forestry and Wildlife Commission. In Zambia, and in Africa in particular, the forestry subsector has tremendous potential in generating rural development and rural employment. This point is well illustrated in the Committee's report and does not need to be over-emphasized.

Deforestation for fuelwood is the most vexing problem in Zambia and probably in many other developing countries. This deforestation is causing long-term devastation at the ecological base leading to increased soil erosion, increased silting of rivers, flooding and the eventual drying up of many rivers. Deforestation is now bringing about desertification. Deforestation occurs mainly for two reasons, (a) for agricultural development and (b) for fuelwood. It is the demand for fuelwood, both for the rural dwellers and for the peri-urban dwellers that is of great concern to most of us in Africa today. How can African countries address this subject sufficiently? It appears to my delegation that the evolution of a clear cut rural energy policy has not been addressed by the Ninth Committee on Forestry. What should African governments do to provide fuelwood to the rural people and to those in the peri-urban areas without worsening the deforestation gradient?

My delegation has noted the important role already being played by the FAO in preparing for the Tenth Forestry Congress. It is very reassuring to learn that arrangements are already in full swing and that an office has already been set up here at FAO Headquarters. The Zambian delegation wants to thank all those governments who have offered to host the Congress. It is Zambia's hope, however, that in view of the importance of the tropical forests, the Council might agree that Africa should host the Congress.

Achille RAHARISON (Madagascar): Mon intervention sera brève car la délégation malgache a participé intensément à la neuvième session du Comité des forêts et a fait part de ses avis et observations durant cette session. Aussi n'avons nous aucune difficulté à approuver les conclusions du rapport. D'ailleurs, actuellement, Madagascar entreprend une vaste action en matière d'environnement en mettant en oeuvre un programme national environnemental. Le gouvernement a entrepris, l'année dernière, d'inciter tous les malgaches à prendre une part active au reboisement par l'intermédiaire d'un projet intitulé "Zones d'action en faveur de l'arbre".

Je saisis cette occasion pour remercier la FAO de son intervention pour assurer la protection de la forêt dans la partie sud-est des hauts plateaux de Madagascar.

Pour terminer, je tiens à indiquer que la délégation malgache voudrait joindre sa voix à celle de toutes les délégations qui ont appuyé la candidature de la Zambie pour accueillir le prochain Congrès car ce serait la première fois que l'Afrique héberge celui-ci.

Antoine SAINTRAINT (Observateur de la Belgique): En tant qu'observateur de la Belgique, il nous appartient d'observer et c'est la première fois qu'au nom de mon pays je prends la parole à l'occasion de la 94ème session du Conseil.

Je voudrais tout d'abord dire combien nous apprécions le fait que le Conseil, qui se réunit à un moment important de la vie de la FAO, soit présidé par vous, Monsieur le Président, avec votre maîtrise et votre compétence.

En ce qui concerne le point que nous examinons maintenant, je serai extrêmement bref. Mais j'ai estimé devoir prendre la parole parce qu'il s'agit d'un sujet particulièrement important. J'ai eu l'occasion depuis déjà de nombreux mois de connaître la qualité des hommes qui s'occupent du Département des forêts à la FAO; je crois que c'est là un élément très important car, sans le dynamisme, la compétence et la volonté de l'équipe qui travaille à la FAO dans le secteur forestier, les résultats qui ont été obtenus jusqu'à présent n'auraient pas pu l'être. Je suis également convaincu que ces résultats sont insuffisants. Les spécialistes de la FAO le savent aussi. Mais n'y a-t-il pas, face à un problème de cette dimension gigantesque, un déséquilibre entre les moyens dont nous disposons et les objectifs qui devraient être atteints ?

La FAO touche à l'avenir de notre planète. Elle s'inscrit incontestablement dans une vision agro-sylvo-pastorale qui touche à beaucoup de secteurs de l'économie et une vision de développement où la forêt tient un rôle peut-être plus important que celui qu'on lui a accordé jusqu'à présent.

Elle nécessite non seulement une vision à court et moyen terme mais surtout une vision politique à très long terme.

J'ai suivi avec intérêt les débats. Plusieurs orateurs ont souligné l'importance de consacrer une plus grande part du budget ce secteur. Je partage entièrement cet avis et nous devons en tirer des conclusions opérationnelles concrètes lorsque nous discuterons de ce point plus tard.

Je sais aussi que, sur le plan opérationnel et sur celui de l'exécution des programmes, la FAO a incontestablement un rôle à jouer. Je pense aussi que dans d'autres enceintes, notamment au PNUD, à la Banque mondiale, dans les banques de développement - les banques africaine, interaméricaine et asiatique de développement - nos pays devraient insister davantage sur le rôle technique incomparable que le FAO doit jouer dans ce domaine. Et je crois que les organismes de financement - on a parlé du FIDA, du Programme alimentaire mondial, de diverses sources de financement - devraient prendre davantage conscience du rôle que la FAO a joué, joue actuellement et jouera à l'avenir.

On a parlé du problème du bois de feu. C'est un problème crucial dans un certain nombre de pays, notamment en Afrique. C'est un problème angoissant qui a déjà fait l'objet de très nombreuses discussions dans le passé. Mais je crois que les remèdes indispensables n'ont pas encore été apportés et qu'en ce qui concerne l'Afrique nous devons constamment avoir à l'esprit les besoins dans ce domaine.

Le Plan d'action forestier tropical est incontestablement une approche sérieuse de la politique forestière aux tropiques. Nous le soutenons mais nous voudrions également qu'à l'avenir plus que par le passé un certain nombre de projets-pilotes puissent être réalisés dans des zones écologiquement diverses, non seulement dans le monde en développement mais aussi dans le monde dit développé, projets dont nous pourrions tirer des conclusions qui serviraient à l'ensemble de la planète.

En terminant cette brève intervention, je ne puis que féliciter l'équipe des forêts de la FAO, lui dire merci de tout coeur et lui dire aussi que nous continuerons d'être exigeants à son égard parce qu'elle a une mission importante et que le monde a besoin qu'elle poursuive son travail dans les meilleures conditions.

Hamisi MWINYIGOHA (Observer for Tanzania): Since I am the last speaker I do not think I can put anything which is new to add to the previous speakers who have already spoken but I feel honoured and that I should make a few comments on forestry, about my country and what activities we are doing there. The Tanzanian delegation endorses the paper produced by the Secretariat and actually commends Mr. Lanly's introduction given on the document.

Tanzania attaches great importance to forestry and wildlife and actually our history tells of numerous actions to support this particular statement. The Government has launched programmes through bilateral and multilateral donors for the conservation of the natural resources. We have launched campaigns to reduce destruction by fire and human actions, campaigns which are difficult without the cooperation of the people themselves.

We have taught our people very seriously to respect the environment and not to destroy it, otherwise the environment will destroy them. This has actually been manifested by the areas which have been destroyed by erosion where no life can be supported. Our people are very much aware of the conservation of forests in Tanzania. Afforestation, therefore, is encouraged for every citizen in the country, and in particular we try to teach school-going children to get into the habit of planting and replanting trees so that they can make their environment more desirable.

In Tanzania, a good number of our people live through forestry. Forests are used for providing firewood; they provide building materials and also activities on the land through industry. Therefore, they provide employment to a good number of our citizens. Therefore, we very much respect the activities of forestry.

Unfortunately, our forests face tremendous natural catastrophes, particularly through fire and diseases, and also human activity. Efforts to fight these are being called upon consistently.

Another aspect that I would like to talk to here is that of the game reserve. We are conserving our wildlife. In fact, our game parks are amongst the best and the largest in the world, as those who have been to Tanzania will be able to endorse this particular statement.

Our natural forests offer some of the very rarest herbs which, if properly researched for medicinal value, can help cure man of some of his terrible diseases.

Tanzania is keen on the implementation of the Tropical Forestry Action Plan. We think that the Plan is very action-oriented and will lead us to very successful conclusions. Our thanks to UNDP and FAO who are commended for the efforts they have made for us in the forest sector.

Tanzania has set aside tremendous stretches of land to conserve nature. We have stretches of land to conserve wildlife as well as forestry, and so those places are actually out of bounds to the public. It is for the benefit of mankind that we preserve our heritage.

I would like to turn now to the subject of the Tenth International Congress on Forestry. My delegation thinks that it is now the turn of the African Continent since Africa has not hosted this Congress. I am making this statement as was decided by the Africa Group. It is important that this conference be held in Africa because it will help delegates to see the magnitude of the problems in forestry in Africa, and for Africa actually to act as a catalyst to make our people and our institutions more aware of the importance of conservation of forestry and wildlife.

Michel-Akis PAPAGEORGIOU (Observateur de la Grèce): Il y a seulement deux observations de la part de la Grèce qui occupe aussi, comme on le sait, la présidence à la Communauté européenne.

La première concerne tout simplement l'importance que nous accordons au vingtième Congrès forestier dans le cadre d'une mobilisation générale de tous les états et surtout des états européens. C'est un sujet sur lequel nous sommes mis d'accord lors de la récente Conférence régionale européenne à Cracovie, et cela pour conclure une stratégie appropriée de lutte pour le développement et la préservation des forêts.

La deuxième observation, c'est que, comme l'a très clairement indiqué notre cher collègue, le délégué de la République fédérale d'Allemagne, l'organisation d'un Congrès en territoire européen signifierait une mobilisation plus facile et par conséquent plus fructueuse de toutes les instances professionnelles et scientifiques des pays d'Europe qui sont liés au problème très important des forêts, et cela au profit de tous les pays membres de notre Organisation.

Naturellement et dans le sens, d'ailleurs, d'une coopération concertée indispensable vu l'ampleur et la complexité du sujet, nous pourrions envisager, entre autres mesures, des réunions préparatoires du Congrès sur le continent africain, avec la participation des principaux intéressés pour répondre à l'immense intérêt que les pays de ce continent portent aux forêts.

Gian Paolo PAPA (CEE): Je voudrais tout d'abord exprimer notre appréciation sur l'excellent rapport de M. Lanly sur le problème forestier qui nous préoccupe de plus en plus.

En effet, depuis quelques années, qu'il s'agisse des forêts tempérées ou des forêts tropicales, la Communauté Européenne consacre beaucoup d'attention à la forêt ainsi qu'à l'impact des politiques forestières sur le développement rural, sur la protection de l'environnement et sur l'économie en général. Les perspectives de coopération en matière forestière entre la Communauté et la FAO sont de ce fait plus larges que par le passé.

Dans la Communauté, la forêt a connu des fortunes diverses selon les pays. L'évolution de son état phytosanitaire, les effets de la pollution atmosphérique, les dégâts occasionnés par les incendies, sont, à cet égard, préoccupants. Par ailleurs, ses capacités d'adaptation ne lui permettent pas toujours de répondre aux attaques multiples et pressantes dont elle a été l'objet.

Souvent éclipsée par l'agriculture au cours des années passées, elle voit à présent s'ouvrir de nouvelles perspectives du fait des problèmes que présente ce secteur agricole et des réajustements qui en découlent. Ces perspectives sont d'autant plus intéressantes que le secteur forestier communautaire, loin d'être saturé, peut, par son expansion, contribuer à la solution de plusieurs problèmes auxquels la Communauté est à présent confrontée (chômage, protection de l'environnement, etc).

Dans ce contexte, une étude comparative des politiques forestières dans les pays d'Europe a été réalisée en étroite coopération entre la Communauté et la FAO. Cette étude constitue une référence utile pour la coordination des politiques forestières.

La Commission a transmis le 23 septembre dernier, au Conseil des Communautés Européennes, une communication sur la stratégie et l'action de la Communauté dans le secteur forestier, en vue de renforcer la protection des forêts, de favoriser le reboisement des terres délaissées par l'agriculture et de promouvoir le développement des zones rurales et d'améliorer la valorisation des produits forestiers. Par ailleurs il est prévu qu'un volet consacré à l'action forestière en faveur des pays en développement puisse venir s'ajouter à ces programmes.

Pour ce qui est des forêts tropicales, depuis la signature de la troisième Convention de Lomé en 1985 la Communauté a accru nettement son aide à la forêt dans les pays en développement. En termes financiers, cette aide a pratiquement doublé avec le dernier renouvellement du Fonds européen de développement (5ème FED), atteignant maintenant un montant d'environ 30 millions de dollars par an. La majeure partie de cette assistance consiste en des actions forestières intégrées dans des projets visant le développement rural ou la conservation de ressources naturelles.

Plus de soixante projets pluri-annuels de ce type sont ainsi concernés; ils correspondent à une aide communautaire globale de près de 185 millions de dollars en faveur de la forêt dans les pays en développement.

Par ailleurs, la Communauté soutient pleinement les objectifs du Plan d'Action Forestier Tropical auquel elle participe directement. Dans une résolution d'avril 1986 sur la protection des ressources naturelles et la lutte contre la désertification, elle considère qu'une coordination suivie entre les pays bénéficiaires, les donateurs et les organisations régionales actives dans ce domaine devrait assurer un maximum de cohérence et de complémentarité dans les problèmes existant et à développer. A cette fin elle participe aux réunions périodiques du groupe des Conseillers forestiers relevant de la Communauté des donateurs; elle a d'ailleurs accueilli la 5ème réunion du groupe à Bruxelles en décembre dernier. En outre, à la demande des pays en développement, elle a participé, par l'envoi d'experts, à quelques missions d'évaluation. Sa volonté est de poursuivre dans cette voie.

Enfin, la Communauté a contribué activement à l'établissement de l'Organisation internationale des bois tropicaux. Elle entend soutenir cette Organisation et contribuer à la définition de ses orientations futures.

Entré en vigueur le 1er juillet 1987 l'Acte unique européen, qui complète le traité instituant la Communauté Européenne, prévoit que la protection de l'environnement sera désormais une composante de toutes les politiques communautaires.

Ainsi, qu'il s'agisse des forêts tempérées ou des forêts tropicales, les points de concertation et en fin de compte de convergence entre la Communauté et la FAO sont nombreux. La forêt, les forestiers et les populations directement concernées devraient être tout naturellement les premiers bénéficiaires de cette coopération qu'il faudra non seulement maintenir mais, autant que possible, développer à l'avenir.

Tout ceci vous explique pourquoi la Communauté souhaite vivement que le 10ème Congrès Forestier Mondial puisse se tenir en 1991 dans la Communauté. La Communauté Européenne appuie donc la candidature de ces deux Etats membres.

J.P. LANLY (sous-directeur général p.a. du Département des Forêts): J'ai écouté avec beaucoup d'attention toutes les interventions et j'ai recensé trois questions spécifiques posées au Secrétariat.

Une première question, posée par l'honorable Délégué de la Colombie, concernait le paragraphe 53 du Rapport de la 9ème Session du Comité des Forêts et questionnait ce qui était dit dans ce paragraphe concernant la mise en oeuvre du Plan d'action forestier tropical.

En fait la FAO, comme organisme de coordination, a aidé très activement le démarrage et la mise en oeuvre du Plan. Le Plan a rencontré l'adhésion de 56 pays jusqu'à présent et des activités de préparation des Plans nationaux, dans le cadre du Plan d'action forestier tropical, sont terminées ou en voie d'exécution dans 50 pays sur les 56. Ces plans nationaux sont terminés dans 16 pays. Ils sont dans un état plus ou moins avancé d'élaboration dans les 39 autres pays.

Je crois que le paragraphe 53 ne conteste pas que le Plan d'action forestier tropical est déjà une réalité, comme le prouvent les chiffres que je viens de citer. Je crois que ce qu'a voulu dire le paragraphe 53 est que le Plan d'action forestier tropical a été surtout actif jusqu'à maintenant dans la phase de planification des projets et des programmes de terrain dans les pays tropicaux. Ceux-ci devront être formulés et exécutés suite aux tables rondes des donateurs qui commencent à avoir lieu. Actuellement, au moment du COFO, une seule table ronde avait été tenue en Honduras, mais depuis d'autres tables rondes se sont tenues. Le Délégué de l'Argentine a mentionné en particulier la table ronde qui aura lieu en Argentine.

Donc, pour conclure, on peut dire que le Plan est déjà en exécution, mais qu'il a surtout été en exécution dans la phase de planification des programmes et des projets de développement forestier, et que la phase de réalisation des programmes et des projets forestiers, dans le cadre du plan, en est à ses débuts.

Le Délégué de la Colombie a également mentionné la recommandation de la Conférence régionale de la FAO à Recife concernant la formulation d'un projet régional en matière d'agro-foresterie pour l'Amérique Latine et les Caraïbes. Je voudrais indiquer au Conseil que ce projet est en voie de formulation, que nous en avons déjà pris acte, sur la recommandation de la Conférence de Recife, et que ce projet sera très prochainement soumis à des organismes de financement.

L'honorable délégué des Etats-Unis a posé une question sur la coordination du plan d'action forestier tropical et voulait savoir où en était la FAO en matière de renforcement de la coordination du PAFT. Un nouveau coordinateur a été choisi par le Directeur général qui entrera en fonction le 1er janvier. Par ailleurs, malgré les difficultés financières les postes des deux fonctionnaires régionaux du Plan d'action pour l'Afrique et pour l'Asie ont été dégelés et seront occupés au début de l'année 1989. Enfin un projet de renforcement de la coordination est actuellement soumis aux pays donateurs intéressés pour un financement éventuel.

Voilà M. le Président ma réponse aux trois questions qui avaient été posées par le Conseil.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie M. Lanly pour ses explications.

Je voudrais à mon tour apporter ma contribution à ce débat. Je crois que nous pouvons considérer que le Conseil félicite le Comité des forêts pour l'excellent rapport qu'il a fait à l'occasion de sa 9ème session, et qu'il approuve ce Rapport.

Je pense que nous pouvons également considérer que le Conseil appuie fermement le Plan d'action forestier tropical, qu'il considère qu'il s'agit là d'une approche efficace de la perception intégrée de la forêt, qu'il constitue un cadre cohérent idéal pour la coopération internationale, qu'il reconnaît à la FAO la responsabilité de coordonner l'impulsion nécessaire à la forêt tropicale.

Je crois pouvoir dire que le Conseil recommande que des mesures de toute nature: réglementaires, financières, techniques, puissent être prises pour accélérer la réalisation et le financement de ce Plan d'action forestier tropical.

Je crois également qu'il y a une convergence pour considérer que le développement de la forêt et de la faune sauvage doivent être compris comme une composante importante et incontournable du développement agricole et rural, et qu'il constitue une conciliation entre les exigences du développement d'une part et celles de l'environnement d'autre part, certains Etats membres ayant cités le terme d'agro-forestier.

Le Conseil semble également avoir insisté sur l'intérêt attaché, comme l'a dit le rapport de la 9ème Session du Comité, au développement des petites entreprises forestières comme source de revenu et d'emploi pour les collectivités locales, et sur la nécessité d'amélioration des méthodes de culture, de collecte et d'utilisation des ressources forestières.

Je crois que la majorité des membres recommande qu'une plus large importance, au point de vue de la dotation budgétaire, puisse être réservée au secteur forestier dans les activités de la FAO, tout en demandant qu'une coordination au sein de la FAO soit réalisée entre le Comité de l'agriculture et le Comité des forêts.

En ce qui concerne le Congrès forestier mondial, beaucoup d'opinions ont été émises pour le choix du site, et peut-être pourrions-nous, si le Conseil en convient, suivre la recommandation de quelques délégués qui ont suggéré qu'on demande aux pays qui ont manifesté leur candidature (la France, l'Italie, la Tanzanie principalement) de voir dans quelle mesure on peut aboutir à un consensus pour que nous puissions dans les jours à venir prendre une décision. Une tendance s'est déjà dessinée au sein de ce Conseil. J'ai noté qu'il y a 7 Etats Membres, qui, pour le moment, dans leurs interventions, ont suggéré que la réunion du Congrès forestier mondial ait lieu en Tanzanie, 4 Etats Membres ont suggéré que des contacts soient pris entre les candidats, et 4 délégations et l'Observateur de la CEE suggèrent que ce Congrès ait lieu en Europe. Pour éviter d'avoir recours à des recensements de ce genre je suggère que l'on donne suite à la proposition du Cameroun, du Pérou et de la Thaïlande et qu'on laisse un peu de temps à ces pays pour se contacter. Nous pourrions peut-être d'ici quelques jours reprendre la question du lieu du Congrès forestier mondial.

7. Aspects of FAO's Policies, Programmes, Budget and Activities Aimed at Contributing to Sustainable Development
7. Eléments des politiques, des programmes, du budget et des activités de la FAO visant à favoriser la pérennité du développement
7. Aspectos de las políticas, programas, presupuesto y actividades de la FAO encaminados a contribuir a un desarrollo viable

C.H. BONTE-FRIEDHEIM (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): The document before you, CL 94/6 on "Aspects of FAO's Policies, Programmes, Budget and Activities Aimed at Contributing to Sustainable Development" was requested by the FAO Conference in 1987, following a discussion on the Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, better known as the Brundtland Report. In the English and Chinese versions of our document a small mistake has been made in paragraphs 7, 9 and 12. In these paragraphs we refer the reader to paragraph 4 for the definition. This should read, however, paragraph 5. Further reference in these to paragraphs 7, 9 and 12 should be to paragraph 5 instead of 4.

The document addresses one of the major issues of our time. An issue, moreover, which Mankind has had to face in the past, but on a much more limited scale. The failures in the past are best known and often cited, like in the ancient Kingdom of Mesopotamia, in ancient Egypt or North Africa, all once highly productive agricultural areas. In this century unsustainable development efforts are remembered by catchwords such as "dust bowl", "new land policy", and "Sahel".

The problem now, however, with sustainability is that in a number of respects it is a recent issue. It is so recent that it does not appear in many English dictionaries, and there is no equivalent word in French. But what is more important is that for many farmers in the Third World it is a new problem, and they do not know how to respond.

In the past, low population densities allowed sustainable production systems, such as those based on shifting cultivation, bush fallows or transhumance pastoralism. These traditional production systems are no longer possible in many areas. Rapid population growth has resulted in human and cattle population densities which exceed the supporting capacities of such systems. Within one generation, traditional systems which were developed over hundreds of years, have been made redundant. Neither research nor other agricultural services have evolved rapidly enough to provide farmers with viable alternatives.

Many farmers are therefore forced to over-exploit the land for food and fuel to achieve survival. The dilemma they face, and the issue which the international community must address, has been stated clearly by the World Commission on Environment and Development. The Commission has described sustainable development as a process of change in which the exploitation of resources, the direction of investments, the orientation of technological development, and institutional change meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

FAO fully supports this concept. For many years FAO has been actively engaged in finding ways of translating this concept into an operational reality. Consequently, in introducing this document, I will elaborate on three particular aspects. First, FAO's long involvement in what is now referred to as sustainable development. Secondly, the breadth of FAO's current activities on this issue. Thirdly, additional efforts FAO has under consideration for the next and future years.

Dealing with my first point, FAO's long involvement and the breadth of various activities in matters relating to sustainable development derives from its Constitution, which calls for the rational management and conservation of natural resources to increase agricultural production and improve the living conditions of rural people. The Organization's work programme and policies have evolved to address the multi-dimensional nature of sustainable development, particularly its ecological and socio-economic components, to respond to emerging problems such as those associated with pesticide use and to take account of new opportunities.

In the early 1960s, for example, there was increasing evidence of the accumulation of persistent pesticides in the environment, of pesticide-induced disruptions to ecological food chains and other adverse effects on non-target species, and of the emergence of pesticide resistance, which led to escalation in control costs. FAO consequently shifted its policy emphasis away from uni-component, pesticide based control strategies, to the analysis and promotion of multi-component, integrated pest management strategies based on the knowledge of population dynamics and damage thresholds and using suitable mixes of cultivation practices, pesticides and resistant plant varieties to achieve more effective control with less pesticide.

Another major change took place in the 1970s in the light of analysis showing the widespread failure of existing institutional mechanisms to reach the small farmers and to support their efforts to escape from the cycle of material deprivation and resource degradation. These policy changes are crystallized in the Plan of Action adopted by the 1979 World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. The Plan of Action, like many of the recommendations of the World Commission on Environment and Development, is founded on the conclusion that rural poverty and the lack of support to the small farmer underlie much of today's unsustainable development.

For the sake of brevity, Document CL 94/6 focuses on FAO's Regular Programme in the present biennium, although selected examples of extra-budgetary funded field activities are also given. The total Regular Programme budgetary allocation for activities contributing to sustainable development in 1988/89 amounts to nearly \$16 million out of a total budget for technical activities of \$60 million. However, this figure should be considered conservative. It is difficult to identify precise proportions under specific activities in a programme element contributing to sustainable development. An analysis of allocations according to area of work is presented in Annex I of the document.

The activities are described under seven major headings, namely:

- natural resources conservation and management;
- genetic resources conservation;
- production systems management;
- technology development and application;
- pollution control;
- socio-economic aspects;
- information transfer and exchange.

Specific activities are listed in Annex II of the document. They indicate three important features of FAO's programme. Firstly, they demonstrate the breadth of FAO's current activities. Secondly, they show that the programmes go well beyond narrowly conceived conservation or environmental management efforts. Thirdly, that the environment is seen as a cross-cutting issue and not a sectoral or sub-sectoral one.

The latter aspect, namely, the environment as a cross-cutting issue, brings me to an important point I wish to make regarding the strengthening of FAO's activities on sustainable development. Consciousness cannot be imposed from above or introduced only by the activities of a specialized division. Each technical officer must be an environmental officer, and therefore in-service staff training will receive much greater emphasis in the future. In spite of our well known cash flow problems, we are filling the only additional professional post in the Agriculture Department authorized by the last Conference. This post is for an Environmental Officer and she will concentrate in the first instance on training our own staff.

These training efforts will be complemented by more analytical work. As the concept of sustainable development is still evolving, more analytical work is needed to translate the concept into practical and operational policy and programmes in the agriculture, forestry and fishery sectors. A first step in this direction is being undertaken through the inclusion of a special chapter on sustainable agricultural and rural development in "The State of Food and Agriculture 1988". The chapter will re-assess the past and present work of FAO that has, or could, contribute to sustainable development in the light of the conclusions and recommendations of the World Commission on Environment and Development, and the System-wide Medium-Term Environment Programme.

Weak policies and institutions, lack of awareness and trained personnel, and poor access to Information constrain the efforts of developing countries to integrate environmental considerations into their development programmes, to develop sustainable production systems, and to assist farmers to adopt them.

FAO consequently undertakes a wide variety of training activities related to sustainable development for policy-makers, for extension workers, for farmers and rural communities. These training activities can be in the form of fellowships at specialized institutions or special courses, in the form of short courses and study tours, or in the form of in-service training and as part of local project activities. Training activities are paid either from field projects or extra-budgetary sources or from our Regular Programme.

The constraints to action regarding sustainable development in developed countries tend to be different from those in developing countries, but the need for change is equally great. They must respond, for example, to problems of rising groundwater nitrate, acid precipitation and man-made climate change. The latter problem is, of course, of great importance to all countries. There is now broad consensus that man's activities are changing climatic conditions and these changes are likely to have both positive and negative effects on agriculture, forestry and fisheries as early as the first or second decade of the next century. Few countries are likely to remain unaffected.

Some of today's food deficit countries may suffer most, but certain food surplus countries could also be adversely affected.

FAO plans to include proposals in the Summary PWB 1990/91 for strengthening its current very limited work on the potential impacts of climate change. The strategy underlying these proposals is to concentrate on activities that clarify the issues and options, and alleviate or overcome present problems which would be intensified by the projected climatic changes. The justification for this strategy is that many developing countries find it difficult to provide sufficient manpower and financial resources to resolve their immediate problems. In view of the many demands, they are understandably reluctant to give priority to work or investments related to climate change when certain aspects of such changes are still a matter of conjecture.

Our proposed activities will basically be as follows:

- (a) Watching brief on climatic modelling and the quantification of local temperature and rainfall changes with particular emphasis on seasonal and inter-annual variability, in view of its immediate impact on crop yields, water resources, fisheries, etc.
- (b) Development of policies and technologies to increase resilience of production systems to inter-annual and within-season variability.
- (c) Intensification of early warning and disaster prevention activities with respect to increased frequency of floods and droughts.
- (d) Strengthening and harmonization of international cooperation within the framework of the Tropical Forestry Action Plan to speed up the afforestation to take up carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

In conclusion, it is worth repeating that in the future FAO will emphasize the following in its activities aimed at contributing to sustainable development:

Firstly, assistance to countries to:

- (a) establish or strengthen institutional capabilities;
- (b) develop environmental policies for sustainable agricultural and rural development;
- (c) integrate environmental concerns in the planning and development process;
- (d) provide training in environmental impact assessment;
- (e) promote environmental awareness at all levels.

Secondly, technical and policy analysis within FAO to identify more clearly the problems and options regarding:

- (a) preservation of biological diversity;
- (b) soil and water conservation;
- (c) development of environmentally-sound sustainable production systems in agriculture, forestry and fisheries;
- (d) climate change and its potential impact on food and agricultural production.

These activities will not be carried out in isolation from FAO's sister agencies in the UN system. FAO will continue to collaborate closely with UNEP on environmental issues and in the development of the System-wide Medium-Term Environment Programme. FAO will collaborate with Unesco and work closely with NGOs in the field of environment, particularly with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN). FAO's active cooperation with other agencies of the UN system (WHO, WMO, ILO and UNIP) and national and international research institutions in the many individual subject-matter areas relevant to sustainable development will continue. Part of them are also recorded in the relevant sections of this report.

Finally, I must emphasize that it is not sufficient for FAO and its sister agencies to expand and coordinate better their efforts on sustainable development. Such efforts must be complemented, for example, by actions in many countries to slow down the rate of population growth and to give more time for new technological solutions to be found and for environmental wounds to heal. In order to

succeed many developing countries are heavily dependent on considerable support and assistance from the developed countries.

Poverty is the underlying cause of much unsustainable development, yet recent World Bank economic projections suggest that there will be little or no per capita income growth in many developing countries in the mid-term, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. Consequently, progress on sustainable development will be dependent, in part, on improved aid and trade flows.

Hannu HALINEN (Finland): I have the pleasure of speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries. First, let me thank the Assistant Director-General, Dr. Bonte-Friedheim, for a very illusory introduction to this item. In the on-going discussion on environmental and agricultural policies, the report of the World Commission for Environment and Development, titled "Our Common Future" signifies the most important input. It has greatly increased our consciousness of the urgency of dealing with the expanding environmental declaration based on the fact that present development patterns are compromising the very possibilities of future generations to meet their needs. The report draws to our attention the merits or, rather, necessity of an alternative strategy to sustainable development which is already a widely known and accepted concept. The follow-up of the report requires prompt action on several levels. The United Nations itself has already taken notable steps. The most comprehensive expression of this is the environmental perspective of UNEP which, in tandem with the report, provides an analytical basis and direction for action.

Consequently the policies, programmes, budget and activities of the UN specialized agencies are to be scrutinized in order to promote sustainable development. In this context we note that in the Council document 94/6 a reference is made to the Oslo Conference in which it was decided to establish a task force under the authority of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to provide a framework, an overall guidance for system-wide activities aimed at sustainable development. Another detailed and systematic presentation on the world's environmental problems' strategies, strategies to alleviate them, and implementation of the strategies between different United Nations agencies is the system-wide, medium-term environment programme for 1990/95. The follow-up of the World Commission's report, both bilaterally and multilaterally, has been under active consideration in the Nordic countries. In the FAO context, an independent consultancy group has been studying the follow-up in FAO on the Commission recommendations to the Nordic countries, to whom sustainable development has a high priority indeed in the on-going review process of FAO.

The concept of sustainable development presents an increased challenge for FAO and other agencies. The close links which exist between environmental considerations, poverty alleviation, growth and equity issues make it necessary for all parties to review their policies and on-going programmes and projects. FAO's mandate and scope of responsibilities in the multilateral system makes it a key agency for the enhancement of sustainable development. We welcome the comprehensive and detailed description of FAO's activities in this field, as included in the Secretariat's report CL 94/6. It can now present a relatively long history of environmental work, and a considerable amount of on-going activities.

The Organization plays a leading international role in several important sub-sectors, inter alia soil conservation, watershed management and wildlife management. As mentioned in the Secretariat's report, the concept of sustainable development is multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary by nature, and it must be approached in an integrated manner. To that end, an Inter-Departmental Working Group on Environment and Energy has been established and many other multi-department working groups despatched with components of sustainable development.

However, as it is emphasised in the conclusion of the report, and we just heard from Dr. Bonte-Friedheim, the concept is still evolving and more analytical work is needed to translate the concept into practical and operational policy and programmes in the agricultural, forestry and fishery sectors. That is the urgent task for the Secretariat.

In this context, several questions need to be clarified. For example, how can FAO contribute to the implementation of the various recommendations contained in the World Commission report and the environmental perspective, which programmes need to be reorientated; which priorities need to be adjusted; how can FAO become more efficient in promoting a sustainable development; how can principles of sustainable development be implemented in the field work; how can the contribution of various activities towards sustainable development be measured? Clearly, more information and discussion is needed on future strategies and policies for FAO to promote the concept.

FAO is in a better position to handle trans-boundary problems than bilateral agencies. It will therefore be natural for FAO to have a higher degree of concentration on problems which have

regional or global components. In this work FAO should reorient its activities towards giving higher priority to the provision of substantive sector inputs into the current processes of national environmental planning, in close cooperation with other UN agencies, bilateral donors, development banks and non-governmental organizations. In particular the World Bank and IUCN should be mentioned. A good example of cooperation between the donor countries is the one adopted for the implementation of the Tropical Forestry Action Plan.

FAO's ultimate aim, when setting priorities, should not be to create field projects as such, but to convince governments, and NGOs to take into account FAO's overall views. One efficient way of doing this, which is consistent with FAO's comparative advantages, is to participate actively in the global, regional and national planning processes. Sectors that FAO could consider giving higher priority to in dealing with environmental degradation, are fisheries, wildlife utilization, alternative pest control strategies, conservation of both plant and animal genetic resources, the promotion of sustainable tropical agriculture and land-use planning.

Forestry is, to the Nordic countries, a sector of special interest. We appreciate the concern and vision embodied in the 1985 Tropical Forestry Action Plan, and the approach to respond to them as part of the World Conservation Strategy. As we see it, sustainable development for the growing population in the world cannot be achieved without increased emphasis on forestry. More specifically, questions to be concentrated on could include: (a) management of natural tropical forests, aiming at a higher production of tangible benefits without fundamental changes in the ecosystem; (b) establishment of village wood lots, or community forestry - also, an improved system of agro-forestry; and (c) extensive programmes of forest plantation.

As the Secretary-General of the United Nations pointed out in Oslo last summer, a more deliberate and concentrated effort by the United Nations system towards sustainable development is needed. The link between deterioration of environment and poverty should also be given priority in the future undertaking. To carry out the task of coordination and guidance, effectively and without delay, we have to ask ourselves whether the present Organization and structure of FAO is appropriate and sufficient. The Inter-Departmental Working Groups, when properly addressing the issues, can go a long way in emphasising the need for interpretation of environmental consideration in the work of FAO and highlighting the environmental policies and priorities. Whether they can bring about a common overall view on environmental issues in all parts of the Organization, as needed, is another question.

Finally, Nordic countries stress that integration and implementation of sustainable development throughout FAO is a forward-looking and on-going process. We were gratified to hear from Dr. Bonte-Friedheim, just a moment ago, that the next biennium's programme of work and budget clearly reflects the promotion of environmental issues. Likewise, we expect this item to be on the agenda of the Ninety-fifth Session of the Council preceeded by a more elaborate and analytical report by the Secretariat in line with the United Nations General Assembly Resolutions 41/87 and 42/86. These measures we deem necessary and logical in preparing ourselves for the substantial discussion on this item during the 1989 FAO Conference. Mr. Chairman, we kindly ask these points on the follow-up of the sustainable development to be reflected in the report of this Session of the Council.

José Ramón LOPEZ PORTILLO ROMANO (Mexico): La Delegación de México, Sr. Presidente, agradece al Dr. Bonte Friedheim, por la extensa, clara y enriquecedora aportación que nos ha hecho, no sólo para definir mejor el concepto mismo de desarrollo viable sino también, las acciones que al respecto realiza la FAO.

La delegación de México se siente muy satisfecha de que este tema relativo a los aspectos de la FAO encaminados a contribuir a un desarrollo viable se haya puesto a la consideración de este Consejo, aunque, como se concluye en el párrafo 73, este concepto debe aún completarse, aclararse y perfeccionarse, si conlleva a una profunda meditación sobre el significado y las perspectivas del desarrollo mismo, y así como el distinguido delegado de Finlandia, nosotros consideramos que este tema debe seguirse tratando en las sucesivas agendas de nuestro Consejo.

Como bien se indica en el informe Brundtland la erosión de las tierras y otros fenómenos que contribuyen al deterioro importante del medio ambiente, son elementos relevantes que deben prevenirse y superarse. No obstante, rechazamos que este tipo de fenómenos sean la consecuencia exclusiva o principal de la acción depredadora de los pobres, como allí se cita. Los pobres son parte, y sobre todo efecto, de un sistema económico que postula la escasez como su principio motor y la explotación de las mayorías como medio de capitalización. Por eso las acciones de los así llamados pobres, sólo pueden entenderse y resolverse si se considera el contexto socioeconómico y la mecánica del orden internacional vigente.

Muchos habitantes rurales y urbanos se ven impelidos por desconocimiento y por simple necesidad de sobrevivencia, a tomar lo poco que la naturaleza y la sociedad les ofrece, al orillarlos a vivir en zonas deprimidas o bajo sistemas comerciales y de producción que implican y conllevan en sí mismos la depredación de los recursos naturales. Pero debe subrayarse aquí que las consecuencias de los actos de sobrevivencia de los pobres rurales y urbanos significan muy poco en el contexto del deterioro ambiental general y de los ecosistemas cuando se consideran los nefastos resultados de los deshechos de las grandes agroindustrias particularmente de empresas transnacionales, del uso indiscriminado de plaguicidas y agroquímicos de las emisiones de bióxido de carbono y otros productos de parte, principalmente, o mayoritariamente de países industrializados, de los constantes ensayos nucleares y accidentes de nucleoelectricas y de la terrible erosión de la diversidad biológica; es decir, genes, especies y ecosistemas derivadas principalmente de la aplicación de criterios comerciales y de rentabilidad alta y de reutilidad pronta que han desplazado y aniquilado tantas formas de vida.

En los países en desarrollo, y particularmente, después de años de crecimiento muy bajo, y hasta negativo, y de un grave empeoramiento en la distribución del ingreso, no puede esperarse que cuestiones relativas a la conservación de recursos naturales y del medio ambiente, se antepongan en la agenda política a las cuestiones mucho más potentes y elementales en el corto plazo, como la lucha contra el hambre y la sobrevivencia diarias. A pesar de que está demostrado que continuar así va en perjuicio de la viabilidad y sobrevivencia de generaciones futuras, la comunidad internacional no puede esperar que en el corto plazo, los países en desarrollo podamos organizar eficazmente, suficientemente, una lucha por la preservación de los recursos naturales de la diversidad biológica y de la mejora del medio ambiente si no se nos ofrecen soluciones macroeconómicas generales respecto de problemas tales como la deuda, el comercio, la tecnología y un financiamiento suficiente para apoyar este tipo de actividades.

Sr. Presidente, todo está en todo en el mundo actual. Este mundo, sus problemas y soluciones son interdependientes y en la balanza de las prioridades la sobrevivencia y la lucha eficaz y perdurable contra la pobreza absoluta, el hambre, la desnutrición y la seguridad alimentaria, están primero.

El paso primero para un desarrollo viable es, pues, precisamente, permitir el desarrollo de todos los pueblos y superar las condiciones y mecanismos de la pobreza absoluta. A fin de que los países en desarrollo tengan acceso a las técnicas más adecuadas para tratar sus cultivos y evitar la deforestación, la erosión de los suelos, la desaparición de ecosistemas y de la diversidad genética y otros efectos dañinos que sobre el medio ambiente pueden tener las prácticas agrícolas indiscriminadas, es necesario entre otras cosas que la FAO, junto con otros Organismos internacionales consideren los elementos arriba señalados al estructurar sus políticas y proyectos que se han de llevar a cabo.

La problemática que he planteado ciertamente no implica de ninguna manera que deban posponerse acciones hoy para coordinar y progresar en el logro de las condiciones para un desarrollo agrícola y alimentario viable y sostenido. Sí conlleva necesariamente a convenir que tal esfuerzo y su peso financiero debe ser compartido equitativamente y con gran realismo.

Me voy a referir ahora entre el cumulo de temas que toca el documento 94/6, a uno que considero elemental y muy promisorio. Este tema lo toco, porque además, la delegación de México considera que está muy vinculado a las actividades futuras que debe desarrollar la Organización, más que ninguna otra: y es el de la conservación de la diversidad biológica.

En los párrafos 11, 12, 17, 20 y en el capítulo sobre Recursos Genéticos, párrafos 39 a 43, así como en otras partes del documento, se describe la importancia y avances de la estrategia de la FAO en ese sentido a lo largo de más de 40 años. Hoy la comunidad internacional reconoce la seriedad del problema de la erosión, de la diversidad biológica, y la prioridad ineludible de concertar acciones entre todos los países y organismos concernientes, máxime que somos los países en desarrollo oferentes y donadores netos de tales recursos y de su diversidad. La extinción exponencial de recursos genéticos, de especies y de ecosistemas que ha ocurrido en las últimas décadas es alarmante e implica ya quizás más del 10% de tales recursos. Si las tendencias se mantienen a mediados del siglo próximo habrán desaparecido irreversiblemente más de una tercera parte de las especies que habitan nuestro planeta. El efecto combinado de este proceso con el del deterioro del medio ambiente hacen temer sobre la viabilidad, ya no digamos del desarrollo mismo sino de la sobrevivencia de la Humanidad misma.

Hoy especialistas y neófitos abogan por acciones inmediatas. Sin embargo, debemos reconocer con tristeza y con alarma que prevalece una gran desorganización y una apatía entre Organismos Internacionales, Regionales y Gobiernos.

Desde su fundación, la FAO inició algunos esfuerzos en materia de conservación genética y otras medidas relativas. Ha trabajado en parte en coordinación con otras Agencias de Naciones Unidas, instituciones públicas y privadas. Sin embargo, no ha sido sino hasta épocas recientes que se ha

establecido, así lo sentimos, un esquema global promisorio tanto en lo legal como en lo instrumental, financiero, informativo y de coordinación sobre un aspecto de la conservación genética prioritario. Me refiero al Compromiso Internacional de Recursos Fitogenéticos, la Comisión relativa y el Fondo Internacional y el Sistema de Información y Redes de Recolección Base que se trata de establecer bajo los auspicios de la FAO. 115 países son miembros de la Comisión y/o se han unido al Compromiso Internacional y sus avances han provocado una importante efervescencia en muchos países y muchas instituciones. En reuniones pasadas del Consejo y en la reciente del COFO de mayo de este año se propuso por parte de varios países, que el Compromiso Internacional y la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos sean expandidos para comprender otros recursos genéticos y los ecosistemas en general.

El mérito de esta propuesta es evitar mayores gastos, duplicación de secretariados, de funciones y de órganos y mecanismos de acción, más otras complejidades que la arborescencia de unidades administrativas y parlamentarias puede provocar.

Dadas las técnicas modernas en materia de ingeniería genética y de biotecnología, todos los genes adquieren hoy potencialmente un interés comercial y estratégico para un desarrollo viable; y por tanto la conservación de la diversidad genética y más aún biológica que abarcaría especies y ecosistemas se hace indispensable.

Los países en desarrollo somos abrumadoramente donadores de tales recursos. Como lo he mencionado anteriormente, han sido y son las naciones desarrolladas que se ubican en las zonas templadas las máximas beneficiarlas de nuestras libres donaciones. Esos países han recibido ventajas comerciales y económicas incommensurables con la explotación de variedades que nuestros campesinos, ganaderos y pescadores han mantenido, cultivado, respetado y mejorado durante miles de años.

En el futuro y dadas las nuevas tecnologías desarrolladas principalmente en países industrializados, serán estos últimos los que sin duda mayores ventajas obtendrán de una conservación de la diversidad genética y biológica en general.

Un mecanismo de compensación se hace prioritario e indispensable. Por lo anterior, hace sentido un llamado a la corresponsabilidad global y a esfuerzos equitativos de financiamiento y tratamiento comercial compartidos. En varios organismos se están haciendo diversas propuestas respecto a estos temas. Por ejemplo, en el PNUMA un país desarrollado muy importante y otros más, propusieron la formulación de una Convención paraguas sobre Diversidad Biológica y el establecimiento de mecanismos ad-hoc al más alto nivel para tratar estos asuntos.

Toda esta ebullición debe canalizarse para evitar su parcelación y feudalización de funciones y de manejos de recursos financieros así como la duplicación de órganos y de instrumentos legales y financieros.

La FAO, a diferencia de otras Organizaciones, ha dado ya pasos firmes en materia de la conservación de la diversidad biológica, particularmente repito en el área de recursos fitogenéticos.

Recientemente, 50 científicos de diversas agrupaciones y organismos se reunieron en Colorado, Estados Unidos, en agosto pasado bajo la presidencia del Dr. Swaminathan, ex-Presidente Independiente de este Consejo, y propusieron como lo hemos hecho aquí y se ha planteado en otros foros también, que la actual Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos evolucione gradualmente hasta convertirse en una Comisión sobre Diversidad Biológica. Nos parece ésta una propuesta inteligente y congruente con los estatutos, funciones y objetivos de nuestra Organización, y sobre todo porque evita duplicaciones, traslapes innecesarios, y se basa en un instrumento tanto administrativo, como financiero y parlamentario ya existente.

Por todo lo anterior, pedimos al Director General que los siguientes cuatro puntos se incluyan en el Programa de Recursos Fitogenéticos, en marzo de 1989, y luego en los trabajos de este Consejo en su 960 Período de Sesiones y en la 25ª Conferencia de la FAO de noviembre de 1989:

- 1) Estudio sobre la forma de ampliar gradualmente la actual Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos hacia una Comisión sobre Diversidad Biológica.
- 2) Que proponga la evolución correspondiente del Fondo Internacional para Recursos Fitogenéticos hacia uno que incluya apoyos financieros para actividades vinculadas con la conservación genética en general, es decir que comprenda también animales, peces y microorganismos.
- 3) Que establezca contactos con otras Agencias del Sistema de Naciones Unidas como el PNUMA, UNESCO, UICN, OMS y otras, así como con las instituciones nacionales y las ONG's interesadas implicadas en estos asuntos para proponer un sistema de coordinación efectivo tanto para evitar duplicación y traslapes como para vincular las respectivas actividades en un todo congruente en lo que podría ser, como ya se ha propuesto en el PNUMA, un Convenio Internacional sobre Diversidad Biológica.

4) Y con esto termino, Sr. Presidente. Respecto a tal Convenio, estudiar los avances que ha logrado el PNUMA en este sentido y promover la consolidación de esos esfuerzos a partir de un Proyecto de Convenio Internacional sobre Diversidad Biológica que podría someterse a la consideración del próximo Consejo de la FAO con alguna fórmula de coordinación y corresponsabilidad con el PNUMA y otras Organizaciones concernidas.

Igor MARINCEK (Suisse): J'aimerais d'abord remercier Monsieur Bonte-Friedheim pour les clarifications qu'il a apportées au sujet de cet important point de l'Ordre du jour, clarification que nous aurions aimé trouver dans le document qui nous est soumis. L'environnement et la nature sont les ressources sur lesquelles se construit notre existence; c'est un capital énorme et limité à la fois, qui nous est confié, un capital qui produit de l'intérêt. Grâce à une bonne gestion de ce capital, nous pouvons même arriver à augmenter les intérêts rendus par celui-ci.

Afin de ne pas mettre en péril cette source si vitale, si précieuse et qui nous est si nécessaire, nous devons cependant veiller à n'utiliser que les intérêts sans toucher au capital; concrètement, nous avons l'obligation de restituer ce capital, sans pertes, à nos enfants et aux générations futures, afin que ceux-ci puissent continuer à en retirer les intérêts: tel est le principe du développement durable.

Ce principe n'est pas toujours bien respecté ni au nord ni au sud, c'est pourquoi mon pays a salué le rapport de la Commission Brundtland qui met ces problèmes dans une perspective globale et qui a grandement contribué à promouvoir la notion et le concept du développement durable. Nous apprécions donc que la contribution de la FAO à la mise en application du concept de développement durable, fasse l'objet d'un rapport et d'un point particulier de l'Ordre du jour de ce Conseil.

Le document remis nous semble cependant trop restrictif; nous savons bien qu'il s'agit d'un début -et nous l'apprécions - mais nous aurions souhaité un document plus analytique, faisant ressortir davantage les problèmes. Je remercie donc Monsieur Bonte-Friedheim d'avoir attiré également notre attention sur ce point.

Nous aurions aussi souhaité que le document tire, pour la FAO, des conclusions spécifiques du rapport Brundtland et qu'il nous permette d'aboutir à des conclusions concrètes. En effet, la lecture de ce document donne l'impression que la quasi-totalité des activités de la FAO favorise d'une manière ou d'une autre le développement durable; cependant, cette impression n'est pas du tout confirmée par les chiffres; ceux-ci nous indiquent que les activités de la FAO en faveur du développement durable n'occupent qu'un maigre 3,2% du budget ordinaire du biennium en cours.

Ma délégation n'est sans doute pas la seule à avoir été frappée par cette divergence.

Un mot maintenant concernant la responsabilité de la FAO dans les questions dont nous discutons ici. Il nous semble que la FAO doit en premier lieu jouer à la fois le rôle d'expert et de conscience commune, et attirer l'attention sur les problèmes qui se posent aux niveaux global, régional et des pays.

Deux difficultés en relation avec le développement durable nous semblent mériter une attention particulière.

- La première, c'est l'explosion démographique dans certains pays, qui hypothèque lourdement les possibilités de développement de leurs enfants;

- la seconde, c'est le fait que plus les biens environnementaux se raréfient, plus la lutte pour leur distribution s'engage. Les pauvres sont les perdants dans cette lutte, ils deviennent marginalisés et sont les premières victimes écologiques.

Permettez-moi, Monsieur le Président, de faire encore quelques commentaires sur des paragraphes spécifiques du document soumis à notre considération.

Paragraphe 15. Il est fait constat que les intéressés n'adopteront durablement des pratiques respectueuses de l'environnement que si elles sont économiquement viables. Il faut donc des politiques favorisant cette viabilité au niveau des exploitations, et il faut faire des efforts pour sensibiliser les individus à l'écologie qui, en vérité, n'est rien d'autre que l'économie à long terme.

Paragraphe 26. Le travail de la FAO dans l'évaluation de la capacité de la charge démographique des terres, mérite d'être salué; nous proposons une poursuite de ces travaux au niveau des pays individuels.

Paragraphe 28. Est-ce que le Secrétariat pourrait nous informer davantage sur ses procédures d'évaluation de l'impact écologique des projets, et nous remettre éventuellement un exemplaire du document éventuel y relatif. A quels projets s'appliquent ces procédures ? Quels sont les critères pour l'identification de ces projets ? Est-ce que les projets PCT font l'objet d'un tel examen ?

Paragrapes 32, 33 et 34. Quel est le succès remporté dans l'utilisation des directives et manuels mentionnés ? Est-ce qu'on a entrepris des efforts pour vendre ces documents - je dis bien vendre - à des entreprises d'ingénieurs-conseils, tant locales qu'internationales ? et si tel est le cas, avec quel succès ? Nous avons observé que la valeur des documents est parfois mieux appréciée quand ceux-ci ont un prix.

Paragraphe 50. L'affirmation que "presque toutes les activités menées par la FAO en vue d'améliorer les techniques dans les secteurs de l'agriculture, des forêts et des pêches concourent d'une certaine manière au développement durable" nous paraît un peu prétentieuse.

Paragraphe 64. La FAO a raison de nous rappeler que les régimes fonciers peuvent empêcher un développement durable. L'examen des politiques agricoles des pays individuels par la FAO doit aussi porter sur l'aspect de la pérennité.

Le Document soumis à notre examen ne consacre qu'un bref paragraphe, le paragraphe 66, à la participation des populations à leur propre développement, alors qu'il s'agit, en fait, des acteurs sans lesquels aucun développement n'est possible à long terme.

Ma délégation est convaincue que tant la FAO que les pays membres ne sont pas suffisamment informés du potentiel énorme de connaissances, de capacité de réflexion, de travail et d'investissement que représentent ces populations ainsi que leurs organisations locales. C'est pourquoi nous proposons que la FAO réalise une étude permettant de typifier les organisations rurales, le rôle qu'elles jouent dans leur cadre social et les relations qu'elles entretiennent avec les Gouvernements.

Enfin, cette étude devrait également contenir des recommandations sur les formes possibles de mobiliser davantage le potentiel de ces Organisations, sur les possibilités de les renforcer afin d'en faire de vrais partenaires des gouvernements et à travers eux de la FAO. Nous avons été informés qu'un des points de l'Ordre du Jour du prochain COAG devrait traiter de la participation des populations.

Nous souhaitons que les pays membres de notre Organisation soient renseignés le plus complètement possible sur les expériences faites par la FAO, le FIDA, le BIT et les Gouvernements, dans la coopération avec les Organisations rurales. A notre connaissance, divers services de la FAO, comme la Division des Ressources Humaines, la CMCF etc. ont des activités en relation avec des organisations rurales. Nous croyons savoir que beaucoup d'informations écrites existent déjà à ce sujet à la FAO, au FIDA, au BIT et peut-être ailleurs. Si les ressources de la FAO ne sont pas suffisantes pour réaliser une telle étude, mon pays serait disposé à la financer, si possible en collaboration avec d'autres donateurs, la responsabilité de l'étude restant bien entendu à la FAO. Pour terminer, j'aimerais souligner l'importance d'une bonne intégration du concept du développement durable dans les travaux de notre Organisation. Nous espérons que le Programme de travail et de budget pour le prochain biennium et les décisions sur les réformes lors de la prochaine Conférence, marqueront la réalisation d'une importante étape dans cette direction.

Passer au crible toutes les activités et projets de la FAO sous l'aspect de l'environnement et de la pérennité serait un tel pas, ainsi que le passage obligatoire des projets plus importants par une procédure de l'évaluation de l'impact écologique, tel que décrit dans le paragraphe 28.

Nous attendons également avec intérêt le chapitre spécial sur le développement agricole durable annoncé pour le document "Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture 1988".

Finalement, j'aimerais rappeler que le respect de la nature va de pair avec le respect de l'homme. Le respect des droits de l'homme est indispensable si l'on veut arriver à un développement porté par des citoyens responsables. Les élites des pays ont une responsabilité particulière à cet égard.

D. MAXWELL (United States of America): The United States has studied with interest document CL 94/6, the Report on Aspects of FAO's Policies, Programmes, Budget and Activities Aimed at Contributing to Sustainable Development. We also appreciate Mr. Bonte-Friedheim's introductory comments on this item.

The United States has an historical commitment to environment and natural resource conservation which is pursued through domestic and international, private and public agencies. We agree, therefore, that sustainable development, whilst given a wider dimension by the World Conference on

Environment and Development, is not a new concept. We do, however, share the growing consensus in the international community that past efforts have not dealt adequately with the problem of environmental degradation. For that reason, and in view of the importance of this issue to the future of all who share our planet, to the lives and livelihood of millions, my delegation will comment at some length on this topic. I regret that we share certain views with other delegations that there is not enough time to look at our statement in the light of other delegations' statements. We are pleased to see that there is a great consensus in this area. We will continue with our statement in this regard.

First of all, I would like to make a few general remarks. We encourage FAO to proceed with efforts to translate the sustainable development concept into practice and look forward to further action by FAO in this regard. At the same time, we request that FAO look for methods of containing programme costs - for instance, by shifting funds to cover more adequately the more critical areas in terms of sustainable development, for example forest and wildlife conservation.

We encourage FAO to continue to increase its collaboration with others working in this area and to continue to strive for more effective execution of its coordination role.

Also, we urge FAO to continue its efforts to improve its own internal coordination mechanism, including cross-departmental, cross-sectoral consultation within the ID (inter-departmental) working group format.

FAO as well as other bilateral and multilateral agencies has long acknowledged and attempted to address the essential features of natural resource conservation that impact on rural development, yet past efforts have not dealt adequately with the problem. Short-term planning horizons and risk-aversion production strategies in combination with increasing demographic pressures may in the long run lead to a deterioration of production potential. Long-term economic development strategies must focus more sharply on natural resource management as well as on those forces which generate poverty.

We note with optimism the general convergence of FAO's agricultural programme in the 1988/89 Programme of Work and Budget with WCED's concept of sustainable development. We applaud FAO for bringing to its policies and programmes a sustainable development focus and commend FAO's operational definition of sustainable development - paragraph 5 - as one of the best produced so far. We suggest, however, that critical problems which remain obscured must still be addressed, including inadequate direction of private and public investment towards rural development, poverty and the pressures of poverty and population growth on the environment; the lack of grass roots participation in technology, research and in planning resource use and maintenance.

We recommend that FAO refine or expand its definition and operationalize a sustainable development strategy that takes into account the following key areas: (i) natural resource management and conservation; (ii) technological development and delivery; (iii) private and public investment in the rural sector to promote economic growth beyond the subsistence level; (iv) policy reform such as reform of land access, land tenure and pricing policies; (v) grass-root participation in development planning and management; (vi) human resources development and social, cultural and institutional change.

The United States encourages FAO to continue work in such critical areas as the testing of guidelines for land-use planning (paragraph 14); the implementation of the WCARRD programme for anti-poverty-focussed rural development (paragraph 17); furthering soil conservation, particularly in Africa (paragraphs 31 and 36), and water resources management (paragraphs 32-34); strengthening networks for wildlife protection and management (paragraph 35); providing technical assistance on the socio-economic aspects of sustainable development, including the integration of women in development and agricultural extension; supporting grass-roots participation, and promotion of land access/land tenure policy reform (paragraphs 64-66); facilitating the analysis and planning of population, environment, and energy components of rural development efforts particularly at the district and project levels; coordinating national fisheries programmes; and ensuring the dissemination of technical information on subjects that directly impact on sustainable development jointly with other agencies with technical expertise which, in addition to WHO, WMO, ILO, includes IFAD, UNEP, IBPGR, the World Bank and the Regional Multi-Development Banks.

We observe that US\$15.8 million, although a conservative estimate, is not much to devote to sustainable development over a two-year period relative to the assessed budget for the biennium 1988-89. We wish to know how much more the 88 TCP projects (paragraph 10) would add to the total investment in sustainability-related activities. How much more do Trust Fund Projects add? We request additional information regarding the type and location of these projects as well. As much as possible, the establishment of accounting measures to readily access this financial information when needed would be very helpful for future review purposes. Furthermore, we would like to see the Programme of Work for the 1990-91 biennium now in preparation, integrate sustainable development and environmental concerns with the core of FAO's work and give it high priority.

Given the critical role of afforestation in achieving ecological solvency, we applaud FAO's work in forestry under Trust Fund auspices. We suggest that Tropical Forestry Action Plan would benefit by increasing its focus on the agricultural sector, and emphasizing agroforestry as a major activity for mitigating shifting cultivation which accounts for nearly half of tropical deforestation (paragraph 22), as has been mentioned by some delegates in the discussion on the previous agenda item. Increased agroforestry would also make an important contribution to combating the global warming effect brought on by increased carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Moreover, we believe that work in this critical sector should be funded through FAO's regular programme budget.

We note another point of general consensus in FAO's use in paragraph 45, page 9 of Gordon Conway's terminology regarding farming systems. Conway's "agroecosystem analysis" approach, for instance, forms the basis for recent US Agency for International Development training courses in agriculture and natural resources management. Conceptualization of the farming systems paradigm is evolving, however, as farming systems research continues, and we encourage FAO's collaboration with those working on the further development of this model.

The Report mentions FAO's "pioneering work" on agro-ecological zone analysis (paragraph 26, page 5). It also states that FAO has just begun the introduction of routine environmental impact assessment procedures (paragraph 28, page 6) in the development of agricultural production projects. We view these FAO initiatives with cautious optimism and urge FAO to coordinate and collaborate with others in the community - IFAD particularly - who are working to standardize, on an internationally acceptable basis, indices for measuring agroecosystem stability and sustainability.

There is a perception in the community that greater collaboration and coordination among international and bilateral agencies is necessary to ensure consistency of policy recommendations on rural poverty and the environment. We listened with interest to the previous delegations' comments. We urge FAO to continue efforts to improve coordination: at the international level, consulting with other multilateral and bilateral agencies as FAO considers how it may further promote environmentally-sound agricultural and rural development; at the regional level, advising regional, political and economic organizations in planning sustainable development. In doing so it should accept also a supporting role as well as taking the lead role with other multilateral organizations. Consideration should be given at the national and local levels, to support and strengthen national and local capacity to collect and analyse environmental data, strengthening monitoring and evaluation activities, and strengthening national and local planning capabilities. FAO's efforts in this respect should involve NGOs in problem identification, strategy formulation and project presentation.

While we recognize rural poverty as a major impediment to sustainable development, we take exception to the statement in paragraph 16, that it is a major cause of unsustainable development. Such a statement directs attention incorrectly and unprofitably toward the symptom, namely, poverty, rather than towards the forces which generate poverty. Research founded on a misapprehension of this issue is unlikely to lead to positive results. FAO is urged to continue its research on socio-economic and institutional prerequisites to sustainable development, taking into account the research of others in the community.

We believe that FAO's role in the area of plant genetic resources, as stated in paragraph 20, is highly overstated. The United States supports the IBPGR as the best instrument for international germplasm coordination, and believes that FAO's role must complement, not duplicate, the work of the IBPGR. The United States does not adhere to the international undertaking, does not belong to the Commission, and does not subscribe to FAO's management of the International Fund relating to plant genetic resources. We note FAO's reference to biotechnology in paragraph 51 as a means of improving production and post-harvest processing, and request that FAO outline the role it plans to perform in biotechnology development application.

We are puzzled that the current list of sustainable development activities in Annex II includes no mention of FAO's activities under SACRED (the Scheme for Agriculture Credit Development). There is a dependent relationship between access to credit, access to land, and income generation. Income -cash and non-cash - is a major determinant of human choices that affect sustainability of economic growth. Increasing the incomes of the rural poor is essential to long-term environmentally-sound economic development. We request that FAO supplement document CL 94/6 with a report on FAO's current and planned activities aimed at facilitating credit access for rural communities, and on FAO's current and planned activities aimed at increasing private and public investment in rural sectors, including micro-enterprise.

We applaud the interest of FAO to include a special chapter on sustainable agricultural development in the 1988-89 State of Food and Agriculture Report. This important document can be a means for carrying forward the dialogue and sharpening international community's perceptions regarding this critical issue. We suggest that many Members will want to contribute to the discussion of the issues related to natural resources management for sustainable rural development based on lessons from their experiences, and to the analysis of changes required to translate the sustainable

development concept into practice. We request that FAO dialogue with international agencies such as the World Bank, IFAD, IBPGR and UNEP, as well as with bilateral agencies, as it considers how it might contribute further to the achievement of these changes.

In closing, I would support Mr. Friedheim's comments that the integration of sustainable development and environmental concerns must be an ongoing process. We expect that future FAO reports will contain more analysis and fuller indications of future directions as suggested by UNGA resolutions 42/186 and 41/187. We look forward to further consideration of these issues in future sessions of FAO's Governing Bodies.

Ms Patricia WEST (United Kingdom): I assure you I will be brief. The United Kingdom welcomed the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development. Indeed, we were one of the few countries to have published a government response to the report and we are committed to the concept of sustainable development. We recognize the importance of sustainable use of resources in agricultural development and are pleased to see FAO focussing on sustainability in the agricultural context (CL 94/6).

We agree with the previous speaker that paragraph 5 of that document contains a useful working definition of sustainable development. FAO's earlier document "Agriculture towards 2000" also set the scene for environmental responsibility in this sector. However, we would urge FAO to exercise caution in what appears to be attempts to differentiate sustainable development activities under a separate sub-head of projects or programmes because we believe all development activity should be geared to sustainability criteria.

We support fully the view of the integration of sustainable development, and that environmental concerns must be an ongoing process. As with the Finnish delegation we are glad to hear that the Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 1990/91 can be expected to reflect the concept that sustainable development and environmental concerns have a prominent role in, and form an integral part of, all FAO's work.

The UK also expects this item to be on the agenda of the Ninety-fifth Session of Council preceded by a more analytical and forward-looking report by the Secretariat in line with the United Nations General Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 41/187. We hope that this will lead the way to a more substantial discussion on the whole framework of sustainable development during the Twenty-fifth Conference.

Jean Pierre POLY (France): La délégation française a pris connaissance avec intérêt du rapport préparé par le Secrétariat sur le thème de la pérennité du développement, abordé certes pour la première fois par notre Conseil, mais très souvent déjà présent à l'arrière plan de nos débats. Ne s'agit-il pas d'ailleurs de l'un des concepts fondamentaux sur lesquels repose l'Acte constitutif de l'Organisation, à la fois pour répondre aux exigences du court terme et ménager l'avenir par un développement équilibré qui favorise la croissance économique, le progrès social et la conservation des ressources naturelles.

La notion de développement durable n'est donc pas nouvelle en soi mais ses objectifs essentiels se trouvent sans cesse renforcés par une prise de conscience plus aigüe de la complexité et de la fragilité des écosystèmes et donc de la vulnérabilité de l'intégrité écologique de notre patrimoine.

Dans ce contexte, la délégation française considère qu'il est peut-être illusoire et artificiel de chercher à évaluer l'effort au demeurant incontesté accompli par l'Organisation pour la promotion d'un développement durable en disséquant le Programme et le budget car c'est précisément de la complémentarité et de la synergie des actions entreprises que dépend la pérennité du développement.

Seule l'analyse globale du Programme permet de mesurer l'effort accompli, même si certains domaines s'inscrivent plus particulièrement dans la perspective du rapport établi par la Commission mondiale de l'environnement et du développement. A cet égard, la délégation française se félicite de l'attention particulière accordée par la FAO à des secteurs aussi essentiels à la pérennité du développement que la conservation des terres et des eaux, la mise au point de systèmes intégrés de protection et de nutrition des plantes, la promotion d'une recherche agronomique adaptée aux besoins de la petite agriculture, la conservation des ressources génétiques, forestières, zootechniques, phytotechniques et halieutiques.

Dans une conjoncture difficile pour l'Organisation, la France a décidé d'apporter sa contribution volontaire à la poursuite et au renforcement des programmes engagés en faveur d'un développement durable. Pour un propos concret et illustré, qu'il me soit permis de rappeler en cette occasion quelques projets particuliers en faveur desquels s'établit le programme des fonds fiduciaires français.

Mon pays a décidé d'apporter sa contribution pour un montant de 200 000 dollars au Programme d'évaluation des ressources forestières des pays tropicaux, exercice nécessaire à l'amélioration de la gestion de ces ressources. Les autorités françaises sont prêtes à renouveler l'aide volontaire apportée en son temps à la mise en oeuvre du Plan forestier tropical désormais inscrit au programme ordinaire afin de permettre à ce programme prioritaire dont les moyens de coordination seraient ainsi renforcés de mieux répondre à la demande exprimée.

Toujours dans le domaine forestier, mon pays apporte son concours soutenu au Programme sous-régional de mise en valeur des ressources génétiques de ligneux à usages multiples.

Le Programme de collaboration France-FAO dans le domaine de la télédétection s'inscrit, lui aussi, dans la perspective d'un développement durable grâce aux projets pilotes engagés notamment pour une cartographie pédologique, pour l'étude des phénomènes d'érosion, pour une meilleure maîtrise des eaux. Un accord de principe a été donné pour la mise en oeuvre d'une nouvelle composante de ce programme qui permettra l'utilisation de l'image satellite à haute résolution pour les études d'inventaire de potentialité et de suivi des ressources forestières.

Depuis plusieurs années, la France apporte sa contribution aux programmes que mène la FAO dans le domaine de la fixation de l'azote à travers un ensemble diversifié d'interventions: renforcement des moyens du siège, programmes de formation, mise en place de cadres associés, au Rwanda notamment, projets sur les espèces ligneuses fixatrices de l'azote en Chine. Il s'agit là de l'exemple type d'un ensemble d'actions de développement entreprises pour une croissance économique sans préjudice pour l'environnement.

Enfin, dans le domaine du stockage et du conditionnement, mon pays, soucieux d'améliorer les systèmes après récolte et de limiter les pertes importantes trop souvent constatées, a décidé de soutenir le programme conduit par l'Organisation.

D'autres projets de collaboration France-FAO témoignent d'une préoccupation partagée de mieux valoriser les sous-produits de l'agriculture. Un programme d'action pour une meilleure utilisation de la paille pour l'alimentation animale en zone méditerranéenne est à l'étude. La collaboration de la France, enfin, est acquise pour promouvoir l'information nécessaire à la conservation des sols et des eaux en zones semi-arides.

Toutefois, ma délégation, qui vient donc de porter témoignage à travers maints exemples concrets de l'intérêt qu'elle accorde, pour un développement durable, à l'intégration des considérations d'ordre écologique dans les politiques agricoles, forestières et halieutiques, souhaite faire observer que l'activité agricole n'est qu'un élément de dégradation de l'environnement qui s'inscrit très certainement bien après les activités industrielles et domestiques. Peut-être cet objectif de pérennité pour un concept de développement qui ne cesse lui-même d'évoluer doit-il faire l'objet d'une analyse plus systématique et plus sélective dans les politiques et programmes opérationnels de l'Organisation afin d'éviter la récurrence de projets trop souvent semblables et de permettre de mieux valoriser le capital d'expérience et de données de l'Organisation. Pour cela, la gestion des programmes devra être améliorée et la FAO devra se doter des moyens de suivi et de contrôle nécessaires. Mais il s'agit là d'un autre débat.

Sra. Ma. Josefina FERNANDEZ ALVAREZ de ARDIZONES (Cuba): En relación con el documento 94/6, que se debate, mi delegación agradece a la Secretaría por la clara ampliación que ha hecho del mismo, así como por la elaboración cuidadosa de un documento tan importante como éste.

Mi delegación, Sr. Presidente, después del estudio de este documento, tiene la sensación de que el concepto de desarrollo viable aún no está bien definido, como no lo están tampoco los objetivos en relación con la FAO; sin embargo, no nos cabe la menor duda de que los objetivos de la FAO sí están bien definidos y siempre han estado dirigidos a lograr el desarrollo de los países menos adelantados.

Estamos de acuerdo, Sr. Presidente, con lo expresado en los párrafos 6, 11, y 12 del documento en cuestión, por la actualidad que mantienen esos principios, a pesar de haber transcurrido 40 largos años de trabajo. La FAO siempre ha estado en vanguardia por la lucha por el desarrollo, aunque ahora se le cuestione la palabra "viable", lo cual no es más que el producto del propio desarrollo, porque sin desarrollo no hay contaminación ambiental, ni de aguas, ni destrucción de bosques a causa de la propia contaminación. Es una paradoja, pero realmente es necesario lograr primero, al menos, el desarrollo para después hacerlo viable, sobre todo cuando se tienen pocos recursos para ello, y es necesario priorizar su utilización. Nos preocupa la referencia de los párrafos 9 y 10 al presupuesto y a la asignación total para estas actividades, ante la incertidumbre de la contribución del gran deudor, pues son muchas las políticas de la FAO relativas al desarrollo viable que están en juego. El párrafo 17 apenas resume las más importantes y multidimensionales, pues como se conoce, la política de la FAO ha estado siempre orientada a asegurar el desarrollo agrícola, rural, pesquero y social de los países en desarrollo. Para nadie es un secreto los esfuerzos que realiza

la FAO por la conservación de los recursos genéticos, por el desarrollo y la preservación del hombre y del medio ambiente. Como principal exponente, lo es entre otros, el Código de Conductas sobre la Utilización de Plaguicidas aprobado en 1985.

Apoyamos totalmente la declaración del Embajador López Portillo, de México, quien nos ha ahorrado muchas palabras y apoyamos también su propuesta específica en el sentido de que los instrumentos actuales relativos a recursos fitogenéticos evolucionen hacia la integración de todos los recursos biológicos, dada su vinculación con la producción de alimentos, que por tanto deben concentrarse en la FAO.

Para concluir, Sr. Presidente, mi delegación apoya las propuestas de la FAO, y sus esfuerzos por alinear sus políticas con la ejecución del desarrollo viable y espera que la Organización pueda disponer en breve de los recursos financieros necesarios para que pueda continuar contribuyendo al desarrollo viable y sostenido de los países del Tercer Mundo.

Gerhard LIEBER (Germany, Federal Republic of): May I first, through you, Mr. Chairman, thank Mr. Bonte Friedheim for his very thorough and clear introduction to this important paper.

The document before us reflects how the World Commission on Environment and Development defined the concept of sustainable development at its meeting in Oslo in July this year. FAO has now put this definition, which applies more to the general economic development, in concrete terms in a very complete way in order to meet the needs of the agricultural sector.

The definition states that sustainable agricultural development is to ensure soil conservation, to conserve water and genetic resources; in addition, it should also be environmentally non-degrading, technically appropriate, economically viable and socially acceptable. My delegation supports this definition.

The document then describes and analyzes the programmes, activities and policies which already make a contribution to the concept of sustainable development in FAO's work. This stocktaking gives us a good overview and shows approaches to the implementation of the concept.

In the view of my delegation the concept, however, for the time being is just an enumeration of individual measures, which does not allow us fully to recognize how far connections and linkages exist between individual programmes in order to fulfil all the above cited criteria of sustainable development as defined. We believe that the development of an overall concept is important, in order to, in future fully assess the individual activities of FAO within the framework of the definitions mentioned. This would also be commensurate with the decisions of the Sixteenth FAO Regional Conference in Cracow which also called for a greater integration of environmental aspects in the development process of agriculture, forestry and fisheries.

Allow me now, Mr. Chairman, a few remarks about some individual proposals which are of special interest to us. As far as the special chapter on policy and planning is concerned, my delegation supports entirely what our Finnish colleague already stated for the Nordic countries.

On the chapter on genetic resource conservation it is rightly stated that due to the rapid depletion of the genetic resources, there is urgent need for establishing a network of gene banks and gene collections. This is not only of great importance in view of the heavily damaged forest areas in Europe, but also in view of the shrinking number of cultivated plant varieties as well as related plants which have so far not been recognized as valuable genetic types. Close cooperation with other organizations in this field is in the opinion of my delegation a prerequisite for any success.

In the chapter on technological development and application it is stated that almost all of FAO's activities for technological improvement could be included under the broad definition of sustainable development, above all because these technological developments help to create income, provide food security and protect natural resources.

That is certainly true for the described methods and programmes of integrated plant, nutrition systems and for integrated pest management which are promoted and propagated by FAO. These methods cannot only contribute to food security, but also help to secure the efficient use of pesticides and fertilisers, as well as, hopefully, the environment against harmful effects.

With regard to the achievements of biotechnology, a comprehensive assessment of the compatibility with the environment and, in addition, an intensive follow-up assessment should be envisaged. We welcome the fact that FAO gives support to the use of technologies of energy conservation as well as to the use of energy from renewable energy resources in agriculture. Resource conserving methods of energy production and energy conserving technologies are not only gaining momentum in developing countries, but also in the industrialised countries.

The over-exploitation of tropical rain forests already today affect the world climate. Further negative implications are already noticeable, such as large-scale degradation and erosion. A drastic reduction of ruthless exploitation and the introduction of conservation logging technologies should therefore be given highest priority in FAO's work, in particular in connection with the promotion of sustainable development.

In the chapter on pollution control, I particularly welcome FAO's work on the guidelines on proper pesticide application practices and prevention of ground-water contamination. In Europe these problems attract intensive public attention, despite the existence of already far-reaching regulations. In my country, for instance, we are engaged in developing a new principle of good technical practice in plant protection, with the aim of avoiding the wrong application of pesticides.

Finally, in the chapter on conclusions, I particularly support the statement that sustainable development can only be realised through international co-operation and multi-disciplinary approach. FAO is in a unique position to develop this approach. We are looking forward to further action and pledge our support.

Muhammad Saleem KHAN (Pakistan); We cannot refrain from complimenting FAO on producing an extremely useful and comprehensive paper on the activities which fall within FAO's definition of sustainable development. The concept is not new, but it is still evolving, and more analytical work is needed to translate this concept into practical and operational policy programmes in the field of agriculture, forestry, and fisheries. It requires processing in the desired directions. Since the subject itself is multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary, by its nature it requires an integrated approach. We appreciate FAO's collaboration with all other agencies of the UN, and other working groups to develop strategies on environment, energy, rural development etc.

I would like to comment on a few of the specific aspects of the document. In the context of paragraph 56 and energy efficient decentralized technologies for agricultural mechanisation, we would like the inclusion of the displacement effect of mechanisation on rural labour and examination and development of alternative sources of employment in the rural areas to arrest large-scale rural to urban migration and creation of urban slums with all its concomitant problems. This need becomes particularly pronounced in low income developing countries with poor industrial bases and inadequate urban capacity to absorb this migration.

In the context of paragraph 57 and the development of low-cost alternate renewable energy resource development such as biogas production, solar and wind energy systems, these need more impetus to reduce the pressure on the ecological systems in the context of paragraphs 22 and 35, pertaining to forest ecologies and watershed management.

We would also like to see, with reference to paragraph 32, increased emphasis on soil and land reclamation. Countries in Asia of late have made considerable progress in their efforts towards increased production of food and other agricultural products. This is largely thanks to development of large-scale irrigation networks like our own Indus-Basin Water System. However, an accompanying unfortunate aspect of such irrigation system has been a considerable increase in loss of land to water logging and salinity. The problem is now acquiring alarming magnitude. We would like to see more emphasis on, and concrete plans for, control and elimination of water logging and salinity and for soil and land reclamation schemes. Irrigation methods also need to be looked into, and effective and cheap replacement for flood irrigation needs to be worked upon. This would not only enable optimization of the use of scarce water to increase land under irrigation and hence production, but would also be an effective control measure against water logging and salinity, as flood irrigation has been identified, inter alia, as one of the causes of water logging and salinity on lands with poor drainage subjected to flood irrigation over long periods of time.

The delegate of Switzerland has now requested the examination of the population explosion on environment and sustainable development. We would like inclusion in this sphere of trans-regional demographic transfers, whether due to natural reasons, as recently in Africa, or due to human enforced causes as in the case of millions of refugees in Pakistan, Iran, Thailand, etc. We would like to see action plans for rehabilitation of the damage done to the environment, social and economic infrastructures in the host countries.

The representative of the Director-General mentioned coordination with other UN agencies. We would appreciate more information about coordination in this respect between FAO and other UN agencies - WFP, IFAD, and WFC - with similar objectives, roles, and methods of work.

Sir, land and water are the basic resources of agriculture. The development of these resources is the prime objective of our national development efforts. The National Commission on Agriculture in Pakistan has taken serious note of constraints on development of these resources and has recommended creation of a Federal Watershed and Arid Land Development Authority in the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture with the following main functions: to evolve a long-range policy for conserving the country's land, water and forest resources, to undertake or promote appropriate research activities in co-operation with the Federal and Provincial agencies in the field of watershed management, range management and development of arid areas, and to co-ordinate and financially support, to the maximum extent possible, the activities of all Federal and Provincial agencies dealing with the subjects entrusted to the Authority.

The Commission has emphasised overcoming the existing financial constraints, and earmarking financial resources in the plans. Further increases in our agricultural production will come from more increase in land productiveness both in terms of higher yields and cropping intensities for which vast scope exists in the country. Achievement of this goal will, therefore, depend crucially on national land improvement policies, increasing supply of water, and better planning and policy mechanisms. One of the main elements of our agricultural strategy for the seventh 5-year plan is also to move in a big way in launching a comprehensive programme for afforestation, watershed management, range management and resource conservation to improve and conserve land and water resources. Social forestry and energy plantations would be promoted on private lands. In rainfed areas research and promotional activities will be carried out through the auspices of agencies for arid and rainfed areas development, set up in each of the four provinces of the country.

Before I end, my delegation, whilst once again appreciating the quality of the report, wishes to emphasize that FAO should extend such activities in developing countries, including Pakistan, that possess considerable renewable and non-renewable resources, but that are constrained by financial stringencies and lack of technical expertise from developing and adequately exploiting these resources.

A.K.M. Fazley RABBI (Bangladesh): We join other delegates in congratulating Mr. Bonte-Friedheim for an excellent presentation of the report. The document under discussion is a report on policy programmes by activities of FAO aimed at contributing to sustainable development pursuant to the Conference Resolution 9/87. As stated in the conclusion of the document, the concept of sustainable development is still evolving. The definition adopted by the Working Group in FAO, as given in paragraph 5 of the document, is well conceived and comprehensive.

It is important to note that the policies and activities of FAO, based upon its mandate and techniques have been providing and taking care of many of the components of what is now termed as "sustainable development". FAO's activities relating to food production and elevation have contributed in a general way to sustainable development. The report gives details of such policies and activities undertaken by FAO in this regard.

While expressing our satisfaction of, and our commendation for such an excellent report, we would like to make one observation, and a request: that there should be an immediate solution to the problem - or should I call it a dilemma - that crops up from the urgent need of increased production and the need for preservation of political balance. In this regard, may I refer to paragraph 17 of the document on the report of the Thirteenth Session of the Committee on World Food Security. It has been stated that some developing countries had been obliged to expand frontiers beyond what was desirable for the environment in their efforts to increase production owing to a number of factors, such as the pressure of the debt burden, inadequate financial and technological assistance and an unfavourable international economy order. This is a hard reality, a problem which needs to be attended to by all who work on the promotion of sustainable development.

We appreciate the hard work undertaken by the Secretariat in listing the activities and policies of FAO, which have directly or indirectly helped achieving sustainable development, but one cannot rule out the possibility of the presence of some other activities which might have gone or might go to known or unknown dimensions of the concept of sustainable development. The introduction of environmental impact assessment by FAO, as stated in paragraph 28 of the document, is a positive sign in this regard. We would request the Organization to give the message to expedite the review and assessment of the past, and on weighing projects, and come up with suggestions for avoiding or mitigating negative environmental consequences, if any. The outcome of such an assessment would be obviously a guidance for future activities.

Premananda TRIPATHY (India): I must at the outset state that the Document CL 94/6 gives a very comprehensive account of FAO's active involvement on several aspects of sustainable development since its very inception. In fact, if we may say so without belittling the importance of other world organizations, FAO has been perhaps the single most important agency at the world level for sustainable development which, essentially, is developing-while conserving. This is clearly borne out by the Basic Texts delineating the functions and responsibilities of the FAO.

It is a fact that the concept of sustainable development is not a new one but the emphasis presently given to it by the World Commission on Environment and Development and FAO is very much desirable in the context of large-scale degradation of ecology and environment, not only for human beings but also for the entire surroundings, useful for the survival of human beings.

In this context I would mention here that in India the direction of planned development in the country since a very early period of the plan era has taken note of the important ingredients of the present concept of sustainable development. These include conservation of natural resources, including flora and fauna, raising levels of nutrition and standards of living of its population, particularly the small marginal and tribal farmers and other weaker sections of the population, land and water conservation, development of forestry and fisheries wealth, development of rural energy and non-conventional sources of energy, and above all, eradication of poverty and laying emphasis on human resource development.

The total outlay provided for all these items in the current 7th Five-Year Plan for the country is very sizeable indeed and here we are at one with you and the members of this august body that these matters need attention from all governments in the world.

I would bring to your notice one important point of relevance to a large number of Member Nations. Most developing countries, as you are aware, find themselves considerably strained in arranging resources for the ongoing programmes of development in their countries and provision of additional funds for environmental upgradation and schemes of relevance to protection of the ecosystem would put further additional strain on their limited resources. In this light, we would appeal that adequate funds from international sources be arranged and be made available for the purpose on a priority basis to those countries having less capability to spare funds for this purpose. We are aware that funds with FAO are limited. These are tied to existing projects, technical cooperation projects, and approved programmes under the Trust Funds. We are of the view again that topmost priority in the matter will have to be accorded to removal of rural poverty as one of the most important components of sustainable development as mentioned in paragraphs 6 and 16 of the document. Funds therefore will have to be presumably augmented substantially by contributions from donor organizations if some realistic steps in environmental upgradation are to be taken. We do hope that funds of substantial magnitude would be forthcoming for this very laudable objective.

Finally, we congratulate you and the FAO for the keen interest they have taken and they have been evincing in the implementation of this very important concept of sustainable development.

Angel BARBERO MARTIN (España): Antes de entrar propiamente en el contenido del documento CL 94/6, nos gustaría hacer una observación sobre el término viable aplicado al desarrollo, tal como se hace en el documento al que se ha referido el Sr. Bonte Friedhelm en su exposición.

Sin pretender hablar aquí como expertos en lenguaje, sin tener a mano tampoco diccionarios autorizados que nos iluminen sobre la cuestión, nos parece Sr. Presidente, que el término "viable" en nuestro idioma se refiere a todo aquello que es factible cuando se aplican los medios normales y adecuados, pero sin tener en cuenta el tiempo que puede transcurrir; es decir, algo puede ser viable pero en un determinado plazo que hay que fijar a corto, medio o largo plazo.

En la propia definición contenida en el párrafo 5 del documento se alude claramente al factor tiempo. Se dice: "Se asegure la continua satisfacción de las necesidades humanas para las generaciones presentes y futuras". Asimismo, en las versiones francesa e inglesa leemos las palabras equivalentes: "pérennité" o "sustainable" que aluden claramente a estas ideas de continuidad y futuro. Quizás la opción más precisa fuera decir "desarrollo sostenido y viable" pero entendemos que el uso de los dos adjetivos resultaría más enojoso. En este caso, nos decantaríamos por utilizar sólo el término "sostenido" que en nuestra opinión se adapta mejor a esta idea temporal.

Y fuera ya de esta disquisición que nos permitimos hacer, en cuanto al contenido del documento y en aras de la brevedad, nos referiremos a aquellos aspectos que más nos han llamado la atención en él.

En primer lugar, las actividades relativas a los inventarios de los recursos naturales y su adecuación. Entendemos que malamente se pueden conservar los recursos que no se conocen ni en su cantidad ni en su calidad. Por eso, la actualización del Mapa Mundial de Suelos nos parece de gran

importancia aunque entendemos también que resultaría de gran utilidad conocer la sensibilidad de los suelos a la erosión para poder evaluar en este sentido el impacto de las actividades que se realizan sobre ellos.

Respecto a la conservación de los recursos genéticos, estamos de acuerdo con lo que dice el principio del párrafo 39 en el sentido de que son una herencia para la humanidad y se encuentran en regiones tropicales y subtropicales del mundo. Por ello, muchos países situados en estas zonas y que no disponen de otros recursos dinerarios o de productos básicos en cantidad que les permita el desarrollo, tienen en la diversidad genética un caudal potencial del que deben beneficiarse de alguna manera, porque con ello se va a beneficiar el total de la comunidad del planeta.

Respecto a las actividades e iniciativas de FAO en estas áreas como el Compromiso Internacional de Recursos Fitogenéticos, la Red de Coordinación de Programas, el Consejo y el Fondo Internacional para los Recursos Fitogenéticos, iniciativas que España aprobó, impulsó desde su inicio y que sigue impulsando y participando en ellas activamente, en especial en los cursos de capacitación y extensión sobre manejo de estos recursos y en la disponibilidad del espacio y la infraestructura para albergar bancos de germoplasma, creemos que merecen ser ampliadas en su alcance y abarcar también las especies del reino animal; de manera en fin, que constituyan una auténtico instrumento de salvaguarda de la diversidad biológica en general, capaz de responder a cualquier iniciativa que en este aspecto surja en las instancias internacionales. Y es por ello que apoyamos lo expresado por la Delegación de México referente a la reciente propuesta del PNUMA sobre la racionalización de un Convenio Internacional sobre Recursos Biológicos.

Noburo SAITO (Japan): My country considers that cooperation between the present framework is essential in order to accomplish sustainable development. It is appropriate that much attention has been paid to the coordination of present FAO programmes and framework and the coordination not only within FAO but also with international organizations, as stated in Document CL 94/6. Also stated in the conclusion of the document is that the concept of sustainable development is still evolving and more work is required before putting the concept into practice. It should be noted that research results already obtained in this field and the experience and knowledge which the international organizations possess are to be incorporated and, at the same time, that efforts for further study in international institutes for agricultural study are anticipated. My delegation feels it is appropriate that FAO activities in this field should be promoted by assuring the coordination with present relevant programmes through further review and by strengthening coordination and cooperation with other international organizations. It is deemed important that FAO should accomplish the efficient and effective use of funds by these measures.

Earl W. WEYBRECHT (Canada): We welcome the document provided by the Secretariat on FAO's Policies, Programmes, Budget and Activities Aimed at Contributing to Sustainable Development in responding to Conference Resolution C9/87. Also we thank Dr. Bonte-Friedheim for his very comprehensive and thought-provoking remarks on this item. In the interest of time, my delegation would simply wish to say, for the record, that it associates itself with the views expressed by the Finnish delegate on behalf of the Nordic countries and advocates that the next biennial Programme of Work and Budget closely reflect the promotion of environmental issues.

It is our conviction that given FAO's vast experience, a large proportion of the Organization's work, by its very nature, is now already dedicated to sustainable development. Articulating the environmental implications of the programme elements may very well reveal further action desirable in terms of reallocation of resources and cooperation with other United Nations partners.

Not only will this facilitate discussions in conference, it will also constitute a forward-looking response to UN GA Resolution 42/186 and Resolution 42/187.

Vanrob ISARANKURA (Thailand): My delegation accepts that farmers' organizations can play an important role in supporting sustainable development. In the current round of development the active participation of rural people can be brought about by farmers' organizations representing the real interest of the rural population. Therefore, my delegation fully supports the proposal made by our neighbour here, the distinguished delegate of Switzerland, that FAO should make a study of the role of existing farmers' organizations in the world, and further to promote cooperation between them and this Organization. We are of the opinion that this study closely relates to people's participation activities which were introduced in all relevant FAO programmes and projects a long time ago as contained in paragraph 66 of the document CL 94/6.

My delegation would also like to suggest that the proposed study include an evaluation of the possibility of people's participation in the process.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Los representantes de Colombia deseamos destacar la actitud positiva de los países nórdicos en este asunto, que preocupa tanto el futuro de la condición de vida de la humanidad. Queremos reconocer expresamente a los países nórdicos esa preocupación sana, altruista, generosa, con un objetivo social, económico y humano realmente loable. La actitud de esos países ha sido constante y coherente. Ya les acompañamos a adoptar una resolución en la última reunión del CPA del PMA. Toda esa preocupación ha llegado a muy alto nivel, como lo indica el párrafo 3. La señora Brundtland, Primera Ministra de Noruega, convocó esa importante reunión en Oslo, reunión que concluyó con la idea, muy satisfactoria y adecuada, de establecer un Grupo de Acción en las Naciones Unidas. Nuestro colega y amigo López-Portillo, de México, hizo una declaración docta, documentada, fundada, científica. Apoyamos los cuatro puntos específicos citados por México, que deben incluirse en el informe.

Nuestro amigo Bonte-Friedheim, en su magnífica presentación, destacó, entre otros aspectos, las dificultades que tienen los países en desarrollo. Creo que corresponde a la FAO intensificar lo que ya viene haciendo para estimular y asistir a los países en desarrollo, a fin de que éstos puedan suministrar información adecuada y suficiente. Algo de esto se dice ya en el párrafo 72.

Nos complace también que el Consejo haya reconocido, a través de todas las declaraciones hechas hasta ahora, que la pobreza, la pobreza absoluta, es un factor determinante en el desarrollo no viable. Por lo tanto, convendrá que la FAO siga promoviendo proyectos que puedan ser financiados por donantes y organismos internacionales. También estamos de acuerdo con Estados Unidos sobre la cooperación importante de las Organizaciones No Gubernamentales. Creemos que esas ONG generalmente sienten preocupaciones que pueden ir en esta buena dirección.

Nos complace también, Sr. Presidente, reconocer el alcance generoso de los ofrecimientos concretos que hicieron Suiza y Francia, y también el hecho de que entre los observadores que han pedido la palabra esté el del PNUD; el PNUD, cuyos recursos, afortunadamente, han venido aumentando ultimamente; está en condiciones adecuadas para cooperar en el tratamiento y la solución de estos problemas, sobre todo ahora, cuando las relaciones entre el PNUD y la FAO son excelentes.

Quisiéramos preguntar al amigo Bonte-Friedheim si el Grupo Interdepartamental sobre Medio Ambiente y Energía, que ya viene funcionando en el seno de la FAO, ha tenido ya algún contacto directo y específico con el Grupo de Acción de las Naciones Unidas. Sé que está establecido muy recientemente -en julio pasado-; pero se dice que ese Grupo de Acción tendrá como objetivo principal dar orientaciones generales al sistema. Deseamos saber algo más sobre ese Grupo de Acción: si ya comenzó a funcionar, si ha definido algunos objetivos y cómo está dando esas orientaciones a los organismos, concretamente a la FAO, y las reacciones de nuestra Organización.

Queremos apoyar lo que dijo el representante de Estados Unidos y también otros colegas acerca de la coordinación. Pensamos que es necesario que la FAO relacione directamente sus trabajos con el PNUMA con otros organismos, evitando duplicaciones. Y, dentro de todo esto, debe preservarse la función de la FAO, que durante 40 años se viene ocupando de estas cuestiones.

Sobre el concepto del desarrollo viable, la colega de Cuba, mi amiga y vecina de la derecha, y también el colega Lieber, de la República Federal de Alemania, expresaron algunas consideraciones, en el sentido de que se trata de un concepto que no está todavía muy definido, diríamos que, sobre todo, en el seno de la FAO; porque, como lo dice el párrafo 5, ese concepto va más allá del mandato y las actividades de nuestra Organización. Por ello tal vez convendría que, al ocuparnos por primera vez de este asunto en el Consejo, se incluyera la definición del concepto que aparece en el párrafo 5 y que ha sido acuñado por el grupo especial de acción sobre el desarrollo viable. Este podría ser un punto de partida, una primera idea preliminar para que allí fueran surgiendo aquellos elementos que tengan relación directa con los programas y las actividades de nuestra Organización.

En el párrafo 72 se habla de que se ha preparado un manual de instrucciones sobre el medio ambiente para Zambia. Creemos que esto es muy positivo, que es una realización concreta, y quisiéramos preguntar a la Secretaría si hay posibilidades de que se haga esto o algo semejante para otros países. Creemos que es una asistencia concreta benéfica para los países en desarrollo.

Apoyamos lo que dijeron México, Estados Unidos y Francia, entre otros, sobre la necesidad de que la FAO reoriente ciertas actividades, adapte algunos aspectos de su estructura, si es necesario, para que vaya, a través del tiempo, poniéndose al día en todas estas actividades.

El colega de Pakistán hizo algunas consideraciones sumamente importantes, que nosotros apoyamos también. Con esto terminamos nuestra declaración, Sr. Presidente.

Paul R. BRYDEN (Australia): The Australian Government commends the approach taken by the FAO and the UN system in general in adopting the principle of sustainable development and in treating it as a multi-factor problem requiring a systems approach. Document CL 94/6 provides a comprehensive outline of FAO's activities on the issue of sustainable development.

FAO's operational definition is contained in paragraph 5 of document CL 94/6, but we do wonder how it is to be applied given the state of knowledge in many areas where FAO is working. We feel that FAO's approach remains overly compartmentalized. This comes through with the mention of agriculture and forestry sectors in the report, and the neglect of agroforestry and integrated land use systems despite some attention given in paragraph 48: the basic causes of the destruction of natural ecosystems should be addressed; the application of the concept of reducing post-harvest losses to forestry (paragraph 58) is worthwhile, with the inclusion of lesser known species.

With regard to forestry policy in Australia, the policy statement of the Australian Forestry Council's National Forest Strategy is based on the premise that the management of forests involves a commitment to their stewardship for the benefit of present and future generations. The strategy aims to ensure that forests will be protected and managed scientifically for sustained production of resources such as water, wood and other forest products; for soil conservation and protection of the forest environment; to maintain genetic diversity of flora and fauna; and to provide opportunities for wilderness experience, recreation, education and scientific research.

The FAO Tropical Forestry Action Plan proposes the formulation of national forestry reviews, national forestry plans, identification of new projects, enhanced cooperation between development and agencies at work in the forestry sector, and increased flows of technical and financial resources into forestry and related fields such as smallholder agriculture. FAO states that its wildlife and protected area management activities seek to promote the participation of local communities in national resource management. This approach is supported. Programmes to preserve forest resources must start with the local people who are both the victims and the agents of destruction and who will bear the burden of any new management scheme. They should be at the centre of integrated forest management, which is the basis of sustainable agriculture.

FAO must take a supportive role in the establishment and management of protected areas and in demonstrating to developing communities that portions of forests will need to be designated as protected areas which could be set aside from agricultural exploitation to conserve soil, water and wildlife. They may also include marginal lands whose exploitation accelerates land degradation through erosion or desertification. In this connection, the reafforestation of degraded forest areas or national parks can also conserve genetic resources in their natural habitats. Undisturbed forests protect watersheds, reduce erosion, offer habitats for wild species and play key roles in climatic systems. They are also an economic resource providing timber, fuelwood and other products. The crucial task is to balance the need to exploit forests against the need to preserve them. Australia does not think it appropriate to take any firm standpoint at this stage, but reiterates its concern that a positive approach be maintained and that funds be made available by member countries to facilitate domestic research into these issues, including climatic change and environmental degradation.

Australia is taking many steps to address its own challenges in conserving the land base, including water and energy resources strategies.

Australia has recognized that land degradation is its major environmental problem and that this is a problem with the most serious economic consequences for its national well-being. Over the past few years several initiatives have been directed towards the establishment of policy guidelines for the alleviation of the Australian land degradation problems. During 1988 the Australian Soil Conservation Council adopted a national soil conservation strategy. This is expected to lead to the development of measurable goals and actions leading to the advancement of soil conservation practices throughout Australia. We are proposing to declare 1989 as National Soil Conservation Year and 1989 to 1999 a decade of soil conservation for Australia.

Sustainability has become a major consideration by Commonwealth and State Authorities with respect to land use development proposals. A major conference programme on sustainable dryland agriculture is being planned for 1989.

During 1988 Australia has held a coordinated series of public-awareness conferences on the issue of climate change - the greenhouse effect - and proposes participation in the International Biosphere and Geosphere Programme on Global Change. The issue of global climate change and the greenhouse effect is attracting a great deal of international attention and has sparked increasing scientific and public debate. Issues linked with these concerns include: changing atmospheric compositions, ozone depletion; acid rain; deforestation/land use; energy use; and sustainable development.

The United Nations provides a major international focus through which these issues can be discussed. The issues of climate change and sustainable development have been receiving attention at UN GA 43, in response to the report of the Commission of Environment and Development (the Brundtland Report). The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) have held the first session of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change on 9 to 11 November 1988.

The suggested work programme for the WMO/UNEP Panel is to provide a coordinated international assessment of the scientific evidence for climate change, its potential environmental and socioeconomic impacts and realistic response strategies. It is intended that the WMO/UNEP Panel report to the Second World Climate Conference in 1990. We would be interested in the perceptions other UN bodies, such as FAO, have of the role and function of the WMO/UNEP Panel. We believe the Panel's emphasis should be more on the scientific than on policy aspects. It is unclear at this stage what the outcome of the WMO/UNEP Panel session and UN GA 43 deliberations will be, but the key issue is the need to ensure adequate data collection and processing on all of these issues. We see an important role for FAO in assisting in this regard.

I have two final points. My delegation supports the suggestion made by Finland regarding the ongoing and integrated approach FAO should take to the issue of sustainable development. My delegation notes the proposal of the Mexican delegation concerning the development of FAO's efforts in plant genetic resources. We consider it premature for any decisions to be taken by this Council given current ongoing work on these issues in other fora and the need for fuller and more mature consideration by this body of the issues raised.

Taghi SHAMEKHI (iran, République islamique d'): L'attention et l'insistance de la FAO sur les problèmes de développement durable dans le plan de production agricole, qui garantissent la protection des ressources naturelles, représentent une lueur qui peut créer de l'optimisme sur l'avenir de notre environnement et de notre existence. Cette idée est prise en compte maintenant dans le plan d'aménagement de beaucoup de pays mais la manière dont elle est définie dans les paragraphes 4 et 5 en particulier du document CL 94/6 est complète et parfaite.

On sait maintenant que beaucoup de pays en développement satisfont leurs besoins agricoles au risque de perdre les ressources vitales du sol et de l'eau, c'est-à-dire la destruction de leur environnement, et pour beaucoup de pays en développement qui exportent leurs produits agricoles la perte de la richesse écologique est plus importante que la recette des exportations. On sait encore que dans une telle situation beaucoup de pays en développement n'arrivent pas à couvrir leurs besoins alimentaires et sont de plus en plus en proie à la pauvreté et à la malnutrition et n'ont plus la possibilité d'investir pour leur développement.

On constate que maintenant l'aménagement pour un développement durable est à l'ordre du jour et qu'il demandera beaucoup plus d'investissements. Donc s'il n'y a pas une réforme de principe de structure dans les échanges internationaux, comme la Délégation de la République islamique d'Iran l'a déjà dit, comment va-t-on déclencher ce mouvement? Comment les pays en développement, qui sont déjà à genoux, pourront-ils se lever avec un plan de développement beaucoup plus sophistiqué?

Dans la République islamique d'Iran, depuis des années, nous avons essayé d'appliquer l'idée de développement durable dans différents plans comme le Plan compréhensif régional, le Plan intégré d'aménagement des bassins versants, le Plan de conservation du sol, le Plan de désertification, le Plan intégré d'aménagement des forêts et le Land Use Plan.

Il faut dire que sauf pour la désertification les progrès ont été très relatifs.

Nous avons dans ce domaine un plan à l'étude avec l'aide de la FAO pour quatre provinces dans trois régions écologiques différentes.

La délégation de la République islamique d'Iran, en approuvant les principes d'un développement durable, demande: premièrement, un effort intensif de la part de la FAO dans l'enseignement, l'information et l'éducation dans ce domaine, et ce à haut niveau, en mettant l'accent sur les conditions socio-économiques, culturelles et historiques, pour ne pas imiter le modèle des pays développés qui n'ont pas abouti au succès; deuxièmement, la formation de groupes de consultation régionaux pour acquérir l'expérience des autres et enrichir les plans d'action.

D'ailleurs, comme l'exécution de tels plans demande beaucoup de possibilités et une grande harmonie des différents organes exécutifs du pays, nous proposons que la FAO, au lieu de se charger de l'étude et de l'exécution de ce plan, consacre en premier lieu son aide et son soutien aux pays qui ont déjà entrepris l'étude et l'exécution de tels plans.

Enfin, nous appuyons la proposition du délégué du Pakistan visant à intensifier les activités de la FAO dans ce domaine dans les pays hôtes de réfugiés.

Joao Augusto de MEDICIS (Brazil): I would like to congratulate the Secretariat on document CL 94/6 which briefly and concisely tables FAO actions which respond to the request of contributing to sustainable development, and also on the presentation of the same document by Mr. Bonte-Friedheim.

I was a little surprised to hear from some delegates (including the US representative) that the sums earmarked for environmental issues in the FAO budget were modest. I could not agree more with their statements. Nevertheless, I just wanted to ask those delegates how could this Organization cope with a larger expense in the midst of an agonizing financial crisis, the causes of which are well known.

My delegation studied carefully the operational definition put forward in paragraph 5 of the document. In that regard I cannot but agree that the concept of sustainable development is rather new and still evolving. On the other hand, I do not consider it adequate for each and every organization working in this field to create a particular definition for sustainable development, because the proliferation of definitions would pose the risk of diluting the effects of actions in that direction, and of creating confusion as to the real meaning of the concept.

The United Nations General Assembly, in its 42nd session, adopted resolution 42/186, whose annex is very clear on the subject. It states "Development is sustainable when it meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of the future generation to meet theirs."

My delegation is quite happy with that definition and considers that until new issues are brought to light it should suffice. In the same text we read "to meet this challenge the very survival of life on our planet, the overall aspirational goal must be sustainable development on the basis of prudent management of available global resources and environmental capacities and the rehabilitation of the environment previously subjected to degradation and misuse".

It is the view of my delegation that we should stick to the contents of that resolution as a guideline for actions also in FAO. The main concern of my delegation is related to paragraphs 73 to 77 of document CL 94/6 since we feel that they should be more comprehensive and include some other concepts mentioned in the Brundtland Report such as the need for the establishment of a more equitable trade system as a factor to improve food security. The Brundtland Report further acknowledges that environmental policies and priorities are sovereign decisions of Member Governments to which recommendations could be addressed and, even though that must have been considered by the Secretariat as an implicit issue in the conclusion presented in the document, my delegation would rather have it explicitly mentioned therein.

The Brazilian Delegation wishes to recall that, always according to the Brundtland Report the roots of poverty and its degrading effect on the environment are in: "an International economic system which widens instead of reducing inequalities among nations". That same adverse international climate which fosters the expansion of poverty also presses developing countries to over-utilize their natural resources; this fact is also recognized in the UNEP's report "Environmental Perspectives to the year 2000 and beyond".

Therefore, it would be adequate to mention in the conclusion of the document that there is a need for political will on the part of all countries so as to find permanent solutions for the financial and economic problems faced by developing countries which drain their economies and do not allow them to channel enough money to the preservation of natural resources and recovery of the environment. Fair and transparent trade conditions, as well as a long-term solution for the external debt crisis, are urgently needed to allow developing countries to cope with the basic needs of their people and also to preserve their natural resources for future generations.

Yousef Ali Mahmoud HAMDI (Egypt) (original language Arabic): I would like to thank Mr. Bonte-Friedheim for his excellent preparation and presentation of this document. We would like to welcome the enlarged definition of sustainable development as mentioned in paragraph 5. It is an inter-disciplinary and inter-sectoral definition by its very nature and it should be tackled in an integrated fashion.

We would also like to welcome and express our support for the programmes of the Organization in the field of sustainable development for the period 1988-89. This concept should be translated into a concrete reality. This has been highlighted by Table 1, in Annex 1, and there are eight major fields of activity in this regard. Here, we should like to highlight the importance of studies in

the fields of natural resources and water resources with regard to the defence and protection of the facilities of our land. We should also like to highlight the importance of studies on the quality of water and the necessity to develop irrigation schemes and maintain our water resources.

With regard to the promotion of technology and its applications we should like to underline studies in the fields of information and the utilization of computers and remote sensing technologies, as well as bio-technology and new and renewable sources of energy. We should also like to express our support for the remark made by the Assistant Director-General when he said that US\$16 million is a very modest budget indeed. We hope that it will be increased in our next biennium and that there will be more projects in the fields that I have mentioned before.

We should also like to express our satisfaction of the strong cooperation that exists between FAO and other specialized agencies as well as non-governmental organizations, in the fields of sustainable development. Indubitably, the Organization can play a pioneering role among various organizations concerned.

Sra. Doña Laurie CORDUA CRUZ (Nicaragua): La delegación de Nicaragua desea agradecer al Dr. Bonte Friedheim, por la presentación de este importante tema, el cual consideramos de suma importancia, pues de ello depende, como ya ha sido mencionado por todos, el futuro de la Humanidad.

En aras de la brevedad, quisiera únicamente expresar que mi delegación apoya en su totalidad el documento 94/6, y al mismo tiempo desea apoyar también la propuesta de México relativa a que la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos de la FAO evolucione para cubrir todos los aspectos de la diversidad biológica.

Amador VELASQUEZ (Peru): Ante todo, nuestro agradecimiento por el informe presentado. De otro lado, y sin perjuicio de las loables iniciativas, sugerencias, comentarios y ofrecimientos concretos hechos por las distinguidas delegaciones que han hecho uso de la palabra sobre este tema, y siguiendo el buen ejemplo de algunos colegas en su concreción y precisión, mi delegación no desea ser repetitiva, pero en cambio, sí considera importante hacer explícito endoso de las cuatro importantes propuestas hechas por la distinguida representación de México, dentro de las cuales estimamos se inscriben las atenciones a las ONGs, a la no duplicidad y a la reorientación del trabajo, vertidas, tanto por la distinguida delegación de EE.UU. como de Francia.

Por último, para referirnos puntualmente y compartir la necesidad de seguir tratando el tema del desarrollo viable o sostenido, el mismo que si bien ya ha sido aceptado, requiere ser permanentemente complementado. Al respecto, y para no ser reiterativa, mi delegación coincide con lo expresado por la distinguida delegación de Brasil, al igual que por lo señalado por esta misma delegación sobre las raíces de la pobreza.

Assefa YILALA (Observer for Ethiopia): As delegates who have spoken before, I would like to say our delegation also has examined the document concerning FAO's policies and programmes, budget and activities which are contributing to sustainable development. We have also had a chance to listen to the clear and excellent introduction which was provided by Mr. Bonte-Friedheim and we would like to thank both the Secretary and Mr. Bonte-Friedheim for that contribution.

First, we should like to welcome the establishment of the Task Force under the authority of the Secretary-General of the United Nations which will provide overall guidance for the UN system towards sustainable development. After the widely accepted recommendations of the World Commission on Environmental Development, the criterion of sustainability should influence the range and patterns of the entire development process. As each of the UN agencies is established for a specific mandate (and some of the recommendations embodied in the Commission's report extend beyond this mandate) the establishment of the Working Group within FAO in order to establish operational divisions (such as the ones established by FAO) is also a move that needs to be supported. This will enable activities to be directed towards the overall accepted trend of sustainable development.

As was expressed in paragraph 7 of the document our delegation also feels that the cross-sectoral linkages might be improbable due to inherent and established structures as we tried to state during the deliberations on the State of Food and Agriculture. As a part of our observations on matters raised under the headings "Global Issues" paragraphs 75 to 77 headings, we strongly feel that those FAO activities summarized in the document have their share of contribution towards the sustainable developments being discussed. In Annex I of the document it is indicated that US \$ 15.8 million are generated towards this end. Given the prevailing financial constraints it might be difficult to

channel more resources without reducing and changing of programmes which are also equally important for the critical area of food production. We feel that an understanding should be established that most of the environmental degradation emerges from meeting the basic conventional daily needs of the population of the developing world and is not a deliberate motive to destruct.

Improvements in this regard would therefore require participation and involvement over a wide range of population in the globe and requires alternative substitution for eliminating some of the underlying causes and therefore resources required will extend much beyond what could be obtained through changes and modifications of programmes. In connection with this our delegation would like to make a mention of the fact that the discussion and conclusion on this particular deliberation should focus on this aspect perhaps a possibility of establishing a source of international fund, because the momentum and awareness of the need of sustainable development has reached far and wide in as much as the presently prevailing understanding of the definition of the sustainable development. In stating this we also admit that a further possibility of generating FAO resources, even though insignificant, and involving the concept of sustainable development will of course increase the requirement. In relation to this concept, an integrated plan in agriculture, forestry, natural resources conservation and development in Ethiopia was formulated in 1986 and the prior years. Technical and material assistance to finalize the formulation was provided by FAO, for which we would like to indicate our tribute.

Here is one example where the awareness and momentum for a take-off has developed towards fulfilling some of the objectives towards sustainable development and yet held back due to limitations of resources required.

Development and implementation of the concept being discussed will require both external and internal resources, both at the initial stage and also during the process of its implementation and development. Cooperation in this regard between the developed and developing countries would contribute to our sustainable development at the individual country level and sum total towards the global concern.

Finally, I would like to express the similarities of our views and concerns with those summarized in paragraphs 73 and 77 of the document and indicate our agreement though we are of the belief that these conclusions can only form a small component of what is required for achieving the overall ultimate objective of the concept embedded in the sustainable development concept.

E. Wayne DENNEY (United States of America): Our sincerest apologies for having to intervene a second time but the proposals made by Mexico regarding plant genetic resources deserve a response.

As the delegate of Australia observed earlier, this was a complicated and detailed proposal that we may not have completely understood. In any event, it was sprung on us without warning and we are unable to respond fully at this Council Session. We are aware of a draft treaty on biological diversity being prepared by the International Union for Conservation of Nature, as well as the UNEP consideration of biological diversity at an ad-hoc working group meeting in Geneva this week. Additionally, we know that animal genetic resources will be discussed during next year's COAG. For all these reasons my government must reserve on the Mexico proposal at this time.

Dong QINGSONG (China) (Original language Chinese): Document CL 94/6 is very complete and very informative.

I will just make a few comments on the problem of the environment. At present the global environment is facing a very grave situation. Every year large tracks of forests have been felled, which is giving rise to very serious water erosion. Large tracks of arable land have become deserts and air and water resources have been polluted. All these factors have proved the gravity of environmental degradation. This is very shocking to us.

In the final analysis the conservation of the environment has some bearing on the human existence. Therefore the Chinese delegation at the Conference in 1985 made a proposal that FAO should put the conservation and renewal of agricultural resources as one of the items of his Programme of Work. We appreciate the effort that FAO has put in in this regard. At the same time we hope that the Organization will in the future continue its efforts in this direction.

José Ramón LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROHAHO (México): Sólo para hacer una aclaración. Nosotros al hacer la propuesta quisimos ciertamente enunciar un conjunto de razones por las cuales la hacíamos. Quizás al mencionarlas complicamos nuestra exposición, pero es muy sencilla.

Simplemente le pedimos al Director General que estudie la forma de prever que la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos evolucione hacia una sobre Diversidad Biológica. A eso se reduce la serie de enunciados que hicimos, y consideramos que esto está mucho en sintonía con lo que muchos países, sobre todo desarrollados, han venido exponiendo en otros foros. Por ejemplo, la distinguida Delegación de Estados Unidos en el seno del PNUMA fue una de las delegaciones que apoyaron la idea de una Convención paraguas en materia de Diversidad Biológica que contendría además de este elemento de carácter legal que ligaría el conjunto de actividades en esta materia, también la de promover o identificar los mecanismos para su realización.

En vista de que aquí, en la FAO, existe ya este órgano que es la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos y que mucho ha contribuido a ese tema y que la FAO, por otra parte, está ligada a otros aspectos de la conservación de recursos genéticos y de ecosistemas, nosotros consideramos que para evitar duplicación y para avanzar en este sentido tan positivo, que ahora en la Comunidad Internacional ha despertado, se puede estudiar que esta Comisión evolucione hacia una sobre Diversidad Biológica.

Este es básicamente el sentido de nuestra propuesta que no pudimos negociar anteriormente pero esperamos que se entienda que no se pide que se tome ahora una decisión en ningún sentido. Simplemente que se presenten los puntos de vista, el estudio del Director General respecto a esta propuesta, y será luego el Consejo y la Conferencia de la FAO los que decidirán.

Evlogui BONEV (UNDP): At the outset I should like to join the previous speakers in commending FAO and Mr. Bonte Friedheim for the document presented and the illuminating introductory statement.

The Mandate of UNDP as the central funding body for technical cooperation for development in the UN system determines a certain role and responsibility of this Organization in the field of environment and sustainable development as well. Technical cooperation and pre-investment activities relative to policy formulation, implementation and management for sustainable development are at the core of the UNDP's decentralized programme operations in 152 countries and territories through more than 1800 projects. Environment and related aspects are an integral part of the formulation and the monitoring of country and inter-country programmes and projects - commencing with the assessment of needs through the formulation of programmes and technical design of projects, their monitoring, reviewing and evaluating, until their full implementation.

The amounts earmarked for environmental projects financed by the UNDP have almost trebled over the last ten years. FAO is UNDP's major partner in implementing these projects, be they national, regional or inter-regional, be they in the field of natural resources conservation and management or in genetic resource conservation of plant, forestry, animal or fisheries resources or in production systems management and technology development and application.

During its Thirty-fifth Session in June of this year, the Governing Council of the UNDP adopted a decision 88/57 in response to the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development. In this decision, the Governing Council requested the Administrator and I quote:

"To assist recipient countries at their request and in accordance with their national development plan priorities and objectives in enhancing their capacity to integrate environmental concerns into their development strategies and programmes; to continue to review the programming instruments of the United Nations Development Programme, such as the Programme Advisory Note, the country programme format, mid-term reviews and evaluations, with a view to ensuring the appropriate treatment of the sustainability issue in development programmes, to pay attention to the need for education training and research on the two-way relationship between environment and development as well as for the promotion of international exchange of experience, knowledge and technology concerning the protection of the environment; to report, and I draw your attention to this, on the manner in which the relevant executing agencies that design, implement and evaluate projects funded with the United Nations Development Programme resources, take environmental aspects into account, where relevant, in the development of these resources".

The Governing Council will consider, during its Thirty-sixth Session next year, a report of the Administrator on the progress of the implementation of this decision. Evidenced from the text of the decision, the UNDP will rely on the close cooperation and efforts of its partners, governments and specialized agencies. Evidence is also that a coordinated and coherent approach is a must in this process. FAO's efforts and its endeavours will be highly appreciated.

Horacio CARANDANG (Philippines): The Philippine delegation welcomes the report of FAO on those aspects of its policies, programmes, budget and activities aimed at contributing to sustainable development. The Philippines is committed to the goal of safeguarding the environment and supports

the actions of FAO related to this objective. The emphasis now being given to sustainable development is justified, because of the increasing evidence of the damage done by man to its environment in the form of contamination of water supplies, eroded lands, deforestation and so forth.

The conclusion of the paper, that the concept is still evolving and more work is required to translate the concept in practical and operational programmes, is justified. We cannot agree more with such conclusions.

The FAO is in a very strategic position to make an impact in this field. Greater effort and greater resources are required. The present FAO liquidity crisis does not help at all. Greater awareness of the problem, the solution, the causes and of the high decisions required and of the disastrous consequences of non-decision have to be made, therefore, on the part of those who make decisions to provide more resources towards this effort.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous arrivons à la fin de ce débat sur ce sujet extrêmement intéressant et je vais maintenant passer la parole à Monsieur Bonte-Friedheim qui va répondre aux différentes questions posées ·

C.H. BONTE-FRIEDHEIM (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): I think the Secretariat enjoyed the discussion, the comments, the questions and the different views, and would like to thank all who participated in the discussion. The Secretariat will certainly study very carefully the records of this meeting, especially since one or two members put their prepared statement into the records and we will have to look at those as well.

I would also like, at the outset, to thank those past, and as we have heard, future donors of extra budgetary resources, who are willing to assist FAO in doing more and, what it does, doing better.

During the discussion, many - maybe too many - new ideas, new priorities, new programmes have been mentioned which FAO should undertake in the next year, and in the next biennium. Without extra budgetary resources for the next year, it will be impossible to do most of what has been mentioned and, for the next resources based on the many ideas, I will have to propose to the Director-General a large increase in the budget of the Agriculture Department, and I hope this will be supported by Council and Conference.

There is, in the introduction of our paper, a statement that the Conference, in this paper, requested the Director-General to report to this Council on those programmes, budget and activities aimed at contributing to sustainable development. I want to repeat this for those who fear that we have not done enough in this report on what FAO should be doing in the future. This is the report of what we are doing and not a report of what we plan to do.

Requests have been made that we should continue this discussion, and we are certainly ready and look forward to it. There will be a separate chapter, as I have indicated, in the next SOFA. There will be a separate chapter in the review of the Regular Programme which will be looked at by Council, a year from now, and by Conference, which deals with the natural environment, and introduction of environmental consideration into FAO's projects and programmes, and there will be a summary Programme of Work and Budget, or a proposai for the programme of work and budget 1990/91, which gives Council and Conference a large number of opportunities to discuss sustainable development. I hope that Council will not insist on preparing special papers now for next year.

I have two more words on the outset. I would like to appreciate the delegate from Spain clarifying, in his mother tongue, the proper interpretation and translation of "sustainable". As I said in my introduction, it is a new word and most dictionaries do not have it; in French it does not even seem to exist.

Finally, in my introduction, I have heard here a lot of requests to FAO to avoid duplication to ensure coordination. We will certainly take this to heart and will do it.

Mr. Chairman, allow me a personal note on this one. FAO, in this particular field, I think has the oldest mandate and has existed the longest, and has worked the most in most of these fields related to sustainable development. I hope - and that is a private wish - that those who remind us all the time that we should avoid duplication, coordinate, cooperate with others, will say that to the other bodies who are entering or have entered this field as well.

I have one other word on the discussion. Whether the FAO statement that rural poverty is a major cause of unsustainable development is correct or not. We are willing to admit that, over time and in different regions, the definition of sustainable development has changed and will change. We are also willing to admit that, besides rural poverty, there are other causes for unsustainable development like population pressure, like wrong technologies or unsuitable technologies, like human greed and like nature. However, FAO still would like to have proof that rural poverty is not a major cause of unsustainable development in many areas.

We appreciate especially Finland's call for more discussions. We especially appreciate the offer of Switzerland for special extra budgetary funds to undertake a study on farmers' organizations, and I hope that the call by Switzerland for other donors to contribute to this as well will not go unheard in this Council and outside.

I have said already, and this is in answer to Finland and Canada, that the next PWB will show where FAO is going. We have been requested in future reports - if there are any - to identify the activities by FAO in TCP projects, in Trust Fund projects, and other field projects, the type and location should be included and we will try and see what we can do. We are cooperating with NGOs in this one, we are cooperating with regional banks, with IFAD, with the International Agricultural Research Institute, and we will continue to do this.

A question has been made: "how about biotechnology"? by the United States. I hope that we will be able when we discuss the Programme of Work and Budget in COAG or the ideas for a Programme of Work and Budget in COAG, that we will have a draft policy paper on biotechnology, which will identify FAO's thinking in this very important future field.

The United States has also requested that we should supplement our own report on what is SACRED doing, what are we doing in the field of rural finance and credit. I hope that we will be able to have that in the next SACRED meeting, and the report from the SACRED meeting will be made available to all those who are interested in this.

There was a special plea by the United Kingdom that the Twenty-fifth Conference should discuss sustainability. I repeat what I said before: I hope there will not be a request for a special paper, but that this will be done in line with the discussion on the Programme of World and Budget from FAO.

Let me take up a few other points we consider important. First, the task force which has been mentioned at the meeting in Oslo. This has been discussed at the ACC last month (ACC is a meeting of the Heads of the UN agencies) it will be taken up at the next Spring meeting of the ACC next year. Therefore, as such, it is not yet working.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to give you an example of our cooperation. At the moment there is a working group on biological diversity convened by the Executive Director of UNEP and, in spite of the discussion today here, the two FAO specialists dealing with plant genetic resources and animal genetic resources are not here, but are in Geneva to attend the meeting of selected government experts of both developed and developing countries, and of FAO and other UN organizations invited as observers.

I can promise to our governing bodies that the question of biological diversity, of an umbrella convention, will certainly be discussed by them in future, but it is a long way to go before we have a generally agreed convention with a special mandate for all participants.

Mexico has asked some specific questions which I will try to answer in the way I put them down. The request to the Director-General to look into enlarging Plant Genetics Resources Commission will certainly be looked at by us, it will be looked at by the next meeting of the Commission and it will certainly also be discussed, hopefully when we discuss in COAG animal genetic resources.

The agenda for the next meeting of the Plant Genetic Commission is fixed and we are more or less completing the background papers so I think at this time it is very difficult to introduce new items especially if they require new funds to prepare for it.

I have answered on our contact with others, with the NGO's and with UNEP.

Finland has said something which we would like to stress and Finland has requested that FAO should participate fully in the planning processes at international and regional and national levels. This FAO has attempted to do; this FAO will attempt to do, and this FAO hopes the other partner in this planning process will also accept.

I would like to make one comment on a very specific proposal by Pakistan, Pakistan has made two questions which I think deserve an answer. First is the effects of mechanization on employment.

First we believe it is a misunderstanding if one generalizes and says that there is at all times, in all rural areas, in all developing countries a labour surplus. This is not correct. There are certain times where there is a shortage of rural labour and one of the limitations to increased production is this shortage of human labour, therefore one has to be very careful and we will certainly consider how, at a different fora, we can deal with this question which we think is of great importance but it is not a global statement which must be looked at by different regions with different crops and different ecological zones.

The other interesting question or proposal which has been raised is what are the effects of refugees on the environment. This is something where I cannot give any answer on how we are going to handle it. This is certainly not only FAO's, but also FAO's mandate and we will have to think about it but I just did not want to let this go by because we believe it is an important question in many many countries.

Some people have said that 2.5 percent of the resources are used for sustainable development. My percentage, and I said it in my introductory remarks, are a little bit different. I said, and I quote, "The total Regular Programme budgetary allocation to activities contributing to sustainable development in 1988/89 amount to nearly 16 million out of a total budget for technical activities of 60 million." That to me is on the other side of 25 percent. I agree it is not enough but it is also a long way away from 2.5 percent.

I appreciate the comments we have heard about the first steps we have done with the IDWG within the FAO structure to be more efficient; we are trying. We are trying also to work with others and that is the answer to Switzerland on what are the procedures in the World Bank, in IFAD on environmental impact assessment. We had hoped to be much further along on this one. We have some graphs, we are willing to make them available to anybody who would like to have them. We had hoped that we could strengthen the people working on environment. We have requested extra budgetary funds to strengthen this little unit but our pleas so far in this particular field were not very successful.

I would like to end this short reply, and in many cases too short, and I accept this and I am willing to discuss with any member individually, but I would like to end with the plea which has been made also by the delegate from India. He has said that poor countries cannot afford to spend the necessary resources on sustainability on environmental affairs, more funds are needed and funds are needed from the outside.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie M. Bonte-Friedheim en votre nom pour sa réponse très précise et documentée.

Je voudrais conclure en disant que cette question de développement durable a suscité beaucoup d'intérêt puisque 25 délégués ont bien voulu prendre part à la discussion et l'enrichir. Je crois que cet intérêt est à souligner. Le Conseil a été unanime à reconnaître l'importance attachée à ce concept de développement durable qui, comme l'a dit le Représentant de l'Allemagne, est viable sur le plan économique, acceptable sur le plan social, et transmissible et durable sur le plan technique. Ce concept, dont l'intérêt est évident, mérite d'être affiné avant d'être traduit en programme concret. Mais je suis persuadé qu'implicitement une partie importante de travaux et des activités de la FAO vont dans cette direction. Le rapport qui nous a été présenté souligne cette identité de vues entre les efforts de la FAO et ce concept de développement durable.

Bien sûr de nombreux sujets ont été proposés pour être inventoriés sous le terme de développement durable. Beaucoup de délégués l'ont proposé, comme l'agroforesterie, la réduction de CO₂ dans l'atmosphère, comme l'énergie renouvelable, la conservation des eaux et des sols, la protection des plantes et beaucoup de sujets de recherche et de réflexion comme la diversité biologique et l'étude de sensibilité des ressources naturelle au travail de l'homme. Tout cela ce sont des sujet extrêmement intéressants qui pourront être analysés et étudiés.

Le Conseil a noté avec beaucoup de satisfaction que quelques pays développés ont fait part de leurs disponibilités spontanément pour coopérer avec la FAO et la soutenir financièrement pour entamer des études sur ce thème. Je crois que la FAO sera très heureuse de pouvoir animer ce travail qui suscite beaucoup d'intérêt de la part des pays développés.

Mais il faut admettre qu'il ne faut pas perdre de vue dans ce sujet l'aspect socio-économique comme l'ont souligné les délégués du Brésil et le délégué de l'Inde. Il faut penser à la pauvreté, à la démographie et à tous ces problèmes, ainsi qu'à la manière de les éradiquer.

Je crois que tout le monde ici convient qu'il s'agit d'un virage important et qu'il serait bon que dans le Programme de travail et budget de l'Organisation on puisse, de manière ou d'une autre trouver une trace de cet intérêt qui, d'ailleurs, répond aux soucis de l'ensemble de la famille des Nations Unies.

Je dois dire que le Conseil a insisté sur cette coordination de part et d'autre de la FAO et des autres organisations de la famille des Nations Unies, des autres organisations internationales et surtout des ONG, car si l'on veut aboutir dans ce domaine il faut faire participer les populations par des actions de sensibilisation et d'incitation. On pourrait peut-être même, dans le Programme de travail et budget de la FAO, imaginer des séminaires, des actions d'incitation des populations. Je crois que c'est la manière la plus efficace pour habituer peu à peu les gens à cette notion de conservation du patrimoine et de l'héritage de l'humanité.

J'espère que nous n'avons pas abusé de la patience de nos éminents délégués. Avant de lever la séance je donne la parole au Représentant du Mexique.

José Ramon LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (Mexico): Perdona, Sr. Presidente, que intervenga en este momento, para prevenir y facilitar el debate del proximo tema, el numero 8, porque la Delegación de México, junto con otras Delegaciones, habíamos copatrocinado una resolución al respecto.

En pláticas que hemos tenido con la Secretaría, y para afinar ciertas cuestiones que de otra manera podían hacerse quizás improcedentes o engorrosas -y les pedimos a todos que tomen nota, porque, hasta donde sabemos, el proyecto de resolución ha sido distribuido entre todas las Delegaciones, en el documento CL 94/LIM/2- hemos convenido lo siguiente:

En el párrafo numero 1, en la tercera línea, donde dice "presentado por el Director General", luego se diría: "y lo insta a que las unidades técnicas ejecuten estas tareas", en vez de "e insta a las unidades técnicas a ejecutar".

Espero que alguien pueda tomar nota. De todas maneras, la Secretaría lo ha hecho, y seguramente nos presentará para el lunes las correcciones. Pero, en vista de que los países, seguramente, enviarán este proyecto de resolución a sus respectivos Gobiernos, deseamos que sepan qué modificaciones estamos presentando.

En segundo lugar, en el punto 2 c) dice: "Diseñar un programa de capacitación", y luego hay unos puntos suspensivos. A pesar de que todavía no está precisada la disponibilidad para realizar este programa bianualmente, por lo pronto introducimos la palabra "Manual", y luego diría "para el personal profesional de la FAO concerniente" ("concerned staff members", en inglés); porque no sería, evidentemente, esta capacitación para todo el personal. Perdona, Sr. Presidente, que esté abusando de su paciencia.

Luego, en el punto numero 3, en congruencia con el 2 c), donde están los puntos suspensivos, debería decir "el año de 1991", porque el programa de capacitación, en caso de que se apruebe, tendría término en 1991.

Y luego, en el punto numero 4 dice: "Pide a los Comités principales de la FAO que incluyan en las agendas" de su próximo período de sesiones. Es decir, no serían todos los períodos de sesiones, sino solamente aquel período de sesiones posterior a la aprobación de esta Resolución, quizás por la Conferencia de 1989. En todo caso, debería decir "el próximo período de sesiones", no los futuros porque esto podría implicar, repito, que pretendiéramos que se trate este asunto en todas las reuniones, lo cual no es así.

Espero que hayan podido tomar nota, Sr. Presidente, y esto facilite la aprobación de esa Resolución. Debo advertir también, para que tome nota la Secretaría, que la Delegación de Filipinas, igualmente, patrocinará este proyecto de resolución.

LE PRESIDENT: J'aimerais que vous nous répétiez la première modification que vous proposez.

José Ramón LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (México): Señor Presidente, es en el párrafo número 1 de la parte dispositiva, que decía: "Adopta el Plan de Acción para la Integración de la Mujer en el Desarrollo en las áreas sustantivas de competencia de la FAO, presentado por el Director General", y luego diríamos "y lo insta a que las unidades técnicas ejecuten estas tareas", etcétera, etcétera.

The meeting rose at 19 h 30.

La séance est levée à 19 h 30.

Se levanta la sesión a las 19 hs.30.

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ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 94/PV/9

Ninety-fourth Session

Quatre-vingt-quatorzième session

94º período de sesiones

NINTH PLENARY MEETING
NEUVIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
NOVENA SESION PLENARIA

(21 November 1988)

The Ninth Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.45 hours,

Lassaad Ben Osman, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La neuvième seance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 45,

sous la présidence de Lassaad Ben Osman, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la novena sesión plenaria a las 9.45 horas,

bajo la presidencia de Lassaad Ben Osman, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

LE PRESIDENT: Honorables Délégués, nous reprenons nos travaux. Notre séance d'aujourd'hui est particulièrement chargée; comme vous le voyez quatre points sont inscrits à notre Ordre du Jour; nous devons terminer leur examen impérativement pour aborder dès demain des questions extrêmement importantes, à savoir l'analyse des Rapports du Comité du programme et du Comité financier. Je vous demanderai donc de bien vouloir tenir compte de cette contrainte et d'essayer dans toute la mesure possible, de limiter la durée de vos interventions afin que chaque délégué qui le souhaite puisse prendre la parole tout en respectant l'horaire.

Je compte donc sur toute votre compréhension pour que nous puissions terminer notre Ordre du Jour mais je pense que nous aurons besoin aujourd'hui également de travailler jusqu'à 19 heures 30 ou 20 heures.

III. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP (continued)

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

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

8. Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Development

8. Plan d'action pour l'intégration des femmes dans le développement

8. Plan de acción para la Integración de la Mujer en el Desarrollo

LE PRESIDENT: Nous passons maintenant à l'examen du point No 8, intitulé Plan d'action pour l'intégration des femmes dans le développement: (CL 94/13; CL 94/13-Suppl.1 ; CL 94/LIM/2).

Je passe la parole à Madame Spring, Chef du Service de la promotion des femmes dans la production agricole et le développement rural, à la FAO, qui va nous faire la communication introductive.

Ms Anita SPRING (FAO Staff): Mr Chairman and Distinguished Delegates: It is a pleasure to make my first appearance in front of the Council and to speak on this important issue. The Organization has prepared its responses in the form of two documents to Resolutions 3/87 and 4/87 of the 24th Session of the FAO Conference held in Rome in November 1987. The first document is the Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Development (CL 94/13) that I will make comment on shortly. The second document (CL 94/13 Sup.1) is entitled Summary Report on the Expert Consultation on Experiences of Institutional Changes Concerning Women in Development. It responds to Resolution 4/87 requesting that the Director-General convene a meeting of Experts to discuss strategies for integrating women into the process of rural development and into the various activities of the Organization.

The Consultation was held at FAO Headquarters in Rome from 21 to 23 September 1988, four days after I arrived as Service Chief. The meeting was organized by the Women in Agricultural Production and Rural Development Service with the support of the Inter-Departmental Working Group on Women in Development (IDWG/WID). The Experts invited brought knowledge and experience from all four developing regions and from public service, non-governmental organizations and research institutions. The agenda focused on the integration of gender issues in planning, monitoring and evaluating agricultural and rural development programmes and projects, and on models for staff training in women in development.

It should be pointed out, Mr. Chairman, that although the consultants heard the general outline of the Plan of Action, they developed their findings and conclusions independently. In fact, many of the points raised by the Consultants are in the Plan of Action. As the two documents are with you, it is better here to consider the main issues raised in them.

It is important to point out to the Chair and Distinguished Delegates that the Organization emphasizes a two-pronged approach for dealing with women's concerns. On the one hand we have specific projects oriented exclusively to women. These have a demonstrative role and help us to test and improve mechanisms and methodologies of technical assistance to rural women. On the other hand, we promote the integration of women's issues and of women as beneficiaries and participants in all FAO activities. This approach focuses on integrating women into mainstream programmes and projects.

The Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Development specifies FAO's major objectives in overall terms. These are, first, to review and monitor the main events on Women in Development, or WID, in order to have an overview of global issues and a vision for future orientations; second, to work on WID policies and to promote them at national and international levels; third, to identify research needs at a global level and to orient national programmes to mobilize resources on behalf of women.

The Plan specifically states that for these objectives to occur, the concern for women in development issues must also be applied within FAO itself:

- the entire FAO staff itself has to be convinced of the cause;
- the internal machinery for inputting WID issues into projects and programmes has to be reinforced and this should include effective monitoring devices (I will say more of this later);
- a network of working relations to external partners in the WID endeavour has to be built; this should imply a strengthened working relationship with research institutions, with women's associations, with NGO's and with the other agencies in the UN system;
- In all, FAO will have to continue to consider integrating WID concerns into its general development philosophy and actions.

The Plan refers to activities of both the Service and the Organization as a whole, and includes specific recommendations for both the Regular Programme and field projects. It also refers to the importance of the active participation for the integration of women in development by Member Governments. The Plan basically is a charter in that it is a comprehensive and broad-sweeping road map. In each sphere, and there are four of them, the issues and objectives are delineated and these are followed by the FAO actions that are envisaged. The actions presented in the Plan are given as broad strokes of the brush in order to provide guidelines as the Organization targets particular concerns and locales.

The Table of Contents, the Plan itself concentrates on four spheres: the civil, the economic, the social and the decision-making. In each of these spheres, a wide range of activities has been proposed.

In the civil sphere, activities envisaged will be directed toward improving women's access to land, credit and membership in development organizations and co-operatives. The Plan also mentions the provision of promoting advisory and training services to countries that desire to bring their national legislation into conformity with international standards.

In the economic sphere, the Plan takes into consideration agricultural production, food processing and marketing, formal and informal sector employment, income control and economic adjustment.

I would like to draw the attention of the Council to the fact that we see the major thrust of FAO's activity to be in this sphere in order to support women in their roles as agricultural producers and entrepreneurs. Within this framework, future activities will give greater recognition to women's special needs for income-producing activities and control of income; for obtaining extension services and training opportunities; and for the introduction and development of technologies and other means to ease the burden and to increase the productivity of women's work and their access to markets.

I should note that by income-producing activities, we want to look at methods of providing substantial and sustainable income for women, using mainstream methods. We do not want to continue to formulate insignificant and non-sustainable income-generating projects with low levels of remuneration to rural women.

It is in the economic sphere that we want to re-orient project and extension efforts to focus on women, and this includes projects that deal with forestry, fishery, irrigation, crop production and protection, livestock production, credit and marketing as well as with farming systems and nutrition type topics.

As we move on to the social sphere there are three aspects to consider here: (1) population; (2) nutrition, home economics and quality of life; and (3) education. Activities in this sphere will be geared to integrating population factors and nutrition into field projects. The well-being of household members in terms of energy resources will also be a focus.

FAO also envisions actions to improve rural women's access to education and will consider ways to modernize national and local agricultural and home economics training and degree programmes for women. We want to promote practical agricultural education for rural women, to redesign curricula in home economics programmes, and to promote women in agricultural professions.

In the decision-making sphere, FAO plans to improve women's participation in institutions and in people's organizations. In this respect, the Plan envisages providing leadership and management training to women. This will give them the skills to identify and to ask for the technical advice, extension services, and land reform that they require.

To carry out the actions indicated in these four spheres, the FAO Plan of Action reviews the instruments and tools needed and advances plans for improving (1) the collection and utilization of statistics and indicators, (2) the types of training and public information, (3) interaction with other UN agencies and Member Governments, and (4) the delivery of technical assistance to farmers.

As I noted, both the Plan, through its objectives and the actions envisaged, and the Expert Consultation stress many of the same issues. I would like to highlight three in particular here.

The first has to do with Policy and Planning. The Expert Consultation recommended that FAO help sensitize Member Governments to the need for establishing and/or strengthening the units within their countries that deal with women, so that these services or bureaux can function as strong coordinating bodies to integrate women in development issues into all units and line ministries.

Both documents speak to the need to include women in policy guidelines, in national development plans and in macro- and micro-level programmes and projects.

The Experts look to FAO to assist Member Governments, when requested, in the development of policies to accomplish the inclusion of women in their development efforts.

Part of the efforts connected with policy development is the need for decision-makers, especially in line ministries and in project supervisory capacities to understand the requirements of rural women and the current and potential contribution of women to specific sectors of the economy. Conceptually, women's roles in economic and agricultural production as well as their domestic and reproductive contributions must be considered and valued. Operationally, women must be participants and not just so-called beneficiaries in a "trickle-down" type of situation.

The second major thrust of both documents is the need for large-scale training on women in agriculture. This should occur at FAO Headquarters itself, at the field level of projects and at national institutions.

We now have enough information to show that the best way to ensure the inclusion of women in mainstream development projects and in policy and planning is by training decision-makers and development personnel on the topic. Both the Plan and the Experts stressed the need for training to:

- provide this direction to national programmes and development projects;
- influence project design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation; and
- provide for the collection of adequate information for data bases and baseline studies in order to ascertain the appropriate technical assistance for the needs and requirements of rural women.

In order to respond to these recommendations, FAO will: first, develop appropriate methodologies and materials for the levels of persons to be trained; these training materials will show the technical units how to formulate women's concerns into the mainstream activities of planning and projects; and second, FAO will ensure that attention is given to women in different farming systems both in terms of the technologies that can enhance their productivity and of the mechanisms that link them with development services such as credit, inputs, training, etc.

This leads to the final item that I would like to highlight here and that is promoting substantive agricultural technical advice for women farmers and entrepreneurs. Such topics as appropriate technical packages, integrative pest management, seed selection, land and animal husbandry programmes, will assist women farmers and this is required rather than a small focus on women's groups for small-scale income-generating activities or the delivery of limited technologies.

We are taking the necessary steps to start this training. Next month we begin phase one of a four-phase approach to comprehensive planning of women in agriculture at FAO Headquarters. Moreover, in our Regular Programme budget for 1989, we have included a strategy planning workshop and the delivery of the first training session. Our draft proposals for the 1990-1991 biennium prioritizes our activities as follows, and I will list four of them: there will be further development of methodologies and materials for staff training, initially at headquarters and then for field staff; we will work through the Inter-Divisional Working Group on WID to establish focal points which will coordinate our efforts with their units; we intend to strengthen the technical aspects and the institutional mechanisms and linkages between our Regular Programme and field projects by concentrating on project development and implementation that will address the needs of rural women under different farming and social systems; finally, we will focus on reorienting and

strengthening of the curricula of training programmes in home economics as we attempt to upgrade both the trainers and the rural women themselves in the terms of technical, agricultural and managerial skills.

We have internally organized these activities up to the limit of available resources and we have programmed them into our regular budget because they are a fundamental part of our activities, not an extra to be added on top. However, if we want a more comprehensive implementation, especially for training field staff, we will have to rely on extra budgetary resources.

Let me say something about monitoring and evaluation. The Plan gives particular attention to the monitoring and evaluation of the integration of women in FAO projects. Thus far, a coding system has been developed to determine the extent to which the Regular Programme and field activities target women as beneficiaries. We will also develop monitoring and evaluation techniques for use by the Inter-Divisional Working Group on Women in Development for the internal monitoring of the implementation of the Plan.

To summarize what the Plan will encompass, FAO recognizes the need for a comprehensive view and a multi-sectoral balance of WID and gender issues within the Organization as well as with the coordination of WID activities at the international level.

We know that our Plan of Action for the Integration of Women is a framework that needs to be refined. We know we must give a clear picture of priorities and how and when we can implement the actions envisaged. We are aware that as a charter it can guide us, but we must choose our foci but as I mentioned, we have already begun to place priorities and to state where and how we should begin to implement them.

To conclude, I would like to note that many sister agencies in the UN system are concerned with women and with women in development. This is rightly so. In fact, through the Administrative Committee on Coordination or the ACC, the Task Force on Rural Development, FAO has initiated a series of joint activities that focus on rural women. The work of the Task Force on rural women has recognized five priorities: the impact of famine and drought by gender; rural women and food security at the household and national levels; rural women and extension and training; improving technical technologies; and assessing credit and markets for rural women. Indeed, FAO with its mandate to provide technical advice and assistance to the agricultural community, must concentrate on providing technical agricultural solutions for the needs of women doing agriculture. Finally, it should guide its own organization and Member Governments towards better integration of women in development in the agricultural sphere.

We look forward to comments and guidelines from the Member Governments. We want to engage in a dialogue and to accomplish the major tenets of the Plan in the best possible way.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie Mme Spring de sa communication introductive de ce point important.

Rafael MORENO ROJAS (Subdirector General p.i. - Departamento de Política Económica y Social): Desearía agregar a la introducción de la Dra. Spring algunos breves comentarios en relación al tema que nos ocupa. El Plan de Acción que ha sido presentado para la consideración de este Consejo y que está contenido en el documento CL 94/13 ha sido preparado en conformidad con lo solicitado en la Resolución 3/87 de la Conferencia de la FAO sobre Actividades de la Organización Relativas a la Integración de la Mujer en el Desarrollo.

Este Plan de Acción es exhaustivo y toma fielmente en consideración todos los aspectos de las Estrategias de Nairobi orientadas hacia el futuro para el adelanto de la mujer y el Plan de mediano plazo para la mujer y el desarrollo a nivel de todo el Sistema. Como sin duda lo habrán notado los Delegados y Delegadas al Consejo, es muy conveniente considerar el Plan de Acción en sus aspectos más amplios. Sin embargo, queremos señalar clara y honestamente que este Plan de Acción es indicativo de la acción que se pretende realizar tomando en consideración las indicaciones que el Consejo desee formular.

No es, porque no puede serlo, un programa ni una propuesta de presupuesto. Y sobre este punto, quisiera realmente hacer una consideración. En primer lugar, las actividades indicadas cubrirían el período 1990/95. Considerando que el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto del próximo bienio no ha sido fijado aún, es difícil prever o adoptar nuevos compromisos respecto a lo que en definitiva podrá realizarse en los dos bienios posteriores a 1991.

En segundo lugar, no se ha hecho por el momento ningún intento de realizar una evaluación total de los costos que implica el Plan de Acción aquí discutido. Es una tarea a la cual deberemos abocarnos.

En tercer lugar, la realización de las actividades propuestas dependerá fundamentalmente de la posibilidad de realizar programas de trabajo en los términos en que lo apruebe la Conferencia del próximo año. Cualquier necesidad futura de hacer mayores ajustes o recortes a los Programas, naturalmente amenazaría el cumplimiento de las acciones tal como ellas están descritas en el Plan de Acción propuesto.

En cuarto lugar, las acciones que aquí se proponen son de diversa naturaleza. Algunas implican cambios cuantitativos en el trabajo que estamos realizando, otras señalan la realidad de nuevas tareas en un contexto que va más allá del tema de la participación de la mujer en el desarrollo rural. Por los mismos motivos, algunos cambios pueden ser introducidos dentro del actual Programa Regular, ya en curso; otros dependerán necesariamente de la movilización de recursos extrapresupuestarios. Las orientaciones que el Consejo estime oportuno dar durante el debate de este tema serán de gran utilidad para la Secretaría, para poner en marcha el cumplimiento de los objetivos del plan de acción. Sin embargo, el Consejo estimará sin duda que la puesta en práctica del plan de acción no es algo que se pueda hacer homogéneamente en todos los años en los cuales está previsto, y habrá temas entre los años que obviamente podrán tener acciones anticipadas respecto de otros. Los informes de progreso sobre este tema que se ha propuesto incluir, serán tomados en distintos foros, y esto es un punto que entiende la Delegación de México, junto con otras Delegaciones, como Argentina, Argelia, Colombia, Cuba, España y Nicaragua, que han propiciado la presentación de la resolución que está circulada bajo el número CL 94/LIM/2: que se establecerá la necesidad de que la resolución que se apruebe en este Consejo sea presentada al mandante de este mismo plan de acción, cual es la Conferencia General de la FAO.

Nosotros, la Secretaría, estamos abiertos para trabajar en momentos posteriores, ya sea durante el debate, o en el Comité de Redacción, con las distintas Delegaciones para hacer estas previsiones o fijar los puntos dentro del borrador de resolución que permita por una parte que el Consejo le presente a la Conferencia un borrador de resolución que este Consejo haya aprobado, para que la Conferencia General, que es la que requirió la preparación del Plan de Acción, incluya el asunto dentro de su temario para ser aprobado y sancionado, tal como se ha hecho en otros grandes documentos que la Conferencia misma, en ocasiones anteriores, ha querido fijar, como era el Código para la aplicación de pesticidas y otros documentos de mayor significación.

Quiero, Sr. Presidente, clarificar nuestro punto de vista de que la Secretaría, junto con acoger los términos en los cuales la resolución ha sido presentada, sugiere que, una vez que esta resolución sea discutida y aprobada por el Consejo, se presente como un borrador de resolución a la Conferencia General de la FAO, para su aprobación y posterior endoso.

LE PRESIDENT: Je voudrais vous lire la liste des délégués qui ont demandé la parole sur cette question. Jusqu'à présent nous avons 23 délégués et 4 observateurs. Les délégués sont: la Finlande, la Malaisie, le Mexique, le Liban, Cuba, les Philippines, le Brésil, la Thaïlande, l'Inde, la Zambie, le Bangladesh, la France, la Yougoslavie, la Chine, la Suisse, les Etats-Unis d'Amérique, le Royaume-Uni, le Nicaragua, le Japon, le Cameroun, la Turquie, le Canada, Madagascar, l'Algérie, l'Australie, l'Italie, la République fédérale d'Allemagne, le Gabon, l'Egypte, la Colombie, le Kenya, la Libye, le Venezuela. Nous avons l'observateur du Panama, l'Union mondiale des femmes rurales, la Fédération internationale pour le progrès rural, l'Alliance internationale des femmes et le PNUD. L'observateur du Salvador vient de s'ajouter à la liste.

Nous avons donc 30 délégués et 5 ou 6 observateurs.

Je me permettrai de vous rappeler que nous avons quatre points à l'ordre du jour. Je proposerais que nous puissions tenir compte de cette contrainte de temps dans nos débats, pour pouvoir respecter le calendrier, car nous avons déjà pas mal de retard.

Je vous signale que les délégués ou les observateurs peuvent, s'ils le désirent, donner leurs communications au Secrétariat. Elles figureront au Verbatim.

Ms Gunilla KURTEN (Finland): On this agenda item, I speak on behalf of the four Nordic countries, Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Finland.

The Nordic countries consider the share of women a crucial element in the development process and especially in the sector of agricultural food and rural development. We all know, for instance, that 50 to 80 percent of the food production in Africa is in the hands of women. Therefore, we have

noted with pleasure that in accordance with Resolution 3/87 adopted at the 24th Session of the Conference of FAO, the Director-General has submitted to the 94th Session of the Council a Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Development. Furthermore, the Director-General has, in accordance with Resolution 4/87 convened a meeting of experts to discuss how to implement strategies for the integration of women in the process of rural development and various activities of the Organization and has submitted a summary report on these expert consultations to the Council.

We have studied the Document CL 94/13 and its supplement with great interest and have found them to be very enlightening and comprehensive covering the most important aspects of the integration of women in development. The Plan of Action is presented in a clear manner and we appreciate the strategy framework which includes also the civil status sphere and the social sphere.

As recommended by the Conference, the Plan of Action envisages that FAO will apply a two-pronged approach. On the one hand, it seeks to provide special programmes for women in development; and, on the other, it seeks to ensure their integration into all projects already at the planning stage as well as into overall national development programmes with a greater emphasis placed on the second. We note this with satisfaction. Special programmes for women should not be excluded but might be used either to fill the gap of knowledge about the situation, behaviour and needs of women, or to intervene to alleviate extensive hardship because only gender-specific measures could bring about a solution.

The Plan of Action also states that for the integration of women in development really to become effective as envisaged by the proposed strategy, "the entire FAO staff itself has to be convinced of the course" and the Plan of Action envisages that FAO will implement a staff training programme on women in development to involve the entire FAO Headquarters staff during the period 1990 to 1995.

The meeting of experts also stressed the importance of FAO staff training. This brings us to a disconcerting aspect of the whole Plan of Action. It seems to us that it deals with integration of women in development as if it were something new, that FAO will have to start preparing now and implementing in 1990 to 1995.

It does refer to the World Conference on the International Women's Year in Mexico in 1975, the Nairobi Forward Looking Strategies of 1985 and a large amount of past conferences, conventions, consultations, resolutions and documents concerning women in development under the heading "Milestones of the FAO Mandate and Activities on Women in Development" in Annex 1, but the actions envisaged in the Plan are almost all presented as if they were starting from zero. It is, for instance, envisaged that FAO will in 1990 to 1995 have to integrate women in development concerns into its general development concepts, modify the conceptual base of FAO technical assistance in women in development along the lines of the foregoing strategy framework, streamline the field work accordingly, introduce a monitoring system in the field programme to ensure that gender considerations have indeed been given due attention, identify international and national public and private agencies and institutions which are capable of well-targeted delivery and could thus be used in product execution and review the possibilities of increased data collection regarding women in agriculture. If 13 years after the Conference in Mexico we are really still at this stage as regards FAO activities, we have not come very far.

Fortunately, this is not quite the true picture. There are several divisions within FAO that have already done a lot in this respect, and this could have been integrated in the Plan of Action. It is true, however, that an enormous amount of work still needs to be carried out, and the Plan has endeavoured to cover every possible aspect of women in development. It is, of course, useful to have them all dealt with in one single paper for easy reference, but what is needed now is a concrete application of the principle of effectiveness through selectivity to make the Plan operational. If we are realistic and expect to see any results within the next seven years, a selection of priorities is absolutely necessary. FAO should concentrate on its mandate area focusing the activities on the economic sphere enhancing women's role in agriculture and rural economy. The actions within FAO are those to be started with because - and here we repeat what has already been stated once - a prerequisite for the integration of women in development within the sphere of activities of FAO is that the entire FAO staff itself has to be convinced of the course.

We therefore suggest that the first priority should be the staff training programme which should involve not only FAO Headquarters staff but also the staff in the field because they have a very important role to play in the identification, preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of programmes and projects. The training programme should start as soon as possible and be as intensive as possible. We note with satisfaction that this idea has already been put into motion. If we had to wait until 1995 to have the entire staff trained, notable concrete results could hardly be seen before the year 2000.

Another priority is the strengthening of the service for women in agricultural production and rural development and its activities. The service should at least have all its present posts filled and

it should concentrate on coordination of the activities within FAO, providing guidelines and support to the technical units in their efforts to integrate women into their programmes and projects. Only under special circumstances should the service take on the administration of projects on its own. The Interdepartmental Working Group on Women in Development should play a much more active role than so far, and the question of the need for coordination and guidance above the departmental level should also be considered. The appointment of women in development focal points in every division is strongly supported and this should also be effected immediately.

A third priority is giving preference to equally qualified women candidates in filling vacated and new FAO posts so as to raise the current 14.7% of women at the professional and managerial level to the UN system target of 30% by 1995. By cooperating with other international organizations such as the ILO, the United Nations Fund for Population Assistance, the United Nations Children's Fund, Unesco, etc., national agencies and NGOs, and making the best and most efficient use of already existing data studies, guidelines, training programmes for the staff, etc., and by concentrating on a few clearly specified priorities at a time, FAO can certainly go a long way towards the integration of women in development with the available resources.

In this connection, we find it important to recall that Resolution 3/87 specifically stresses that all the activities under the Plan of Action "should be carried out within existing resources." The time has now come also for member countries to follow the implementation of the actions to integrate women in development more closely, to train their own staff in the relevant women-in-development aspects and to make sure that women have been considered in all the various projects and programmes presented for approval whether they be extensions or new ones.

To sum up, what the Nordic countries expect is that the Plan of Action for Integration of Women in Development is translated into concrete measures with an accompanying timetable in accordance with the suggested priority-setting, and the Nordic countries will follow the progress with keen interest. These measures would also be an important input towards the implementation of the Nairobi Forward Looking Strategies.

In addition to this, the Nordic countries wish to express their support for the substance of the Draft Resolution on the Plan of Action for Integration of Women in the Agricultural and Rural Development in document CL 94/LIM/2. We would, however, suggest that some informal discussions take place concerning certain wordings and formulations in order to have a resolution that can be approved by consensus later during this session.

Datuk Puvanarajah THIAGARAJAH (Malaysia): The Malaysian delegation is pleased with the document, the Plan of Action for Integration of Women in Development, prepared by the Secretariat in pursuance of Resolution 4/87 carried at the 24th Session of FAO Conference. We congratulate the Secretary and Ms Spring for the excellent document. Malaysia always has given and continues to give attention to developing programmes to upgrade women's participation in national development. The setting up in Malaysia of the National Advisory Council on the Integration of Women in Development, a multi-sectoral body comprising representatives of government and non-government sectors under the auspices of the Prime Minister's Department several years ago, provided further impetus towards accelerating this process. The main objective is to ensure that Government development programmes take into consideration the full integration of women through the provision of equal opportunities. I am happy to say that today the sky is the limit to women's aspirations in any field in Malaysia. They are entitled to and do enjoy to the fullest the fruits of their endeavours. Equally, there is nothing to bar them holding positions of responsibility. Indeed, in Malaysia since Independence we have had women ministers and politicians, women ambassadors, heads of Government departments and business conglomerates, and recently even a woman judge.

My delegation, therefore, most specifically endorses the document under review and is convinced that FAO will be both realistic and pragmatic in coming up with programmes of action which may include those under document CL 94/LIM/2 so that their implementation is that much more ensured.

José Ramón LOPEZ -PORTILLO ROMANO (México): La Delegación de México le pide a usted que nos permita hacer nuestra intervención en dos partes: una primera, introductoria, de parte mía, y otra que formulará la Dra. Margarita Lizárraga.

En primer lugar, como sabe usted, México, junto con otros países, está copatrocinando un proyecto de resolución en relación a la implantación del Plan de Acción para la Integración de la Mujer en el Desarrollo Agrícola y Rural. En este sentido, hemos observado que de la versión en español a la versión en inglés hay ciertos problemas de interpretación, los cuales consideramos que, una vez aclarados, superarán sin duda los inconvenientes o las observaciones que al respecto hemos escuchado

aquí, en la sala, y también hemos recogido en corredores. Por tanto, solicitamos a la Secretaría que nos ayude en corregir estos detalles, tomando como base la resolución en su versión española.

Asimismo, Sr. Presidente, había ciertos detalles que también habíamos discutido con la Secretaría para obviar algunos de los inconvenientes que se nos habían hecho notar, y habíamos presentado la relación nueva al respecto. No sé si usted quiere que lo vuelva a repetir aquí, aunque yo espero que los distinguidos delegados hayan tomado nota de ello. Sólo de la última observación que hicimos en el punto 4 dispositivo, en la traducción al inglés, la futura reunión de los Comités principales de la FAO, se seguía interpretando en plural, y lo que nosotros queríamos decir en español es que dichos Comités deberían evaluar el estado de avance de la implantación de estas disposiciones y del Plan de Acción en la ocasión inmediata posterior a su puesta en marcha, y no necesariamente a su realización permanente en cada una de las subsiguientes reuniones. Esto para que se traduzca adecuadamente en vista de que no fue entendido.

Respecto a las otras observaciones a la Resolución, éstas ya están recogidas por la Secretaría, y espero que las distribuya posteriormente, o que el Comité de Redacción las tome en cuenta como base de las discusiones.

Por otra parte, Sr. Presidente, no deja de extrañarnos, y yo quiero decirlo en esta ocasión, la actitud de la Secretaría. Hemos escuchado con mucha atención lo que nos ha dicho la Sra. Spring, que nos ha completado mucha de la información que teníamos, ha hecho una magnífica exposición, pero nos parece que el Dr. Rafael Moreno nos ha presentado un panorama un tanto negativo, respecto de la posibilidad de llevar a cabo lo que en la Resolución se menciona. Nosotros creemos que frente a la macrorrevisión por la que está pasando nuestra Organización y las modificaciones que todo esto está conllevando, no vemos que los ajustes que se solicitan en el proyecto de Resolución que hemos presentado, y en el Plan de Acción, conlleven a una crisis de una magnitud severa o algo parecido.

En primer lugar, debemos recordar que ya fue la Conferencia de 1975 la que emitió resoluciones relativas a estos asuntos y posteriormente en varias ocasiones se trató el asunto de la incorporación de la mujer en el desarrollo agrícola y rural. La Conferencia de 1987 emitió dos resoluciones, entre otras cosas para apoyar y lanzar el Plan de Acción y nos parece a estas alturas, precisamente, que es el Consejo el que tiene en este contexto un carácter ejecutivo; es decir el de evaluar y asegurar que tales resoluciones y Plan de Acción se promuevan y se pongan en la práctica. También asegurar que los órganos principales de nuestra Organización tomen las medidas adecuadas para llevarlos a cabo.

Nosotros lo que hacemos en el proyecto de resolución es pedir que tales acciones se realicen y no creemos por ello que deba ser otra vez la Conferencia la que revise, la que evalúe estos asuntos, si bien es cierto que al decidir sobre el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto de la Organización tendrá que tratarlos; pero ese es otro problema muy distinto al del carácter ejecutivo que está solicitando este proyecto de resolución. Por eso no consideramos que esta resolución deba ser un proyecto que deba llevarse a la Conferencia, ya tiene el mandato de la Conferencia, ya existen resoluciones precedentes ya la Conferencia de 1987 emitió dos al respecto. Este Consejo debe asegurar que se lleven a cabo, tiene pues, un mandato de carácter ejecutivo.

Por lo que respecta a la disponibilidad de recursos para los próximos bienios para financiar la implantación del Plan de Acción y de las disposiciones del proyecto de resolución que hemos presentado, nosotros creemos que no debemos ser pesimistas al respecto, ya que no tenemos ninguna visión de lo que el futuro nos va a deparar y no podemos por tanto anticipar o mejor dicho inhibir nuestra acción presente, en aras de un pesimismo no fundamentado. En vez de ello creo que deberíamos todos buscar fórmulas inteligentes para seguir adelante y convocar a los Estados Miembros para que apoyen este tipo de programas. Esperamos pues, planteamientos serios y positivos y no malos augurios.

Me permito, Sr. Presidente, pasar la palabra a la Dra. Margarita Lizárraga.

Sra. Margarita LIZARRAGA (México): Mi delegación por su conducto, Sr. Presidente, desea dar la bienvenida a la Dra. Spring y agradecerle por la excelente presentación que mucho nos ha ilustrado y nos anima. Damos la bienvenida a la discusión de este tema que, en mi concepto, deberá unirnos. Nuestra vida cotidiana de familia es la muestra de la integración entre hombre y mujer y es por eso que con frecuencia olvidamos que se pueda necesitar discutir y luchar por su integración en la sociedad y en la comunidad del trabajo, porque también allí se ha estado siempre juntos.

La expansión de la población forzó al género humano a pasar de recolector a productor/cultivador, tarea en la que para alimentarse a sí mismo y a la familia, implicó la necesidad de más brazos y la división inicial del trabajo se fue modificando incorporándose cada vez más a la mujer y así se

fue multiplicando necesariamente el papel de ésta. Con el avance del tiempo nuestra sociedad productora se diversificó con la industrialización, el comercio y la urbanización que implicó cambios tales como el que la mujer no fuese ya sólo la compañera, sino en múltiples ocasiones y particularmente en el área rural, jefe de familia, dado que fue dejada de lado en los derechos reconocidos de propiedad de tierras, acceso al crédito y todas aquellas facilidades que al faltarle complicaron aun más sus tareas.

Esta situación evolucionó a un nivel de crisis donde nosotros mismos y las organizaciones internacionales comenzaron a reflexionar y llamar la atención sobre el problema y nos encontramos de tres décadas a la fecha tratando de equilibrar tal situación. Sabemos que por haber empezado tarde tenemos que ir más de prisa, particularmente porque en la crisis que estamos viviendo los países en desarrollo por el peso de la deuda y los programas de ajuste impuestos que nos obligan a disminuir los programas de desarrollo rural, de salud y otros, estamos viviendo el drama de que los niños que están naciendo de unos años a acá nacen ya con problemas de madres desnutridas y padecen además de carencias alimentarias en el período infantil que nos alarma, pues la desnutrición es el arma biológica más letal e indigna y que masivamente puede destruir nuestros pueblos.

En este contexto, al analizar lo que está pasando en el campo, vemos un cuadro repetido y magnificado en que las madres rurales por la fatiga del trabajo, trabajan a veces cargando a cuestas a sus hijos y la lejanía entre el hogar y el campo de trabajo les impide tener simultáneamente una buena productividad en el campo y alimentar a los hijos y cuidarlos, obligándolas a menudo a dejarlos encerrados o sueltos, exponiéndolos a accidentes, y todo sumado a una muerte temprana. Los informes de la FAO, la UNICEF y la OMS nos lo indican.

En México, las estrategias que se han instrumentado en nuestro país para promover, impulsar y desarrollar las actividades económicas y sociales de la mujer del campo, se encuentran enmarcadas en el concepto de reforma agraria integral, evidentemente se requerirá de tiempo y apoyo sostenido para lograr los resultados necesarios.

Nuestro Gobierno considera necesario que se impulse la participación organizada de la mujer campesina en actividades generadoras de ingreso que ayuden a elevar su nivel de vida, el de sus familias y el de sus comunidades; y por ello propone que la FAO, a través del Plan de Acción, coadyuve a que fortalezca la participación de la mujer campesina en la producción alimentaria, así como en actividades que permitan el abasto comunitario integrado de la producción, transformación y comercialización de los productos básicos. Por ello considera necesario el promover la

coordinación, continuidad y congruencia interinstitucionales de los Programas encaminados a lograr la participación de las mujeres en el campo, mediante el otorgamiento oportuno de insumos y servicios que demanda su actividad.

En México, la mujer profesional ocupa de forma natural un lugar en toda la escala de puestos públicos, no porque sea mujer, sino cuando es igualmente competente. Es lo que se pide y no otra cosa, también en las agencias internacionales. No se trata de considerar por separado a la mujer, eso sí que sería discriminarla. Se trata de asegurar su integración resolviendo los problemas especiales por ese papel múltiple que le toca vivir, particularmente en la sociedad rural a través de su participación equitativa en los adelantos jurídicos, sociales, económicos y tecnológicos, como se expresa en la resolución que México ha tenido la satisfacción de presentar en nombre de la delegaciones copatrocinadoras, y la cual ha sido producto del trabajo de gran número de colegas de las delegaciones permanentes de todas las regiones, sin diferencias entre norte y sur, trabajando solidaria y responsablemente y siendo ampliamente respaldados por nuestros colegas.

Esta resolución se ha basado íntegramente en el Plan de Acción presentado por la Secretaría, a la cual agradecemos por haber producido este valioso instrumento que permitirá tanto a los países como a la Secretaría tener como base para su ejecución y seguimiento. Lamentamos que llegue retrasado, pero no abundaremos en críticas que en buena medida también son válidas para nosotros por no haberle dado la debida fuerza en el seguimiento, y ahora debemos cerrar la brecha y marchar juntos sin mayores demoras, pues esto aumentaría el riesgo de que las cargas múltiples y las carencias que repercuten en desnutrición, conlleven a condenar a nuestros pueblos a su degradación física y mental y con ello aumentar el subdesarrollo.

Sabemos que la responsabilidad fundamental es de nuestros propios países, pero los organismos internacionales somos nosotros mismos, y allí está concentrada la capacidad técnica y de planificación y su papel catalizador puede ser fundamental si los técnicos y los representantes están dispuestos y capacitados para actuar. Por esta razón se ha decidido hacer esta resolución que apoya la ejecución del Plan de Acción preparado por la Secretaría y, a través de ella, confirmar el acuerdo de que sea totalmente operativo en 1995. Se pide a la Organización de no esperar más y continuar y reforzar lo que ya está haciendo e iniciar lo que falta de acuerdo con el mismo Plan de Acción.

Iniciar las acciones que puedan hacerse con los recursos existentes y que en muchos casos es una cuestión de decisión y voluntad. Sabemos que sólo con el personal pertinente, concientizado tanto a nivel de la Sede como en el campo, se podrán tener resultados. Entendemos que ya están en camino muchas de esas acciones y que por lo tanto será más fácil poder instrumentar los requerimientos planteados en la parte resolutive de la misma.

Planteamos en resumen ciertas prioridades, porque siendo el Plan tan extenso tiene que cimentarse en una plataforma que garantice su avance armónico y sostenido.

Consideramos asimismo, que la próxima Conferencia debe tener en sus manos una propuesta con estimaciones de costos ya analizados por los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas para tomar decisiones al respecto y, por eso mismo, ayudará mucho que el 96° Consejo pueda contar con un documento en que se muestre la voluntad expresada en los resultados o progresos alcanzados a fin de que sus recomendaciones le permitan a la Conferencia tomar las decisiones que garanticen su completa y adecuada instrumentación.

Amin ABDEL MALEK (Liban) (langue originale arabe): Je voudrais tout d'abord féliciter Madame Spring pour le poste qu'elle occupe depuis peu à l'Organisation, en espérant que la femme prendra toute la place que nous lui souhaitons tous.

Je remercie également Monsieur Moreno de sa présentation du document relatif à l'intégration des femmes dans le développement.

Nous savons tous que la femme a un rôle très important à jouer dans la société ainsi que dans le développement rural; nous apprécions le rôle de l'Organisation en ce qui concerne le renforcement de l'intégration des femmes dans le développement; nous savons combien la FAO joue en ce domaine un rôle difficile, surtout dans les pays où la femme ne jouit pas de toutes les conditions nécessaires à cette intégration, là où ces principes sont en contradiction avec ceux soutenus par notre Organisation.

Il faudra certainement du temps pour résoudre ce problème; la femme ne pourra pas facilement dès à présent, et dans tous les pays, participer au développement agricole et alimentaire, et nous ne pouvons qu'appuyer sans réserve les étapes envisagées par l'Organisation.

Nous espérons que l'Organisation réussira à convaincre les pays à faire sienne cette politique d'intégration de la femme dans le développement agricole; et à ce sujet, nous appuyons le projet de résolution présenté par le Mexique, l'Argentine, l'Algérie et d'autres pays tel qu'il se trouve dans le document CL 94/LIM/2, surtout suite aux quelques amendements signalés par notre ami le Représentant du Mexique. Nous espérons que le Conseil adoptera par consensus ce projet de résolution et qu'il sera ensuite porté devant la Conférence.

Sra. Ana María HAVARRO (Cuba): Mi delegación suscribe el Plan de Acción presentado por la FAO en este período de sesiones del Consejo, y saluda el esfuerzo que la Secretaría ha realizado con la elaboración del mismo. Igualmente, saluda la presencia de la Sra. Spring y considera que para hacerle frente a este Plan de Acción resulta oportuno apoyar la Resolución que les ha sido entregado a ustedes con el número CL 94/2, la cual mi país compuso junto a un grupo de países. Es legítimo lo que plantea la misma, habida cuenta que esta Resolución subraya los mecanismos que deben ser ajustados al interior de la FAO para lograr una implementación del Plan ágil y coherente. Consideramos que este Plan de Acción contempla los principales temas que de una forma u otra inciden y se relacionan con el adelanto de la mujer. Este documento, además, ha sabido identificar los problemas que en la actualidad aún continúan siendo obstáculos reales para la plena integración de la mujer en el desarrollo de nuestros pueblos. A la vez muy acertadamente plantea un marco amplio de iniciativas que constituyen un interesante reto para esta prestigiosa Organización.

Aprovechamos la ocasión, para acoger con beneplácito la labor desarrollada por los expertos que se dieron cita en esta Sede el pasado mes de septiembre, que de manera activa intercambiaron ideas sobre experiencias de cambios institucionales referentes a la mujer en el proceso de desarrollo. A nuestro juicio este grupo le dejó a esta Organización importantes sugerencias para el futuro.

Hace 14 años, Sr. Presidente, la Comunidad Internacional ha estado enfrascada en elevar a un primer plano los problemas de la mitad de la población de este planeta, consideradas en el pasado como ciudadanas de segunda categoría. Han sido años de merecida justicia, para aquellas que durante milenios fueron víctimas de una sostenida discriminación.

Estos catorce años han servido para legitimar esta justa causa al tiempo que han mostrado sus orígenes y sus orientadas hacia el futuro para el adelanto de la mujer. La acción de Nairobi, que comprende entre 1986 hasta el 2000, preconiza medidas concretas para superar los obstáculos que se oponen a la consecución de las metas y objetivos del Decenio; reafirma la preocupación internacional por la situación de la mujer y aporta un nuevo marco para que la Comunidad Internacional renueve su adhesión al adelanto de la mujer, y a la eliminación de la discriminación basada en el sexo. La adopción de estas estrategias, que representó el consenso soberano de 157 naciones, nos urgió a pasar de la identificación a la acción y nos planteó el impostergable imperativo de fortalecer las acciones encaminadas a integrar a la mujer en el proceso de desarrollo.

Hace apenas dos meses, la América Latina y el Caribe tuvo la oportunidad de revisar y evaluar la marcha de estas acciones a la luz de la Cuarta Conferencia Regional de la CEPAL sobre la Integración de la Mujer en el Desarrollo en la ciudad de Guatemala. De esta importante reunión salieron muchas recomendaciones para los gobiernos así como sugerencias de cooperación desde el punto de vista regional e internacional.

Se trata entonces de aprovechar este marco para analizar exhaustivamente cómo ha sido nuestro comportamiento individual y colectivo frente a esta responsabilidad histórica que significa primero ser capaces de despojarnos de cualquier resabio discriminatorio que atente cotidianamente contra estos nobles principios; y luego, ponernos rápidamente en tensión para contribuir a sacar a la luz a la mitad de la población activa de este planeta.

Ante este Plan de Acción, a mi Delegación le anima el sincero deseo de contribuir a elevar la capacidad e influencia de esta prestigiosa Organización que tiene en sus manos la hermosa tarea de estar al lado de los campesinos y campesinas pobres y luchar junto a ellos contra el hambre y la miseria.

No por gusto, en esta misma Sesión la Organización ha sido condenada a la amputación de actividades. Eso lamentablemente le sucede a todos los que en el mundo asumen una postura firme de apoyo a los más necesitados.

Es por eso que abocamos desde esta Sesión del Consejo la urgente necesidad de fortalecer el trabajo de la Organización solicitando que se le provea de los mecanismos idóneos que necesita para un mejor funcionamiento así como ayudando a encontrar las vías oportunas para su mejor gestión.

A esto, Sr. Presidente, agregamos el apoyo que mi Delegación le da a la declaración del Director General de no continuar reduciendo el actual Programa de Labores de la FAO, y dentro de ello asegurar que el Presupuesto garantice siempre las actividades que promuevan la integración de la mujer en el desarrollo.

Estamos de acuerdo también con el distinguido Delegado de México de que este Consejo tiene que tener carácter ejecutivo y nos parece que no es tiempo de convencer a nadie ya sobre esta problemática. Hay otra proposición que parte también de la Delegación de México que nos parece muy coherente y que insta a que esta Organización debe llevar a la próxima Conferencia un trabajo desmenuzado en costos y directivas.

La Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural en 1979 reconoció incluso que el papel vital de la mujer en la vida socioeconómica, tanto en las actividades agrícolas como no agrícolas, era requisito previo para el éxito de las políticas, planes y programas de desarrollo rural; y en aquel momento, se propusieron medidas concretas para mejorar su condición que hoy siguen siendo válidas.

En este sentido, instamos a todos aquéllos que están en altos niveles de decisión a evitar, y a exigir, que este Período de 1986 a 2000 pase sin resultados concretos. El mundo de hoy se debate en una profunda crisis económica y política que lacera la dignidad de muchos y detiene el avance de los países en vía de desarrollo hacia mejores y más justos caminos. En este peregrinar, las mujeres han sido protagonistas de batallas inéditas por la vida. Estos pilares estoicos que no pueden ceder ante el cansancio, han creado las estrategias de sobrevivencia, hechos y actos que reflejan una vez más cuán comprometida debiera estar la Humanidad con esta importante mitad de la población mundial.

Finalmente, Sr. Presidente, no creo necesario informar del tratamiento que nuestro país le ha brindado a esta problemática. Durante estos 30 años de cambio social y político en Cuba, hemos obtenido modestos y profundos logros en lo concerniente a la igualdad de la mujer aunque todavía no estamos conformes.

Se prepara en estos momentos un Seminario Nacional de Evaluación de las Estrategias con el objetivo de analizar en qué grado todos los Organismos del Estado, Ministerios, etc., cumplen con lo

establecido en este importante documento que son las Estrategias de Nairobi. Añado esta información y otra que se trata de un Encuentro Nacional de Mujeres Campesinas que hubo de celebrarse en la Habana en la semana pasada del que salieron importantes y valiosas acciones de las mujeres cubanas en el desarrollo integral de nuestro país.

Horacio CARANDANG (Philippines): Rural development calls for the equitable distribution of benefits among the targetted beneficiaries. The fact that rural women constitute half of the total population necessitates that development efforts be as well focused on them. In the past, development assistance in agriculture has often failed to reach women.

In the Philippines, agricultural development is recognized as the key to betterment of farm families. It is farm family focused, community based and farm and home management oriented.

Rural women as members of the family and the community are progressively contributing to the family farm business and other rural development and agriculture related income generating projects. In the Philippine setting, women are the holders of the family purse. By role definition, they make most of the decisions in the utilization of the farm and home budget. Among their many contributions are included the following:

- a. Profitable income generating projects which are a spin-off from the farm.
- b. Selective food production for family nutrition using the bio-intensive gardening technology. This technology emphasizes the utilization of organic fertilizer, traditional seeds, and herbal plants as insect repellent.
- c. Processing and preservation of especially the perishable farm products to escape market glut during peak seasons, add peso value to the product, prolong their shelf life, and market them during traditional periods of scarcity thus tending to stabilize prices.
- d. Energy management in rural households.

The role of women in agriculture and rural development must be recognized and enhanced. Their roles in decision making at all levels and their participation for accelerated rural and agriculture development should be strengthened. All these require the strong support of FAO programmes and projects in the country.

The 24th Session of the FAO Conference in 1987 requested the Director-General to submit to this Council a Plan of Action for Integration of Women in Development.

We are now looking at this Plan of Action. The Philippine Government has carefully studied this Plan of Action, and is in general agreement with it. Under instructions from my Government, however, I have a few minor additions to propose. Number one, in the objectives related to food processing and marketing on page 9 paragraph (b), we propose that the objective of the tie-up between production and processing and marketing be included. The reason is obvious: to have economic value goods must not only be produced, they have to be processed, packed and brought to market. As the poet says: "There is no economic value in the flower that is born to grass and wastes its sweetness in the desert air". To have economic value the flowers have to be grown, packaged and brought to market.

Secondly, under the Employment and Informal Sector, the issue of the non-recognition of off-farm income-generating activities of women should be included. We believe this is an important issue.

Thirdly, on page 16 paragraph (c) FAO Actions Envisaged, we believe that the monitoring should include monitoring the ratio of women in the decision-making and management position of existing staffing patterns of agricultural agencies at all levels.

Fourthly, another action that should be included under the same item, is "To ensure that women's concerns are reflected in national policies and programmes, and in rural and agricultural development".

Fifthly, on page 19, among the objectives of training and public information, we propose the inclusion of the institutionalization of the celebration of international and national women's day or week or year.

Sixthly, also on page 19, in the FAO Actions Envisaged, under training and public information, the third action should include methods of popular communication in line with local culture, such as, theatre, puppetry, drama, folk songs etc., when modern means of communication are not available in

certain areas. I am submitting this paper and hope that, if nobody objects, this could be included in the final revision of the Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Development.

Finally, let me express my support for the resolution tabled by the delegate of Mexico. We co-sponsor these resolutions in as much as they reflect the sentiments and wishes of my Government on this issue.

Joao Augusto de MEDICIS (Brazil): Let not the briefness of my statement in any way be interpreted as disproportionate to the very high priority that my Government attaches to the scheme. We are abiding by your suggestion. My delegation considers document CL 94/13 to be well structured, objective and to cover all pertinent areas in this subject. We would like also to thank both Ms Spring and Mr Moreno for the presentation of the report. We also seek to incorporate the pertinent issues raised in Nairobi, the Nairobi prospective strategies, abiding to the guidance provided in the UN General Assembly's resolution 4/08 and 4/62 as well as complying with the recommendations of the convention for the deliberation of all kinds of discrimination against women.

As to the draft resolution which is before this Council, my delegation considers it a very timely and adequate proposal. I am pleased to convey our full support for its approval. In this respect let me also support the delegations of Mexico and Cuba with regard to the immediate implementation of the points raised by the resolution.

Ms Marasee SURAKUL (Thailand): First of all, my delegation welcomes the documents before us. My delegation strongly supports the Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Development. My delegation would like to inform the Council, through you, what we have done in our country.

As in other countries, rural women in Thailand play a typical role of housewife, mother and farmer; traditionally they also act as family treasurer and manager of the household. Realising the important role and influence of women in the well-being of their families, which are the bases of the community and co-operations, the Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operative of Thailand have launched the Women's Groups Activities with the objective to increase women's role in the development process. The project implementation involves the following activities: to motivate and educate women for better living through knowledge and understanding in nutrition, family health, family welfare and household economy, in order to improve the quality of life and the rural communities; to promote the development of income-generating projects for women, through co-operative effort, so that the economic self-reliance of women is increased; to help women to develop as effective leaders and to co-operate with agencies concerned in the implementation of the women's development programme.

My delegation would like to suggest that international, regional and sub-regional institutional co-ordination should be strengthened, particularly in relation to the exchange of information and the advancement of women and the establishment of collaborative arrangements to undertake activities with inter-related components.

The most important factor to achieve the FAO Plan of Action for Integration of Women in Development is men. If they do not co-operate, it is impossible to achieve. My delegation would like to request FAO to consider this matter.

In conclusion, my delegation strongly supports the draft resolution which shows in the document CL 94/LIM/2.

Premananda TRIPATHY (India): The meeting of experts convened by the Director-General to suggest details of strategies for integration of women in the process of agricultural and rural development has made several useful suggestions. The experts have suggested a two-pronged approach: one, the need to develop specific projects oriented exclusively towards women and, two, the promotion of integration of gender issues in all FAO activities. It is also felt that there is a need both for formulation of macro-level plans and programmes addressed to women, and for the implementation of programmes at the micro and project levels.

The Indian delegation, while broadly agreeing with the main issues spelt out in the document CL 94/13, is inclined to agree with the consensus reached by the experts (as indicated in paragraph 3 of the supplementary document) that the planning process at national level should be left to the individual countries to develop their own specific machinery for addressing women's concerns though FAO should also assist in sensitizing the governments in this sphere.

May I mention here in this connection that conscious and continued effort has been made in our country to emphasise, highlight and improve the role of women in economic development, particularly in agricultural and rural development sectors.

For over three decades by now, voluntary women's committees or Manila Samities, as they are called, have been organized with government support, initiative and financial assistance to organize women at the block and village levels to assist in community development programmes. Apart from a fully-fledged Ministry for Women and Child Welfare at national level, several State Governments in the country have established separate women's development co-operations. DWCRA, an agency for development of women and women-related economic activities, has been established at the district levels in the country.

A certain percentage of the family-oriented economic schemes under the integrated rural development programme in operation in the country has been sought to be earmarked for women-headed families. The Farmers' Training Centres in operation in the country since the fourth Five Year Plan have been organizing training camps of farm women in rural areas. The objective is that women so trained would act as disseminator of the knowledge of new technologies and farming practices to the vast mass of rural women folk. No doubt we have to go further beyond achieved levels, but this is only to mention that we share the concern of the international community that the role of women in agriculture, food processing, marketing and other related aspects of rural development will have to be properly appreciated in the context of the need for a global thrust to banish hunger, malnutrition and poverty, and increase agriculture and food production.

Coming to the specifics of this strategy, to incorporate the WID (women in development) issues at all levels within all bodies and agencies dealing with agricultural and rural development, we would suggest that a realistic approach in the matter be adopted. A steady and methodical approach, keeping in view the diverse socio-economic backgrounds that our various national societies have, may be more advisable in this sphere than anywhere else. Integration of gender issues and equity considerations in national level planning and grass-root level planning are important considerations, and only a steady rational and practical approach, bereft of bias and hurry, is likely to yield fruits over a period of time, granting the acceptance of the approach by the national governments.

At the FAO level, a similar steady but unhurried approach would also be desirable. Resources are tight for FAO, as for the national governments. In this context has to be considered the practicability of the suggestion made by the experts in paragraph 4 of the supplementary document number I, to have at national and international levels a strong central service to co-ordinate the activity for integrating gender issues in all units and ministries.

The same applies to the suggestions made on training to be given to FAO staff at all levels, as also to staff under national governments, to sensitize them on gender issues. Institution of special cells at nodal points to monitor WID and periodic evaluation, allowing sufficient time for implementation of guidelines to be issued on the matter, may considerably reduce the necessity of large-scale training programmes at national and international levels, including micro-levels of implementing agencies.

As has been rightly observed in point no. 4 of the concluding note at page 25 of the. Document CL 94/13, "Without the interest and commitment of governments, the actions envisaged and FAO's efforts to integrate women in development will be in vain". We would expect that the national governments expeditiously indicate their concurrence so that FAO may take further follow-up action in the matter. Here we agree with our colleagues from Mexico, Argentina, Algeria and others, that a plan of action in this regard will have to be drawn up. However, to ensure its smooth implementation we would urge that the first step should be to arrange the required finances for this purpose for the scheme of training of staff of FAO and also of other member countries. This is very necessary and no less important than the willing involvement of the member countries I have just referred to. While a beginning may be made with the existing budgetary resources of FAO, full-fledged implementation of the action plan must take into account efforts made and results achieved in arranging the required finances for the purpose for which all of us must sincerely try.

Once again I would mention here that the Indian delegation fully supports the suggestions regarding the integration of women in development. We would suggest that taking into account the views expressed by the members here today a suitable draft resolution should be attempted by the drafting committee for consideration and adoption here.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous avons 40 orateurs inscrits. Jusqu'à présent nous en avons écouté 8 avec intérêt. Je fais appel à votre compréhension pour que vous teniez compte de nos contraintes de temps et je vous rappelle que pour la partie nationale de l'activité de vos pays en matière

d'intégration de la femme il est possible, si vous le souhaitez, que vous fassiez insérer cette partie de votre intervention dans le Verbatim. Cela nous économiserait un peu de temps.

Namukolo MUKUTU (Zambia): May I take this opportunity to commend Mrs. Spring and Mr. Moreno for the very clear and comprehensive introduction to the document under discussion.

The Zambian delegation is extremely happy to be associated with the decision of the 24th Session of the Conference in 1987 to cause this 94th Council Session to discuss this most important subject of the drawing up of a Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Development. At the 1979 World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, WCAARD, the important role women can play in food and agricultural production was properly identified and publicly articulated by the whole world for the first time. Since 1979 many FAO conferences and council meetings have been held, each acknowledging more and more the role of women in development. The subject under discussion today, the Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Development is much broader than the area discussed and is more action-oriented. My delegation welcomes this action most wholeheartedly.

The world's population is more or less equally divided between men and women. There has been no scientific evidence at any given time to suggest that the male gender is superior to the female gender. Any system therefore which perpetuates discrimination of the human race on a gender basis must be condemned with the contempt it deserves. The world community must be committed to the immediate de jure and de facto equality of men and women. The family of nations must take concrete steps to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women, be this political, economic, social cultural or religious. I feel rather impatient that we should talk about equality between men and women by the year 2000. What is so specific about the year 2000; why it should be the time-frame? You may be kind enough to tell me about the magic for the year 2000.

I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the good work done by the FAO Secretariat in producing the Document CL 94/13 now under discussion. The document has been set in a good format, indicating the activity area, the role FAO intends to play and the role individual governments should play. We endorse both the strategic framework and the concluding note. We do, however, find the time-frame to be too cautious. We otherwise support the contents of the document and the proposed course of action by the FAO. We, however, sincerely believe that it is up to individual governments to effect the necessary measures, instruments and legislation for the integration of women in development.

While we know and appreciate the role women can play in development and the problems that will be encountered in trying to change people's attitudes, it is incumbent upon each country to introduce the necessary measures which can lead to increased integration of women in the rural and economic development.

The rate at which women can be integrated in the community development will differ from country to country. In the countries where the educational standards are more or less the same for both genders it will seem to be not too difficult to persuade people to take part in full rural development. We cannot see any pressing reason for any more delays in the immediate integration of women in the rural development. In the countries where the female gender is presently very severely segregated, especially in the field of education, more careful planning is required to allow women equal access to education and factors of production. The Document CL 94/13 under discussion seems to have avoided drawing up any plan of action on the role of religion in the integration of women in the rural development. It is my delegation's view that religion must be singled out in bold terms as one of the main forces in the perpetration of the segregation of women by men. FAO must draw up a plan of action of bringing the wishes of the FAO's 24th Conference and this Session of the Council to heads of the various religious bodies. There is a close link with politics and religion and it is my delegation's belief that dialogue at that level will bear fruit in quick progress on the subject which is so dear to our hearts.

There are other areas which need immediate action. FAO should play its role in urgently assisting a number of governments to enact laws which will enable women and widows to inherit properties left behind by their loved ones. This is one of the most important drawbacks in Africa today, inhibiting the full and committed participation of the female gender in the joint development of their estates, fearing that if their husband dies, she will have to lose all her lifetime effort in the development of their joint estate. If I were to set priorities, I would say that in Africa the inheritance problem would need to be the first problem to be tackled, once we have solved that, the rest of the development issues would follow. There is not much point in giving women access to agricultural production if all their gains can be lost in one day on the death of a spouse. This is the most discouraging phenomenon which haunts most African women today. Women must guard against talking integration, it is economic and social power they want and in this regard there are great differences from country to country and from region to region. Women as a group in the worst

countries have to exert more pressure to fight for their rights to bring about change. Certainly in Africa today women must stand up to fight for their inheritance rights and to ensure that an appropriate decision is quickly enacted.

In the light of the foregoing, I would like to conclude my intervention on this item by saying my delegation fully supports the Resolution tabled before us under CL 94/LIM/2. However, we would have wished that the Resolution had an operative paragraph on the role of religion in the integration of women in the economic mainstream.

A.K.M. Fazley RABBI (Bangladesh): The Plan of Action, as contained in the document under discussion, is yet another milestone of the FAO mandate and activities on women in development. It is a well-conceived and comprehensive action plan for the application of the Nairobi Forward Looking Strategies pertaining to the sectors of agriculture, food and rural development, which are the specific areas of responsibility of FAO. The Secretariat deserves our commendation for the preparation of such an excellent document.

The Plan of Action, we believe, is a positive step towards translating recognition into action; towards making use of the talents and potentialities that have so far been neglected or not put to full use. The task is an enormous one - there has to be a change in basic conditions; a breaking down of cultural, social and psychological barriers.

While expressing our general agreement to the Plan of Action - the strategy framework, the steps of implementation of the strategy, the action envisaged for improving the instruments of action, etc., as contained in the document - we would like to emphasize the following: (a) activities at the national level involving policy design, training and institutional support need to be assisted by FAO not only through advice in terms of material help specially for the countries who cannot afford them; (b) the findings and conclusions of the expert consultation, as contained in Document CL 94/13, Sup. 1 need to be taken into account. Those include specific recommendations as to how FAO could assist member countries in the planning process, monitoring and evaluation and training. In this connection we would like to put on record that regarding the question of priority we feel that the training should get the priority over any other activities mentioned in the Action Plan; (c) the World Food Programme recently adopted a set of principles for the advancement of women providing a framework for ensuring data agenda responsiveness throughout the WFP's project cycle. We feel there could be more consultations and cooperation between FAO and WFP in this regard.

Before concluding, we would like to express our support to the Draft Resolution in Document CL 94/LIM/2.

Mme Evelyne SENGUWAN (France): L'image traditionnelle de la femme cantonnée dans le rôle de la mère et de l'éducatrice est aujourd'hui enrichie d'un objectif de promotion économique. C'est ainsi qu'il est désormais admis que le temps de travail des femmes n'a pas été diminué, mais parfois même augmenté, notamment du fait de l'évolution économique et sociale. Pendant le même temps, la femme n'a pas profité comme elle aurait dû des technologies modernes, et son statut traditionnel dans la société s'est dégradé. L'amélioration des conditions de travail ne lui a guère profité en tant que productrice, ni dans les tâches ménagères. Enfin, le développement des cultures de rente a été défavorable à la progression du revenu propre des femmes.

Il apparaît de plus en plus que les efforts entrepris pour le développement doivent s'assurer la participation des femmes. Or, elles ne sont pas suffisamment prises en considération en tant qu'éléments acteurs du processus que les projets veulent enclencher.

Cette lacune est liée en grande partie à une mauvaise perception de la contribution complémentaire des hommes et des femmes dans les systèmes de production et dans les systèmes familiaux.

Le modèle occidental de la famille reste trop souvent transposé aux pays en voie de développement. Il est nécessaire que les femmes et les hommes bénéficient d'un accès égal au développement, en tenant compte des spécificités socio-culturelles de chacun.

Aussi c'est avec un intérêt tout particulier que ma délégation a examiné le plan d'action pour l'intégration des femmes dans le développement. Il s'agit d'un document fort bien structuré et je tiens à remercier le Secrétariat de l'ampleur du travail qui a été accompli.

Ma délégation adhère aux orientations du programme proposé; elle espère que la FAO mènera avec efficacité la réalisation de ce plan en concentrant son action dans les domaines relevant de sa compétence.

Evidemment, ces activités en faveur des femmes auront des implications dans de nombreux domaines traités par d'autres organisations et je souligne, par conséquent, l'intérêt d'une étroite collaboration avec les autres institutions multilatérales et bilatérales.

Je commenterai brièvement quatre points précis du plan d'action.

Le premier concerne les mesures envisagées pour intégrer de façon plus systématique les questions concernant les femmes dans les plans de développement élaborés dans les gouvernements; la France approuve cette orientation qu'elle considère comme prioritaire. En effet, l'amélioration de la situation économique des femmes dépend des conditions générales de l'économie, mais aussi d'une volonté bien affirmée des responsables politiques.

Ma seconde observation est relative au suivi et à l'évaluation de la mise en oeuvre du plan. Ces dispositions sont tout à fait appropriées pour s'assurer de façon périodique de l'efficacité du programme. Elles lui permettront également une flexibilité dans sa mise en oeuvre.

Je mettrai aussi l'accent sur l'intérêt d'améliorer les instruments statistiques pour recueillir des données ventilées par sexe; ces éléments permettront de mesurer plus précisément l'impact des projets sur les femmes.

En ce qui concerne les dispositions qui seront mises en place au sein de la FAO en matière de sensibilisation et de formation du personnel, la délégation française se félicite de leurs orientations; elles sont indispensables mais il faut veiller à ne pas privilégier ces actions au détriment des activités de terrain.

Avant de terminer, j'indiquerai que mon pays s'efforce, de façon encore modeste mais progressive, d'intégrer la composante "femme" dans ses projets, mais faute de pouvoir atteindre pleinement cet objectif, actuellement, il nous paraît nécessaire de développer deux types d'actions:

Premièrement, lancer des projets dont les bénéficiaires directs seront les femmes, et on peut citer à cet égard l'appui à des associations ou des groupements de femmes, notamment des groupements de production, la mise en place des moyens techniques permettant d'alléger le travail des femmes, aussi bien en tant que productrices que dans leurs tâches ménagères, le soutien et les mécanismes d'appui aux femmes créant de petites entreprises agricoles.

Inclure dans les projets de développement des projets spécifiquement destinés aux femmes: cela exigera à l'évidence qu'une évaluation soit faite afin de mettre à leur disposition les moyens de production dont elles assurent où peuvent assurer la mise en oeuvre, je veux parler des intrants et des crédits d'équipement technique, etc..

J'espère que le Conseil adoptera la Résolution figurant au document CL 94/LIM/2.

Ms Ljiljana VELASEVIC (Yugoslavia): The Yugoslav Delegation supports the Plan of Action for Integration of Women in Development, being of the opinion that the role of women in overall socio-economic development is very important and should by no means be neglected.

With regard to the Draft Resolution on the Plan of Action for Integration of Women in Agricultural and Rural Development, which is presented by the delegations of Mexico, Argentina, Algeria and others, on behalf of the Yugoslav delegation I would like to support this resolution and also suggest some small changes.

Under Item 2, in the last line, instead of the words "which can be carried out with existing resources" we suggest the words "within the limits of the available resources" so that the sentence then reads: "In this respect, it considers priority should be accorded to the following activities within the limits of the available resources."

Under Item 4, at the beginning after the words "Requests that FAO's main committees", in our opinion the following words should be inserted "whenever appropriate" so that the sentence will read "Requests that FAO's main committees whenever appropriate include on the agenda...", etc. without any further change.

Under Item 5 in the third line after the words "Development in FAO's main fields of competence" we think that the following words should be inserted "inter alia through voluntary contributions", so that the sentence reads "Asks Governments to make all possible efforts to contribute to the implementation of the Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Development in FAO's main fields of competence, inter alia through voluntary contributions, facilitating the tasks of FAO with regard to the planning and execution of the Plan of Action."

Under Item 7, instead of the words "Ninety-sixth Session" the following words should be proposed, "Ninety-eighth Session" because the 96th Session of the Council will be just before the Conference and the 97th Session just after the Conference.

Dong QINGSONG (China) (original language Chinese): Document CL 94/13, submitted by the Secretariat, is a very comprehensive one. It gives us a detailed Plan of Action to strengthen the integration of women in development. A Chinese proverb says that women are half of Heaven. This means that women have a place and play a role which is just as important as that of men in the socio-economic sector.

Today, the international community attaches growing importance to the problem of women and has already taken important steps in various fields to improve the status of women and allow them to play their role in full. However, it is undeniable that in many different circumstances there are still discriminatory factors and there are roles which affect women and their education, employment, access to inputs and income. These are all areas where women do not have equitable treatment, and therefore it is justifiable for FAO to attach very great importance to the integration of women in development. In the past, FAO has undertaken many different activities within the framework of implementing UN resolutions on women. It has also worked to increase the number of women on FAO's staff, and especially in the professional level. This has contributed positively to improving the status of women at the political, economic and social levels.

We are, therefore, of the opinion that the Plan of Action for Integration of Women in Development is realistic and can be implemented. We support this Plan of Action and admire the efforts made by FAO in this connection. Mr. Chairman, the development of a Plan of Action is only a first step in this very vast field. The implementation of the Plan still requires action on the part of all parties involved, and this is why we believe that FAO should collaborate closely with the governments of member states and international institutions concerned to mobilize and prepare all the necessary resources and adopt all the necessary measures so as to implement the Plan without any delay.

Finally, document CL 94/LIM/2 which contains a resolution is something that we fully endorse. We hope that Council will approve this Draft Resolution.

LE PRESIDENT: Vu les contraintes de temps, je signale au Conseil que la Délégation de l'Indonésie a accepté de remettre sa contribution au Secrétariat et nous lui en savons gré.

Rudolf de POURTALES (Suisse): Selon vos recommandations, je serai bref, et d'ailleurs tout ce qui a été dit jusqu'à présent, me le permet; je dis cela tout en confirmant que la Délégation Suisse considère comme très important le rôle de la femme dans le développement.

Nous appuyons ce qu'a dit la Délégation de la Finlande au nom du groupe nordique et tout particulièrement, s'agissant de l'intégration des aspects féminins dans tous les programmes et activités de la FAO.

Ma délégation est en faveur de la Résolution quant au fond mais nous pensons qu'elle est trop détaillée notamment au point 2.e): des ordres qui relèvent de la gestion sont donnés au Directeur général; nous pensons qu'il faut conserver la séparation des pouvoirs entre le Conseil et la Direction, la gestion relevant de cette dernière.

Ray ALLEN (United Kingdom): I would like to begin by thanking Anita Spring for her very comprehensive and clear introduction to this debate. We would also like to endorse the statement made by the distinguished delegate of Finland on behalf of the Nordic countries. We would also like to congratulate the FAO Secretariat on the quality of the Plan of Action, paper CL 94/13, and welcome the Summary Report paper, CL 94/13 - Sup. 1. Clearly, a lot of effort has gone into these papers.

We strongly support the need to integrate women-in-development concerns into FAO's general development concepts.

The recognition of the role of women in development needs to be integrated into all aid activities. We see this as a more effective way of helping women than through creating special funds for women's projects. With such an approach there is a danger of marginalizing the issue. We agree that training is a critical area, not only for people in recipient countries, but also for all FAO staff to increase their awareness and insight into the greater role women can potentially play, not only as beneficiaries but also agents of development. Women's role as agents is particularly important in the agricultural sector.

Although we recognize the need to strengthen women's involvement in the agricultural degree programmes (as mentioned in section 3, paragraph 2(c), of the paper CL 94/13) we would like to see their role strengthened in all agricultural programmes. This is a line we are actively pursuing under our own Technical Cooperation Programme. We are particularly pleased to note the emphasis given to the importance of sustained income generation and the role of the extension services. We have long recognized the significance of the latter in our own programme and consider it desirable that extension activities should be directed at women. We strongly support the emphasis given to education throughout the Plan.

Staff need guidelines on how to incorporate women in development concerns into projects and we welcome the initiative for guidelines for FAO staff. A comprehensive approach to women in development is needed and the Action Plan is right to emphasize this, however, this is only the beginning. It is essential to monitor the programme in implementing the Plan and we look forward to seeing progress reports at regular intervals. ESHW and ESPD clearly will play a lead role in the implementation of the strategy and we would like an assurance that the section is now adequately staffed.

Turning to the draft resolution before us in document CL 94/LIM/2, my delegation is grateful to the co-sponsors and recognizes the value of their work. The resolution encapsulates key issues and much of the discussion in this debate. With some very minor modifications, which I understand the sponsors have accepted, the draft is entirely satisfactory to my delegation. We would be interested to learn the reaction of the co-sponsors to the amendments proposed by the distinguished delegate of Yugoslavia. We prefer to retain the original text in paragraph 7 of document CL 94/LIM/2 that the Conference should receive a progress report.

Concerning the mechanics of dealing with this resolution we support the proposals we have heard, namely, that this Council should forward this resolution as a draft for final adoption by the Conference. In the absence in Council of such mechanisms as friends of the chair, or a Resolution Committee, as a general rule we consider it preferable procedure for Council (through its report) to offer Conference negotiated advice or negotiated decisions rather than adopt resolutions which have been negotiated in the Drafting Group.

Returning to the substance of this item, my delegation was concerned to hear the comments of the secretariat concerning the problems regarding new budget commitments, and the suggestion that implementation would be highly dependent on extra-budgetary funds. For over two years the central theme of discussion in FAO Governing Bodies has concerned the introduction of priorities for FAO spending. It has been about dropping and phasing out activities which have outlived their usefulness and finding space to take up new and more relevant tasks. It is fair to say in the past that FAO has not given significant attention to the role of women. This, perhaps, explains the phenomena of intellectualized isolation which was noted by the distinguished delegate of Finland.

We hope that the expert groups currently reviewing certain aspects of FAO will take cognizance of what has been said in this debate and, if they have not done so already, have discussions with the Departments dealing with women in agricultural production. It is now time to make amends for this neglect not just by words but by actions and deeds. The shape of the Regular Programme must change to meet the new challenges.

Ms Roberta VAN HAEFTEN (United States of America): The United States commends and supports the Plan of Action. It is well-conceived and far-reaching in-scope. It is also noteworthy for its clear recognition and systematic statement of the wide range of obstacles to the full integration of women in development efforts in agriculture, food and rural development, as well as for its specific actions prepared to address these problems. We also welcome the appearance of Dr. Anita Spring for the first time before Council and appreciate the perspective and additional details she has provided concerning FAO's plans.

FAO has lagged in incorporating gender considerations into its programmes. The time to move forward is long overdue. We note FAO's initiatives, according to the Plan, addressed the programme areas outlined by the 24th Conference which needed increased focus, that is, national structures for

monitoring, poverty alleviation, agrarian reforms, and rural development, national policies and strategies that focus on more equitable distribution of factors and the product of economic development. This includes legal, political and institutional measures in order to ensure land tenure, land access reform, improved technology delivery systems, grass-roots participation in development, and increased investment credit for the rural sector, favourable national and international trade environments, natural resources management, and a sustained ecological base on which rural development depends.

We agree that priorities must be set, and encourage FAO to focus on factors affecting women's productive role in agriculture. With regard to FAO as an institution, we agree that convincing the staff of the importance of factoring gender issues into FAO's activities, project planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation will be important to the overall success of FAO's work. We are glad to learn that training will begin in just a few weeks. Systematic monitoring of progress will also be important as implementation of the Plan moves ahead. The clear assignment of action responsibility for the implementation of the Plan contained in Annex 2, as well as the work of the Inter-Divisional Working Group on Women in Development in ensuring organization-wide coordination and assessing the progress of the Plan will be important mechanisms.

We urge FAO management to assure that the technical units fulfill their responsibilities. It is especially important that all FAO's units cooperate to ensure the success of this Plan. We strongly agree with the emphasis in the Plan on incorporating women in development concerns into the mainstream of FAO's work, as well as in the recognition given to women's needs for substantial income-generating activities, control and de-control of income and appropriate training activities. We are especially pleased to learn that FAO is already making allocations from its current budget to begin to undertake these initiatives. They are not something extra; they go to the heart of FAO's work. Just as gender concerns should be taken into account in all aspects of FAO's work, so should they be integrated into the analysis, documentation and debate of FAO's subsidiary bodies.

Turning to more specific comments, section 3 of the Plan addresses the civil status sphere and efforts to eliminate the legal and attitudinal bases of discrimination. This is a sphere in which FAO (as a multilateral organization) has a comparative advantage over a bilateral organization. FAO should be able to make a useful contribution in these sensitive areas. In these issues - discussion of population aspects - the Plan notes the relationship between demographic factors, women's role status and rural agricultural development. This broader conceptualization of the population issue is encouraging, particularly if it encourages strategies that target improving the economic welfare of women as a means of improving family planning. We note the plans for preparing and publishing a Guidelines Manual for project planners and designers, as well as for designing training courses on women in development issues and related implementation measures. We urge continued close cooperation and coordination between FAO and multilateral organizations, such as UNIFEM, UNDP, UNICEF and others, as well as bilaterals on mutual women in development concerns, and in particular the sharing of experience in these areas to avoid duplication of efforts. We strongly support the Plan to establish systems of collecting and analyzing data in a gender disaggregated manner as well as the special roster of women candidates for technical assistance project assignments. We have already spoken to the head of Women in Development Programme about coordinating attempts to develop rosters of women candidates and candidates with women in development expertise to provide technical assistance.

In a similar vein we encourage collaboration between women in development sections of FAO and IFAD. My delegation could also support most of the points in the draft resolution. We think that the Plan of Action merits strong support from this Council. On the other hand we are not sure of the proper procedures to be used in the Council for dealing with this resolution since, as the delegation of the UK has pointed out we have no Resolutions Committee. For this reason my delegation tends to favour the suggestion by the delegation of the United Kingdom for handling this resolution.

Noboru SAITO (Japan): My delegation recognizes that the systematic approach by UN activity to the issue on women is effective and important, and that the FAO Plan of Action for this issue has great significance in the Organization in promoting steady action, considering the significance of the System-Wide Medium Term Plan for "Women in Development".

The Action Plan prepared by the Secretariat gives the detailed arrangements of the activities required and shows the responsible sectors within the framework of SWMTEP. The Secretariat's efforts here are highly appreciated.

My country is of the view that this Action Plan could be reviewed further with the preparation of programme and budget for the next biennium as it would be an important mid-term framework for FAO activities for the next biennium and after stop. Although the basic framework for this Action

Plan seems acceptable in principle, further clarification is necessary for the following two reasons: i) coordination with present FAO programmes such as ones based on World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development; ii) the establishment of a coordinating system with other UN agencies. As the time for this Action Plan is limited FAO should prioritize its work in the areas where the Organization has experience and expertise, and should cooperate with other bodies in the area where they have more experience and more expertise than the FAO, for the efficient and smooth preparation of the Action Plan. In this way the whole UN system could work effectively.

The final point of our statement is that the proposal of the Secretariat to give periodical review in the WCARRD report is acceptable.

Thomas YANGA (Cameroun): Je voudrais tout d'abord féliciter Mme Spring de sa brillante présentation du document qui nous est soumis ainsi que M. Moreno, qui nous a apporté des éclaircissements fort utiles.

La mobilisation et la promotion des ressources humaines féminines pour le développement constituent l'une des priorités de l'action gouvernementale au Cameroun. Cette nécessité se justifie par des faits et des chiffres très significatifs.

Il a été démontré dans l'évaluation de la Décennie des Nations Unies pour la femme que le bilan au Cameroun dans ce domaine est largement positif. Mais ce bilan révèle aussi certaines insuffisances qui ont été prises en compte dans l'élaboration des stratégies futures. Les différents recensements de population font apparaître une supériorité du nombre de femmes mais cette proportion n'est plus respectée lorsque l'on considère certains domaines spécifiques d'activité. C'est ainsi, par exemple, que la scolarisation, au niveau de l'école primaire, est de près de 80% de garçons contre 67% pour les filles.

Par ailleurs, la population active totale comporte 43% de femmes et, dans l'ensemble, cette main-d'œuvre féminine est occupée principalement à la production agricole vivrière, car près de 88,8% d'entre elles vivent en zone rurale, mais aussi à la pêche artisanale et au petit élevage. Il faut noter, entre autres, que 3% seulement des femmes actives sont salariées.

Malgré un accroissement moyen annuel de 2,8% entre 1972 et 1984, la population agricole n'a pas connu de variation dans sa composition par sexe: 53% de la population de sexe féminin contre 47% de sexe masculin. C'est dire donc que le Cameroun doit essentiellement l'un de ses plus précieux acquis, soit l'autosuffisance alimentaire, à l'action persévérante des femmes, action qui devient d'ailleurs de plus en plus rémunératrice; il faut le signaler. La préoccupation de notre gouvernement ne se situe plus au niveau de l'intégration des femmes dans le développement mais à celui de l'optimalisation de la productivité de cette importante catégorie ainsi que de la récompense juste et équitable des efforts que les femmes fournissent dans le processus de développement du pays, tout en sauvegardant l'équilibre fondamental et absolument indispensable avec leurs autres fonctions sociales et familiales tout autant primordiales.

L'une des preuves manifestes et concrètes de la ferme volonté politique du gouvernement camerounais a été la création d'un ministère chargé de la condition féminine et dont les tâches principales sont la promotion et l'application de mesures destinées à faire respecter les droits de la femme camerounaise dans la société, la suppression de toute discrimination à son égard et l'accroissement des garanties d'égalité dans les domaines politique, économique, social et culturel.

La matérialisation de ces objectifs s'est traduite par l'élaboration et l'adoption de projets à réaliser dans le cadre du VIème Plan quinquenal de développement (1986-1991), d'un montant de 13 milliards de francs CFA, destinés spécifiquement à la mobilisation et la promotion accrues des ressources humaines féminines.

Il me plaît de signaler que le Parlement camerounais a déjà ratifié la Convention sur l'élimination de toutes les formes de discrimination à l'égard des femmes.

Cette énumération succincte de l'action gouvernementale en faveur des femmes au Cameroun prédispose ma délégation et le gouvernement de mon pays à prêter une oreille particulièrement attentive à toute action qu'une organisation telle que la FAO peut soumettre aux Etats Membres en vue d'intégrer les femmes dans le développement. Nous sommes en effet en faveur de l'intégration des femmes dans le développement et nous nous félicitons de la franchise du Secrétariat qui reconnaît, à travers le Plan d'action qu'il nous soumet, ses propres déficiences dans ce domaine; et nous appuyons les mesures qu'il envisage à cet effet à partir de l'année prochaine, comme il nous a été précisé tout à l'heure.

Par ailleurs, indiquer les actions à entreprendre est une chose et obtenir les ressources financières appropriées en est une autre. Nous estimons que ces ressources financières constituent un élément déterminant de la mise en oeuvre de ce plan d'action.

Au paragraphe 3 de la page 2 de la version française du document CL 94/13, il est décrit le processus qui nous apparaît réaliste et normal pour la mise en oeuvre d'un plan de cette nature pour l'intégration des femmes dans le développement et notamment au niveau des Etats Membres, compte tenu des spécificités de chacun d'eux. Il s'agit, dans un premier temps, de connaître et de comprendre la place des femmes dans le développement agricole afin d'adopter et de promouvoir des politiques permettant de stimuler la promotion de la femme avec une certaine hiérarchisation des priorités suivant les cas. Toutefois, l'accent à mettre sur l'intégration des femmes dans les programmes de développement de la FAO doit cadrer avec l'effort global de développement.

Cependant, nous devons relever, comme plusieurs autres délégations l'ont fait à propos d'autres points de notre ordre du jour, le fait que certains documents à examiner sont mis à notre disposition avec retard, ici à Rome; cela a été le cas pour le Plan d'action pour l'intégration des femmes dans le développement. Or ce Plan d'action que nous avons juste eu le temps de parcourir nous apparaît extrêmement important, notamment du fait de la contribution primordiale et déterminante qui est attendue des gouvernements.

En effet, il est mentionné - et nous l'appuyons - dans les conclusions du document CL 94/13 relatif au Plan d'action pour l'intégration des femmes dans le développement que "sans l'intérêt et l'engagement des gouvernements, les mesures envisagées et les efforts accomplis par la FAO pour intégrer les femmes dans le développement resteront vains". Aussi pensons-nous qu'il serait approprié que tous les gouvernements aient l'occasion d'examiner ce Plan et de se prononcer sur son contenu avant sa mise en oeuvre qui couvrirait la période 1990-1995 selon les indications du Secrétariat.

Quant au projet de résolution publié sous la cote CL 94/LIM/2, nous l'appuyons sous réserve de quelques retouches à y apporter, conformément à la position que nous avons exprimée sur une partie du plan d'action auquel elle se réfère.

LE PRESIDENT: Je dois signaler au Conseil que le délégué du Niger, compte tenu du temps qui nous manque, a bien voulu se contenter de faire insérer au procès verbal son intervention sur le Plan d'action pour l'intégration des femmes dans le développement. Je l'en remercie.

Omer ZEYTINOGLU (Turkey): My delegation would like to join the previous speaker in expressing its appreciation to the Secretariat for preparing such a detailed Action Plan for Integration of Women in Development. We generally agree on the major actions contained in the Plan, which we are sure will contribute to the agricultural development in developing countries by way of supporting women farmers.

Real understanding of the contribution to agricultural development of the rural women goes only a few years back. Before that, activities devoted to rural women have been comprised of family development and home economics oriented types programmes and only helped them carry out in a better way the home based work.

We believe that the implementation of the Action Plan put before us will further increase awareness about the significant role of women's productive activities, as well as their role in various social issues. In addition, support for their activities will enhance their effectiveness and eliminate social constraints facing them. It is in this context that we endorse the Action Plan and Draft Resolution related to it, submitted by Mexico and by some other delegations.

We understand that to find resources for the implementation of the Action Plan constitutes an important point. We think that FAO has already taken steps to devote adequate resources to this programme. We also look forward to seeing this Action Plan fully supported in this respect through bilateral channels.

Furthermore, we think that it is imperative that national governments give priority and attention to provide financial resources from the development budget to development actions contained in the Plan by integrating it into their own development efforts.

Real LALANDE (Canada): I would like to start my statement by what should sound by now like familiar truths, most of them having been referred to this morning. But my delegation believes strongly that these truths should now influence our action. I will try to be brief in summarising those truths.

Before doing that let me first indicate that my delegation can associate itself fully with the statement made by the representative of the Nordic countries this morning, and we can certainly associate ourselves as well with many other comments made by other delegations.

To be more specific, let me state that women are half the world's population, but we know that two-thirds of its work hours receive one-tenth of its income and own less than one-hundredth of its property. Women do a vast variety of work essential to the support of life and the development of their countries. Without their unpaid and quite often unrecognized labour the entire economic system could easily collapse. In rural areas of the developing world women grow most of the family's food and often work in their husband's cash crop fields as well. They process food for export and sell produce in the marketplace. No matter how many other calls they may have, women are also responsible for virtually all the domestic work, including child care, nursing, preparing meals and gathering fuelwood and water. More and more women must shoulder the entire burden alone. In some developing countries up to a half the households are headed by women. Poverty has forced their men to migrate in search of work. Those are the truths that I was earlier referring to.

Keeping in mind those truths, we believe strongly that the time for talking about these familiar truths and the issues that arise from these truths is long over; it is now time to act. Surely a country cannot hope to prosper if half of its resources, its women, are neglected and ignored. The Government of Canada wants to recognize this truth.

In 1984, a Women in Development Policy was adopted by Canada to help women take part in and benefit from the Canadian Development Assistance Programme. In June 1986 our Minister for External Relations and International Development tabled in Parliament a five-year plan to carry this policy into practice. In the context of the United Nations System, Canada has been concerned to ensure that women are fully integrated into the programming priorities of multilateral agencies, such as FAO. The mandate for this is clearly stated in the Nairobi Forward Looking Strategies and has been further elaborated in the System-Wide Medium Term Plan for Development. It is the Canadian view that Women in Development is an integral element of all FAO programming, including agriculture, forestry, fisheries and nutrition. We believe that this integrated approach must be actively encouraged as the dominant approach and that it must be appropriately reflected in specific programmes component in the Programme of Work and Budget.

I would also stress that the integrated approach, which we advocated, is aimed at ending dependency on extra-budgetary funding for women's programmes. The women in development issues should be achieved through the central or regular programming and budgetary process, and not as supplementary activities.

Furthermore, Canada has long advocated the need to increase the number of women employed in professional staff positions within the UN system. We strongly urge the FAO to take all steps necessary to redress the under-representation of women in professional staff positions, in particular senior positions that currently exist both at Headquarters and in the field.

At the FAO Conference in November last year, Canada was pleased to co-sponsor Resolution 3/87 presented by the Nordic countries on the integration of women in development. Today we are equally pleased to have before us FAO's response in document CL 94/13. Overall, we believe the Plan of Action to be sound and comprehensive. The key women-in-development issues are identified and specific strategies outlined. We acknowledge FAO's comment that this present Plan of Action is by necessity indicative, is not finite, and remains dynamic. Nevertheless, there are five areas that are of concern to us, which we would like to comment on at this time:

First, we believe that the Plan of Action should become more precise in identifying women-in-development components as they relate to specific work areas or units within FAO.

Second, we see the need for the Plan of Action to more clearly identify priorities and elaborate these clearly within the Programme of Work and Budget; we view this as FAO's responsibility, and in this connection we would like to indicate our satisfaction with Dr. Spring's introductory comment on this issue.

Third, we want to stress, once more, that the action components of the Plan of Action must be fully integrated into FAO's Regular Programme of Work and Budget. It would be totally unsatisfactory if it were to be relegated to the status of 'ad-hocery'.

Fourth, we would like to stress, as well, that a timetable should be established for the implementation and monitoring of the action components.

Fifth, we consider that a staff training programme is essential for both staff in the field, as well as at the Headquarters, to increase the attention paid to women in agricultural roles and development issues.

In conclusion, let me once more thank FAO for the work done so far, but let me at the same time urge them to continue that work at full speed. The consensus regarding rapid implementation of a Plan of Action that is evident at this Council, along with the continuing momentum that we have shown, are a clear indication for the Secretariat of the priority that Member States attach to the issue of women in development.

Canada is delighted to associate itself with the substance of the resolution proposed by Mexico, Argentina, Algeria, Colombia, Cuba, Spain, Nicaragua and the Philippines. We consider, however, as was said by the representative of the Nordic countries, that some further clarification could be useful and be made to this statement before its final approval by the Council. We think as well that the approval by the Council should be made by consensus. We are thus willing to participate further in the discussion to bring such clarification.

As a last point, I would also like to underline that the importance that was given up to now by the Council on the discussion of the issue of women in development should certainly be brought to the attention of the different groups of experts involved in the review of FAO as proposed earlier by the delegate of the United Kingdom. I think this issue is important enough for them to know about the extent of our discussion.

LE PRESIDENT: Je voudrais signaler que le délégué de Madagascar a accepté de faire inscrire sa communication dans le Verbatim, pour tenir compte de la contrainte de temps. Je l'en remercie.

Mlle Faouzia BOUMAÏZA (Algérie): Sur ce point de l'ordre du jour, ma délégation a écouté avec un vif intérêt la présentation du document CL 94/13 et son supplément CL 94/LIM/2 Sup. 1, faite par Mlle Spring à qui nous souhaitons succès et réussite dans sa nouvelle fonction.

Concernant le Plan d'action de la FAO pour l'intégration de la femme dans le développement élaboré sur la base de la Résolution 3/87 adoptée par notre Conférence, il nous semble, d'une manière générale, constituer un bon cadre conceptuel et qui emporte notre aval. Nous approuvons en particulier les mesures envisagées par la FAO au Chapitre IV consacré à la sphère économique. Mlle Spring nous a également annoncé cinq domaines prioritaires que ma délégation approuve car ils constituent autant d'actions que nous considérons nécessaires.

Notre enthousiasme pour ce plan d'action a toutefois été tempéré par la précision qui nous a été fournie par le Secrétariat quant au fait que l'Annexe 2, consacrée à la mise en oeuvre du Plan d'action de la FAO pour l'intégration des femmes dans le développement, ne constitue qu'un répertoire indicatif des domaines d'intervention.

Ma délégation aurait préféré pour sa part trouver dans le document CL 94/13 un Plan d'action plus concis, mais dans lequel on aurait consigné des actions envisagées à court terme sur la base de résolutions adoptées par notre 24ème Session de la Conférence, ainsi d'ailleurs que des conférences précédentes et du Conseil.

D'autre part, de nombreuses recommandations et résolutions ont déjà été consacrées à l'intégration de la femme dans le développement, notamment par les trois Conférences mondiales de Mexico, de Copenhague et de Nairobi qui ont jalonné la décennie des Nations Unies pour la femme. C'est pourquoi le moment est venu d'appliquer le contenu de ces différentes résolutions et décisions, excellentes d'ailleurs, déjà adoptées.

La délégation algérienne s'est jointe aux autres délégations pour présenter la résolution contenue dans le document CL 94/LIM/2 avec le ferme espoir que celle-ci sera approuvée par notre Conseil, principal organe exécutif de la Conférence, et constitue ainsi un outil de travail dont pourrait s'inspirer le Secrétariat dans l'élaboration d'un programme de travail pour le prochain biennium. A ce propos j'ai noté que deux délégations se posent des questions sur la procédure à suivre, et si notre Conseil peut adopter une Résolution.

Ma délégation les renvoie à l'Article 6 alinéa 2 du Règlement intérieur du Conseil qui demande au Directeur général de communiquer le plus tôt possible, après la fin de chaque session ordinaire du Conseil, à tous les Etats Membres et aux membres associés de l'Organisation des Etats-Unis, aux institutions spécialisées et aux organisations non-gouvernementales avec lesquelles l'Organisation

est en relation, un rapport contenant le texte de toutes les résolutions, recommandations, conventions, etc., adoptées ou approuvées par le Conseil. Ce qui démontre que le Conseil peut très bien adopter toutes les Résolutions qu'il juge utiles.

Voilà M. le Président, ce que nous avons à dire pour le moment sur ce point important de l'ordre du jour

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie la déléguée de l'Algérie et je prie le Conseil de noter que l'Observateur du Cap-Vert fera introduire dans le Verbatim le texte de la communication qu'il devait faire, afin de tenir compte de la contrainte de temps.

Je remercie l'Observateur du Cap-Vert et je donne la parole au délégué de l'Australie.

Archibald Duncan CAMPBELL (Australia): I can be quite short. Despite an extensive brief reflecting detailed study of the Plan by my Government in Canberra, Australia is proud of the fact that, as a nation, we have long been at the forefront of action in promoting women's issues in our own national and development assistance policies. It is interesting to observe the similarities between FAO's proposed Plan of Action and our own existing and on-going approach. My delegation is pleased to be able to give full support for the FAO Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Development, and commends FAO on its preparation. We look forward to its total introduction over time, within existing FAO resources.

We support the resolution before the Council subject to minor adjustments of a non-substantive nature on presentation and uniform language that will arise out of informal discussions mentioned by the Finnish delegation. However, on this point, and as a general principle, we wondered whether resolutions in Council are the best way to proceed with business. We recognize that resolutions are not common coming up through the Council, and we expect this issue will be addressed by the group of experts undertaking the review of FAO. Without a resolution committee, as exists at the Conference sessions, are resolutions, generally speaking, the most effective way for the Council to proceed. Notwithstanding the findings of the review teams, my delegation can fully support the particular resolution as it stands.

At the present moment, a comprehensive review of FAO's philosophy, purpose, role, field activities and management structure is underway. Therefore, faced with unique opportunity to ensure women's issues are fully integrated into FAO's mainstream activities, we believe that this opportunity should not be lost. We therefore urge the experts group to hold active discussions with the Women in Agricultural Production Service and other relevant units of FAO, to ensure that their recommendations are fully consistent with the Action Plan and with the overall objectives of an effective women in development strategy.

Mme Anna Teresa FRITELLI ANNIBALDI (Italie): Dans le cadre des stratégies et orientations à l'échelle nationale et internationale, à la suite de la Conférence de Nairobi de 1985, le Plan d'action de la FAO pour l'intégration des femmes dans le développement contenu dans ce document constitue un moment de grande envergure, à notre avis, tant sur le plan politique que sur le plan social et humain. Nous sommes heureux de témoigner notre vif intérêt et notre engagement à cet égard.

Un plan d'action de nature générale qui embrasse un éventail complet des domaines d'intervention et qui puisse fournir d'une façon organique des principes d'orientation autant à l'Organisation qu'aux Etats Membres, semble positif et fructueux. Nous remercions donc la FAO pour le travail complet et excellent qu'elle a accompli.

Le Gouvernement italien a institué en juin 1984 une Commission nationale ayant pour but d'approfondir et d'aborder dans tous les domaines les problèmes liés au rôle des femmes.

En mars 1986 la Commission nationale a présenté, après une longue et soigneuse enquête, le Plan d'action national qui couvre les secteurs et les problèmes estimés prioritaires afin d'identifier et d'effectuer des interventions ciblées. Les secteurs de l'information et de la formation de la politique, des réformes législatives, de la santé, des nouvelles technologies, et des relations internationales ont été indiqués.

Une attention particulière a été consacrée à l'instruction, veillant à ce que toute l'action éducative soit inspirée à une nouvelle vision plus correcte des rôles et d'une coopération paritaire dans la

Conformément à ces principes d'intention et à un engagement opérationnel sur le plan national, à l'échelle internationale la nouvelle loi pour la coopération de l'Italie avec les pays en voie de développement souligne expressément que, dans ses interventions, la coopération italienne doit aussi envisager l'amélioration de la condition féminine et de l'enfance, ainsi que le soutien à la promotion de la femme. La spécificité de ces objectifs est un élément politique important de la nouvelle loi de coopération; il est en effet reconnu explicitement que la promotion de la condition de la femme n'est qu'un objectif secondaire ou accessoire de l'action de progrès social, mais un élément décisif de toute politique correcte et durable de coopération au développement.

En application de ces lignes directrices établies par le législateur en février 1988, la Direction générale pour la Coopération et le Développement a mis au point des "lignes d'action pour la promotion du rôle de la femme dans les pays en voie de développement". Ces lignes d'action que nous avons le plaisir de retrouver dans le Plan d'action de la FAO, doivent être considérées comme un plan d'idées et d'orientation des secteurs d'intervention compte tenu des priorités géographiques et sectorielles de la coopération italienne.

Notre philosophie en ce domaine est de les vérifier, de les adapter et de les harmoniser avec les particularités et les exigences des différents pays.

Ce n'est que dans ses réalités spécifiques que l'on peut considérer concrètement l'action à suivre. C'est vis-à-vis de ces réalités que nous devons mesurer nos efforts; dans toutes nos activités de coopération, en effet, notre ligne directrice doit être fondée sur des critères de réflexion, d'évaluation permanente, d'adaptation flexible aux exigences et aux enseignements de l'expérience, pour obtenir les résultats que nous souhaitons en commun accord avec les pays receveurs.

Il faut, d'une part, collaborer avec les pays destinataires pour identifier les besoins et les domaines prioritaires d'intervention, d'autre part, et conformément aux priorités de la politique de coopération de l'Italie, mener notre action en direction des couches sociales les plus faibles, en ce qui concerne la réalisation des projets sanitaires, agricoles et de formation.

Pour ce qui concerne la formation, elle devra partir des premiers pas de l'éducation pour développer une action de pénétration, de compréhension et d'ouverture sociale générale des esprits et des consciences à l'égard du problème féminin.

C'est donc une ligne d'intervention de vaste envergure mais aussi des actions concrètes liées à la particularité de la condition féminine vue sous un double aspect:

l'élément féminin doit être inclus dans les programmes plus vastes, destinés à la population en général sans exclure des initiatives spécifiques si elles s'avèrent nécessaires;

d'autre part, il faut valoriser la femme auprès des membres mêmes de la cellule familiale et des structures sociales, dans le but de leur promotion et de leur insertion active dans la politique de développement des rôles et des tâches attribués aux femmes par "tradition culturelle".

Dans le cadre de la coopération Italie-FAO, nous nous sommes déjà efforcés d'agir de façon à ce que l'intégration des femmes soit considérée comme un élément important des projets. Nous voulons continuer à travailler dans ce sens afin de renforcer la présence des femmes tant dans la formulation et l'exécution des programmes, que dans l'évaluation des résultats, en attachant une attention toute particulière à l'analyse de l'impact que les activités réalisées ont eu sur la population féminine.

Le but que nous avons devant nous est grand; une fois encore la communauté internationale est appelée à rassembler toutes les énergies possibles et les instruments disponibles pour sa réalisation. Le Plan d'action de la FAO est une étape importante en vue de l'organisation globale et rationnelle de cette mosaïque d'interventions intégrées nécessaires pour l'aménagement et la survie de la femme, et à travers elle de la société dans son ensemble.

Nous partageons cet effort, et souscrivons aux orientations proposées; et les instruments pour sa réalisation concrète recevront toute notre disponibilité et notre participation.

Nous tenons par ailleurs à souligner que ces objectifs ont avant tout besoin d'une structure institutionnelle appropriée et dans les organisations internationales et dans les différents pays, et qu'il faut une préparation et une capacité de décision et d'application.

L'Italie est favorable à la formation de ces personnels et ne manquera pas de participer à cette action conjointe de formation et de structure. Enfin, l'Italie estime que pour que cet effort international de rationalisation et d'engagement concret continuent avec le suivi et la détermination nécessaires, il faut des réflexions périodiques portant sur l'action globale et ses résultats sur les difficultés et les propositions pour l'avenir.

Un dernier mot, Monsieur le Président, pour répéter une vérité qu'il faut avoir toujours présente à l'esprit: le premier pas de l'intégration des femmes dans le développement est culturel; reconnaissons le rôle central et puissant - trop souvent sans puissance - qu'elles ont toujours joué pour le développement.

Hartmut STALB (Germany, Federal Republic of): The Report on the Role of Women in Agricultural Development submitted to the 24th Session of the FAO Conference already showed clearly that much still needs to be done to improve the integration of women in the agricultural development process. What matters most is to give them a position commensurate with the role they play in production and to ensure a greater participation in the economic and political decision-making processes. The Conference responded to the FAO Report with Resolution 3/87 and requested the Director-General to submit a Plan of Action. This Plan of Action is now available in Document CL 94/13. The Federal Government took note of the Document with great interest. It welcomes the activities proposed which fit into the current system-wide activities, above all the Nairobi Forward Looking Strategies and the preliminary System-Wide Medium-Term Plan for Women in Development. The main aim of efforts must be and continues to be to improve the social and economic situation of women in the rural area. The enhancement of rural women, however, also means that more should be done on the national level to improve the access of women as important agricultural producers to inputs, including credit. Women should have a greater part than so far also in the decision-making process of FAO bodies.

My delegation hopes that it will be possible to implement the Plan of Action as submitted. We will support it to the fullest extent as well as we support the content of the Draft Resolution submitted by Mexico and some other countries.

Mme Ivone DIAS DA GRAÇA (Gabon): Ma délégation tient à féliciter Madame Spring de sa présentation du Plan d'action pour l'intégration des femmes dans le développement, dont les objectifs et propositions de mesures sont très intéressants; sa mise en oeuvre permettra une reconnaissance plus juste du rôle de la femme, rôle très important dans toutes les activités liées à l'alimentation et à l'agriculture notamment en Afrique.

Mon Gouvernement est particulièrement attaché à la promotion du rôle de la femme à tous les niveaux, et ceci vise à leur donner accès aussi bien à la formation qu'aux postes les plus élevés de décision et d'exécution de la vie sociale et politique.

A cet égard, tout en reconnaissant l'intérêt des projets spécifiques aux femmes, nous apportons notre appui tout particulier à une intégration progressive des femmes à tous les niveaux, dans tous les domaines de la compétence de la FAO et dans les projets de développement.

Nous appuyons fermement le Plan d'action et le projet de Résolution présentés au Conseil et nous espérons que des mesures concrètes seront mises en oeuvre le plus rapidement possible.

Sur ce point, nous voudrions faire nôtres les interventions des Délégations de la Finlande et du Mexique.

Yousef Ali Mahmoud HAMDY (Egypt): We did listen with utmost interest to Mrs. Spring's presentation of this Document as well as the additional comments made by Mr. Moreno on Document CL 94/13 and CL 94/13 Sup. 1. We would like to take this opportunity to address our congratulations to the Secretariat who have prepared these excellent documents and also thank the Secretariat for the efforts undertaken to integrate women in development.

We would also like in this way to refer to the efforts made by my Government to integrate women in development endeavours and to recognize the preponderant role played by women on all levels with the political, economic or otherwise, especially including agriculture. In this regard, we would like to recall the participation of women in the agricultural development plans and rural development plans and we would also at this point like to address our sincere thanks for the assistance received in the execution of the project relative to the role of women in food production. On this basis, we

would like to voice our full support to the strategy of the Plan of Action as drawn up by FAO and we trust and hope that this Plan of Action and those strategies will achieve a concrete form in order to achieve the efforts which FAO has deployed from the very outset and in order to ensure the constant follow-up of those activities.

Our thanks are also addressed to all those who do support the Draft Resolution relevant to the Plan of Action For Integration of Women and we would invite the Council to adopt that Draft Resolution.

LE PRÉSIDENT: Le Représentant de la République Dominicaine a décidé de donner au Secrétariat son intervention pour qu'elle soit incluse dans le Verbatim. Je l'en remercie et passe la parole à l'Honorable Délégué du Kenya.

Benson MBOGOH (Kenya): My delegation wishes to associate itself with the others in congratulating the Secretariat for producing a very balanced and detailed document. In our view, it addresses the major concerns of women's participation in development, both in the developing as well as the developed countries.

The increasing concern to see women completely integrated in the development process stems not only from the considerations of social justice, it is also plain economic sense. There is no denying the fact that women, particularly in the developing countries, have always played a major role in agriculture. However, it must be recognized that many of the issues and concerns identified for action arise from factors which are deeply entrenched in the traditional cultures of the respective societies. Many are subject to different interpretations and application, not only from one society to another, even in the same country, but often between communities in the same society. As such the overall intervention in the implementation must be given a lot of thought and aim at a multi-approach in the Action Plan.

Priority would seem to lie initially in critically assessing in each member country the extent of the problem, the specific underlying causes, any ongoing positive changes, and on the basis of the facts gathered consider appropriate strategies and specific actions targeted to priority areas in individual countries.

The agenda of action proposed is detailed and for good reasons. However, the crucial areas in which action is likely to achieve profound results in many developing countries are in the areas of education and training of young women, the promotion of women in employment, and income-earning activities both in agriculture and non-agriculture sectors. Thirdly, there should be appropriate support for women's groups and organizations in their efforts to advance women's development interests.

The important issue of women in agriculture is more complex. Despite women playing a major role in agriculture, many traditional cultures, especially in developing countries, still tend to limit direct control and ownership of land by women. Reforms of such practices are complex and should be promoted by concerted national efforts. Therefore, areas which can be simultaneously explored include the creation of special programmes which promote and facilitate increased credit and financial flows to women's activities and the encouragement of credit institutions for women's lending such as the Women's Trust Bank, from which they can borrow without the requirement of collateral.

It is important to recognize and encourage the significant changes that have been and continue to be made in promoting the integration of women in development in various countries. Indeed, since the Nairobi Forward Looking Strategies of 1985, the world's community has focused more on these concerns. Kenya for her part has made significant gains in integrating women in the mainstream of development, both in government and in other sectors. Action must continue to be pressed selectively and appropriately but must aim at facilitating change from within in which FAO is seen to play an active facilitating or catalytic role.

Finally, we must support fully the idea of FAO giving a lead in integrating women in FAO mainstream activities. However, we wish to make a further appeal that adequate representation be made for the Third World member countries as well.

Bashir EL MABROUK SAID (Libya) (Original language Arabic): At the outset, I would like to extend my thanks to Ms. Spring for her excellent and clear presentation of this document. We would like to congratulate the Secretariat on this excellent document which is a constructive step taken by the Organization in order to promote the role of women in development which is recognized by all whether in the west or in the east.

We would like to refer to an important point, namely the duties and rights of women. Prejudice against women is prejudicial to development, and this has been to the detriment of humanity in general. We would like to highlight the fact that men and women are equal and they enjoy equal rights. However, we would like to say that the duties and rights of men and women differ. We have to recognize in this meeting that the duties and rights shouldered by women should be different from those of men. However, we have given women duties that are not in line with their nature. In certain regions of the world women shoulder duties over and above their nature. They are forced to shoulder these duties and this is a falsification of women's rights. Women were forced to work here and there because unless they did this they might not find another chance in a different place. Therefore, women undertake work in order to work freely and with dignity.

In spite of the role shouldered by women in the process of development, we see that there is injustice, great injustice, in not according women their rights. The action taken by FAO is a step in the right direction. What is required is a new orientation that would replace the current traditions, and it is a call for women all over the world to be free from the shackles of man. The FAO has a leading role in this respect.

The Draft Resolution sponsored by some of our colleagues - Mexico, Argentina, Algeria, Colombia, Cuba, Spain and Nicaragua - has our support. We feel that it is acceptable in line with the amendments submitted by Mexico.

Sra. Mónica DEREGIBUS (Argentina): Quisiera pedir, Sr. Presidente, si fuera posible, que nos diera la palabra después del receso del mediodía, de manera que los países copatrocinadores de este proyecto de Resolución pudiéramos intercambiar ideas y ponerlas en conocimiento del resto de los miembros del Consejo.

Sra. María Isabel CASELLAS (Venezuela): La Delegación de Venezuela expresa su apoyo al Proyecto de Resolución sobre el Plan de Acción para la Integración de la Mujer en el Desarrollo Agrícola y Rural presentado en este Consejo.

Quiero asimismo dar las gracias al Sr. Director General de la FAO por haber convocado la Consulta de Expertos sobre las experiencias de los cambios institucionales concernientes a la mujer en el desarrollo, la cual fue solicitada por nuestra Delegación ante la Conferencia en la Resolución 4/87.

Angel BARBERO MARTÍN (España): Procuraré ser muy breve pero no queremos dejar sin expresar nuestro deseo de que el Proyecto de Resolución contenido en el documento CL 94/LIM/2, que España ha copatrocinado junto con otros países, sea objeto de resolución por parte de este Consejo, tal como ha sido expuesto por México.

Esto porque pensamos que a pesar de lo que hasta la fecha se ha realizado, estamos en el momento adecuado de asegurar la implantación de acciones concretas ya que las fechas hasta 1995 se van sucediendo con rapidez, y cualquier retraso podría poner en peligro la total realización del Plan de Acción.

Otra cosa es que las implicaciones presupuestarias deban ser tratadas en su momento en los Comités adecuados, pero nos parece que a pesar de las actuales dificultades financieras, debemos enfocar con optimismo el futuro y sobre todo no retrasar por estas razones un movimiento como es éste de la plena incorporación de la mujer, tanto dentro de las estructuras de los organismos políticos y gestores mundiales como en el propio tejido social en el país, y en particular en el medio rural de todos los países, porque estimamos que esto es tan importante que gran parte del éxito de las futuras actuaciones de FAO depende del grado de incorporación de la mujer a ellas.

A veces, como en el caso de la meta fijada para la participación en puestos profesionales previstos en las Naciones Unidas, es necesario fijar un determinado porcentaje que en una situación total de igualdad sería innecesario, pues como dijo ya México, no se pretende obtener privilegios sino estar disponible para servir en estos puestos en las mismas condiciones, sin ninguna distinción de sexo.

Pero entendemos que como las estadísticas actualmente desgraciadamente no presentan porcentajes muy alentadores, es necesario fijar estos puntos de referencia, y en el medio rural opinamos que es la capacitación el elemento clave del Plan. Y por ello, apoyamos especialmente las líneas que nos conduzcan a mejorar este aspecto.

Por lo demás, termino aquí mi declaración y como la Delegada también de Argentina ha expuesto, nos gustaría continuar esta tarde con el debate después de haber intercambiado ideas con los demás países copatrocinadores del documento.

Washington ZUÑIGA TRELLES (Peru): Voy a ser muy breve. Mi delegación piensa que los documentos presentados al Consejo son completos y contienen los más importantes aspectos sobre el tema.

En mi país y -creo no equivocarme- en toda Latinoamérica, las mujeres en general tienen iguales derechos que los hombres ante la Ley. Participan activamente como Ministros, Jueces, Parlamentarias, Alcaldesas, Rectores de Universidad y Altos Cargos en la Administración. En el área rural, la mujer goza de derechos tradicionales desde el ayllu incaico, institución que ha dado origen a la comunidad campesina actual. La mujer tiene derecho al voto dentro de estas comunidades; es además la costumbre que el campesino, por lo general, no toma decisiones si no consulta previamente con su mujer.

La reforma agraria peruana le ha concedido amplio derecho al acceso a la propiedad de la tierra, a los insumos, al crédito a la extensión agrícola y a los factores de la producción y comercialización. Las campesinas peruanas participan activamente en la dirección y gestión de cooperativas y en las organizaciones populares. Si bien estos problemas de los derechos jurídicos habrían sido resueltos, mi Delegación considera que uno de los problemas esenciales si no el principal para liberalizar a la mujer de esta pesada carga que tiene, es la existencia del minifundio, o sea la estructura de la propiedad.

Efectivamente, uno de los problemas principales que tiene la mujer en la familia campesina es el acceso a los alimentos. La tierra, como sabemos, no es suficiente en un minifundio para sostener la familia campesina; y por consiguiente, el recurso principal que es el alimento no es accesible. Tampoco por esta razón tienen acceso a la salud, como consecuencia de una deficiente alimentación. Hay una fuerte mortandad infantil. Tampoco hay acceso a la educación porque debido al minifundio, el campesino tiene que abandonar el campo en busca de ingresos suplementarios y como consecuencia se produce una deserción escolar, principalmente en las alumnas que ayudan a la madre en el cuidado del ganado.

Y finalmente, algo que debía decirse y no sé por qué no se insiste en los documentos, es la necesidad de la planificación familiar. El campesino quiere tener acceso a los conocimientos de una planificación familiar. Este es uno de los graves problemas de los pueblos en desarrollo: el aumento tremendo de la población, que es necesario planificar.

Estoy de acuerdo con que el Grupo que ha presentado el Proyecto de Resolución para que se tomen las decisiones correspondientes en lo solicitado. Nuestra delegación apoya el proyecto.

RACHADI ISKANDAR (INDONESIA): My delegation wishes to express its appreciation for the valuable documentation and presentation of the subject under discussion, that is "FAO Plan of Action for Integration of Women in Development".

I am fully confident that the plan of action constitutes a useful guide, not only for the implementation of the Plan within the framework of FAO but also for the policy formulation and action to be undertaken at the national level.

I can assure you that the guidance has been in line with the policy of the Government of Indonesia in implementing its development programmes. The promotion of the role of women and participation of Women in development have been undertaken since the early stages of Indonesian development, such as:

- activities in family welfare programmes
- nutrition improvement programmes
- home economics
- promotion of income-generating activities for women in agriculture and fisheries
- and many more

In order to accelerate the programme for fostering the role of Women in Development, Indonesia has established a ministerial-level institution which is directly responsible to the President for the coordination and implementation of the programmes related to Women in Development.

Without neglecting the other spheres of the guidance as clearly discussed in the document, my delegation is for the view that training programmes for rural women through educational learning-by-doing process on income-generating activities are of prime importance. Due emphasis in this regards is, therefore, necessary in the implementation of the plan. This, is discussed in paragraph 7 of document CC 94/3 and paragraph 31 of its supplement.

In conclusion Mr. Chairman my delegation endorses the document related to FAO Plan of Action for Integration of Women in Development as well as the draft resolution as tabled in document CL 94/LIM/2. 1/

Achille RAHARISON (Madagascar): Tout d'abord la Délégation malgache tient à féliciter le Secrétariat pour la qualité des documents soumis à l'examen du Conseil et à l'exposé très succinct mais clair fait par Madame Spring.

Bien entendu notre Délégation ne peut qu'apporter un appui chaleureux au plan d'action pour l'intégration de la femme dans le développement, plan qui ne fait que renforcer la politique entreprise par le Gouvernement malgache depuis plus de dix ans en faisant de la femme un des piliers pour le développement du pays. D'ailleurs, actuellement cette intégration est chose réelle à Madagascar car de hauts postes de responsabilité sont tenus par des femmes (ministre, directeur général, directeur, chef de service, juge, etc.). Plus particulièrement en ce qui concerne le département de l'agriculture, sur quatre postes de chefs de service au sein de la Direction chargée de l'agriculture, deux sont tenus par des femmes.

Pour ce qui est des femmes "agricultrices", dans le cadre du Programme national de vulgarisation agricole que nous sommes en train d'élaborer, une place importante leur est accordée, car nous sommes conscients que le développement rural doit passer par les femmes non seulement pour ce qui est de son exécution mais aussi et surtout pour les prises de décision.

Pour terminer, nous espérons que dans le cadre de l'exécution de notre Programme national de vulgarisation agricole, la FAO au même titre que les autres bailleurs de fonds nous apportera son soutien pour que l'intégration de la femme dans le développement soit vraiment une réalité.

La Délégation malgache apporte son soutien au projet de résolution présenté dans le document CL 94/LIM/2 par les Délégations du Mexique, de l'Argentine, de l'Algérie, de la Colombie, de l'Espagne et du Nicaragua. 2/

Sidibe OUSSEINI (Niger): Je vous remercie et permettez-moi au nom de Monsieur le Secrétaire d'Etat, de vous faire part de l'importance que nous attachons au document CL 94/13, bien élaboré et structuré. Que le Secrétariat soit remercié.

Monsieur le Président, la femme et sa condition sociale et économique en milieu rural sont devenues ces dernières années un thème prioritaire qui intéresse le monde entier. Et je voudrais sur la base de faits quotidiens réels attirer votre attention sur la sérénité et le discernement qui doivent guider nos débats. D'abord le contexte socio-culturel. Il est plus que fondamental et la mentalité et son changement imposés par les exigences du développement sont une question de génération et nous devons nous y engager dès à présent. Mais une chose est sûre et je ne parlerai que de ce que j'ai vécu. Au Niger, la femme nous a confirmé non seulement son rôle de moteur du développement, mais et surtout nous a fait preuve de sa solidarité et de son souci de sauvegarder la cohésion de la cellule de base, à savoir la famille et le village. Cette responsabilisation soutenue par une grande prise de conscience est valorisée par un projet de développement rural intégré intitulé Projet Keita, financé par le Gouvernement italien et exécuté par les structures de base avec l'appui des services techniques nationaux et de la FAO. Dans ce projet qui est exécuté depuis 4 ans, les femmes rurales mobilisées au sein des conseils de développement réfléchissent au devenir de leur terroir, creusent les tranchées et les demi-lunes, construisent les banquettes anti-érosives, plantent les arbres et intensifient la pratique des cultures sur les terres récupérées et cela en harmonie avec leurs fils, leurs frères et leurs maris.

1/ Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

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

Mais dans l'ensemble des zones couvertes par le projet qui concernent plusieurs centaines de villages, les femmes constituent plus de 60% de l'effectif des participants au programme. Ce programme a fait et continuera de faire l'objet de nombreuses visites des pays voisins et des partenaires de la coopération.

Monsieur le Président, sur un tout autre plan, il me plaît d'évoquer le rôle combien primordial de la femme dans la conduite des cultures de contre-saison, qui en année de sécheresse contribue à combler notre déficit vivrier pour plus de 30%. Comme vous le savez, la campagne des cultures de contre-saison constitue la seconde campagne agricole de l'année et les femmes sont responsables à plus de 50% des programmes de cultures de contre-saison.

Monsieur le Président, je voulais vous faire palper à travers cette digression, qu'avec un peu de sagesse, tout est possible pour un développement intégré et harmonieux de tous les membres du terroir.

Notre souci a toujours été de considérer la femme comme élément de la cellule sociale sur le même pied d'égalité pour tout ce qui est des actions de développement, surtout qu'il est établi qu'elle est un actif agricole à 100%. Cependant, tout ce qui reste à faire sera réalisé en respectant l'harmonie des structures de base. Il nous faut tous reconnaître et réhabiliter le rôle de la femme dans le processus de développement socio-économique. C'est un combat noble à mener sur le terrain, sans passion et sans idéalisme, mais dans la tolérance et à travers des actions concrètes.

C'est pour cela que nous faisons une condition, celle de la nécessité d'intégrer systématiquement dans tout programme de développement les composantes femme et jeunesse. Mais comme vous pouvez le pressentir, il s'agit d'abord d'une solution nationale. Donc tout appel relatif à l'intégration de la femme dans les activités de développement doit être lancé aux pays membres, afin qu'ils définissent mieux leurs politiques et stratégies de développement dans le sens du respect des intérêts de toutes les composantes sociales et à la FAO pour qu'elle continue comme à l'accoutumée à oeuvrer dans ce sens à leurs côtés, dans la mesure des moyens que nous voudrions bien mettre à sa disposition.

C'est pourquoi nous ne pouvons pas ne pas appuyer le projet de résolution présenté et espérons que le Conseil au cours de sa présente session l'adoptera. 1/

Mme Maria de Lourdes DUARTE (Observateur du Cap-Vert): Le Cap-Vert, en sa qualité d'observateur, aimerait faire part de son accord en ce qui concerne le Plan d'action pour l'intégration des femmes dans le développement et aussi apporter son appui au projet de résolution, présenté par le Mexique et d'autres délégations, tel qu'il figure au document CL 94/LIM/2.

Ms Hannelore BENJAMIN (Observer for Dominica): Our delegation is pleased to endorse the broad strategy and objectives content of the document CL 94/13. Because the overall objectives and work plan may be viewed as rather ambitious it will be necessary to establish clear priorities within the overall plan. Main focus should be on those activities that promise quick prospects for achieving concrete results. Lastly our delegation supports fully the resolution for approval by the Council. 2/

Meeting rose at 13 hours.

La séance est levée à 13 heures.

Se levanta la sesión a las 13 horas.

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

2/ Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request

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CL

CL 94/PV/10

Ninety-fourth Session

Quatre-vingt-quatorzième session

94º período de sesiones

TENTH PLENARY MEETING
DIXIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
DECIMA SESION PLENARIA

(21 November 1988)

The Tenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.30 hours,

Lassaad Ben Osman, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La dixième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 30,

sous la présidence de Lassaad Ben Osman, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la décima sesión plenaria a las 14.30 horas,

bajo la presidencia de Lassaad Ben Osman, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

III. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP (continued)

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

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

8. Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Development (continued)

8. Plan d'action pour l'intégration des femmes dans le développement (suite)

8. Plan de acción para la Integración de la Mujer en el Desarrollo (continuación)

LE PRESIDENT: Je me vois dans l'obligation de vous dire qu'en dehors de la question que nous avons commencée ce matin nous avons encore trois points à l'ordre du jour d'aujourd'hui: les points 10, 11 et 9. Nous devons les finir aujourd'hui pour pouvoir commencer demain matin l'analyse du rapport du Comité du programme et du Comité financier sur l'état d'avancement des réformes de la FAO. Nous suggérons donc que nous restions le temps qu'il faut aujourd'hui, quelle que soit l'heure, même si nous dépassons 8 heures, pour finir l'examen de ces trois points.

Sra. Laurie CORDUA CRUZ (Nicaragua): En primer lugar quisiéramos agradecer a la Sra. Spring su clara y precisa presentación del tema. Con gran satisfacción, nuestra Delegación acoge la discusión de este tema, que analiza muy acertadamente la problemática de la integración de la mujer en el desarrollo y propone acciones concretas en las diferentes esferas para contribuir a superar y a eliminar los obstáculos que limitan la plena integración de la mujer con igualdad de derechos y oportunidades.

No nos extenderemos en argumentos sobre la importancia del tema y la necesidad de acciones rápidas; pues, además de ser evidente, desde 1975 existen diversas resoluciones de la Conferencia y del Consejo que le dan fuerza, y otras honorables Delegaciones que me han precedido lo han hecho ya.

Señor Presidente, afortunadamente, el Gobierno de Nicaragua valora en su justa medida la participación de la mujer en todos los ámbitos de la vida social, política y económica del país. En consecuencia, ha tomado posiciones de principio muy claras sobre la integración de la mujer, eliminando prácticamente las barreras jurídicas que se lo impedían, aunque, como bien ha señalado el documento, la igualdad jurídica no garantiza por sí sola la igualdad "de facto" de la mujer. Todavía subsisten condiciones negativas, alimentadas por la crisis económica causada particularmente por la guerra de agresión y el bloqueo que sufrimos desde hace varios años, y agravada por el peso de la deuda y medidas de ajuste comunes a los países en desarrollo; crisis económica ésta que nos ha obligado a disminuir programas de desarrollo rural y programas específicos para facilitar la integración de la mujer a las tareas productivas; por ejemplo, de guarderías infantiles rurales, para dejar a sus hijos mientras trabajan.

Estas condiciones negativas que mencionábamos están alimentadas también por prácticas laborales y sociales que privilegian al hombre, siendo éstas difíciles de erradicar, porque implican cambios de actitudes que sólo se pueden lograr a través de un proceso de educación y toma de conciencia. La situación de agresión que vive Nicaragua y que ha significado la movilización de hombres jóvenes y adultos a la defensa, está feminizando la fuerza de trabajo agrícola. Es cada vez mayor el porcentaje tanto en obreras agrícolas como en las que trabajan sus propias parcelas. Esta feminización de la fuerza del trabajo en el campo, fundamentalmente por limitaciones económicas, no ha estado acompañada en la medida deseable de soluciones a las necesidades especiales de la mujer en relación a su educación y capacitación, utilización de tecnologías y otros medios que le permitan aliviar su pesada carga y aumentar su productividad.

Como resultado, se está dando un grave deterioro de las obreras agrícolas, lo cual significa el deterioro de una gran parte de la fuerza de trabajo agrícola, sobre todo de la que asegura la reproducción de la nueva generación de trabajadores. Por esto consideramos indispensable, de un lado, la realización de proyectos específicos para la mujer y, de otro, la incorporación de componentes relacionados con la mujer en los diferentes proyectos a realizarse; es decir, como parte del Programa Regular de la FAO, tal como fue expresado por las Delegaciones de Finlandia y Canadá.

En Nicaragua hay conciencia de la urgencia y necesidad de avanzar en la solución de esta problemática, y así lo reflejan diferentes estudios realizados, entre otros, por el Instituto Nicaragüense de la Mujer, y los cuales coinciden con el análisis contenido en el Plan de Acción.

Señor Presidente, mi Delegación considera que el Plan de Acción constituye un valioso instrumento que refuerza lo que se ha hecho y da impulso a lo que está por hacer. Lo apoyamos plenamente en

sus partes. En coherencia, Nicaragua ha co-patrocinado la Resolución sobre el tema contenida en el documento CL 94/LIM/2, la cual se basa íntegramente en el Plan de Acción. Consideramos que esta Resolución con

Para concluir, quisiéramos expresar nuestro apoyo a lo manifestado por las Delegaciones de México y Cuba en cuanto a la inmediata adopción de la Resolución y a la necesidad de incluir en el Programa de Labores y Presupuestos del próximo bienio los costos de implementación del Plan de Acción para someterlos a la Conferencia.

Masuhla LETEKA (Lesotho): First, we wish to commend the Secretariat for the informative document before us and to congratulate Dr. Spring for her excellent presentation, and Mr. Moreno for his remarks concerning the document.

The importance of this agenda item cannot be over-emphasized. At the same time we feel that we should reflect briefly on the historical developments in South Africa, especially in Lesotho and our neighbouring countries. As far back as the nineteenth century Lesotho lost about 65 percent of its able-bodied male population. Due to the economic conditions since then we have, of necessity, had to migrate to neighbouring South African goldmines, industries and other sectors, in order to supplement the meagre produce which could not meet the demands of a growing population or the effects of diminishing productive land. This move has had a serious impact on the agricultural development of Lesotho because women, with little experience had then to take over and engage in agriculture. Lesotho, which was referred to as the granary of South Africa before then, has become known as a labour reserve with one of its main exports being human beings. This fact has not gone unnoticed. Some measures have since been sought by Government to enhance the role of women in agriculture and the rural economy. Their capacity in productivity has been reviewed because now female headed households have quadrupled and continue to increase. Government has since come to grips with the reality that the bigger share of the burden of agricultural work is carried out and performed by women.

Action is now being taken to invest more and to build up and support more effectively that segment of the labour force. This is why today Lesotho can boast that it is a country that has one of the highest percentages of women in professional and managerial positions. Attitudes, legal constraints and other factors (as reflected in the document) which discriminate against women in development activities have an historical origin. It is true that promotion of all spheres of development, especially industry and agriculture, have been male oriented for decades at the expense of women. The so-called world discoveries of the past have always favoured the male gender and consequently, it came to be expected as a God-given role in many societies. This also helped determine the relationship of access to the ownership of the means of production.

It is high time that resolutions and decisions taken in different fora should, of necessity, avoid a repetition of the past mal-practices. In this regard, FAO's constant insistence that women should have a fair share in society is a positive attitude. It goes without saying that it remains the role of the international community at large, and national governments, through the guided advice of organizations such as FAO, to build structures and provide the necessary facilities to enable women to participate and be integrated fully in the mainstream of economic activity.

The FAO Plan of Action as set out is acceptable to us. The envisaged actions of the FAO to assist countries to reorientate their land tenures, agricultural extension systems, opening up adequate credit sources to women and many others, including the training and access to appropriate technologies, are steps which could enhance women's role and responsibility in different societies. The Nairobi Forward Looking Strategies which have laid the basis for the FAO Plan of Action for integration of women in development are vital determinants of a balanced world and we, in the same breath, wish to express our support for and urge speedy approval and adoption of a Draft Resolution as presented by delegations of countries who flagged on document CL 94/LIM/2.

In conclusion, we wish to make the following request to the Secretariat, that they prepare a smaller information document to governments and international communities based on the Plan of Action that would guide the Organization to clarify more specific action areas. In this document, emphasis should be given for the concern with women in development issues to be applied within FAO itself, to its philosophy and actions, but more importantly on project planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

The document should lay emphasis within FAO field and national institutions on the training of women in agriculture. It should lay emphasis also for all the divisions mentioned in the Plan of Action to participate to the fullest to include women in development concerns in the Agenda. Finally, the document should focus on technical agricultural aspects as opposed to a welfare approach to women.

LE PRESIDENT: Je signale au Conseil que l'observateur pour l'OCDE a accepté que son intervention soit ajoutée au procès verbal de la Séance. Je l'en remercie.

Je donne la parole au délégué du Pakistan.

Muhammad Saleem KHAN (Pakistan): I will try to be brief. So much has been said before us on this important subject and each issue so exhaustively indulged upon that we almost find ourselves at a loss as to what to further add to these contributions. However, we have taken the floor lest our silence is taken as lack of support for this most important field of human development.

We have no problems in aligning ourselves with the objectives, guidelines, strategies and recommendations contained in the document before us. Our own policies in the field are already aligned with this.

A full scale administrative division at the federal level headed by a secretary to the government dealing with women's affairs has been functioning for several years now. This division has its cells in the planning and development departments of the four provinces of the country as well as in various other nation-building departments.

Our five-year and other prospective plans, as well as annual budgets and normal allocations for women-related activities, provide substantially for these activities.

The Constitution provides for non-discrimination in any sphere on the basis of gender and for equal opportunity for all in every sphere of life. Women can contest on any general seat to a national or provincial assembly election. In addition there are specifically reserved seats for women in various Houses of Parliament, which ensure their rights being observed. All these measures and several others ensure that women's rights are fully protected and their participation in various fields of life is fully involved. As such we find no difficulty in supporting these proposals placed before us.

Having said this, however, I would like to draw attention to the traditional and social barriers existing in almost all countries of the world which, though necessary to break, are not always easily broken. To launch a frontal attack on these at times can be counterproductive. Therefore we feel that while the overall objectives, guidelines and strategies that we have been discussing should be kept before us when designing projects, an element of flexibility should always exist in dealing with certain social conditions and circumstances which vary from country to country and region to region.

Sra. Monica DEREGBUS (Argentina): Permítame en primer lugar, Sr. Presidente, en nombre de mi Delegación, agradecer las presentaciones de los documentos que nos han efectuado la Sra. Spring y el Sr. Moreno Rojas, que han sido muy claras y muy detalladas, para ilustrar a los miembros del Consejo. La Delegación argentina extiende también la bienvenida a la Sra. Spring, que esperamos pueda inaugurar su gestión con un Plan de Acción aprobado y en marcha.

Señor Presidente, tanto ha sido dicho, que, como expresara el distinguido Delegado de Pakistán, nos resulta difícil encontrar palabras para agregar algún otro concepto o aun reforzarlo. De manera que voy a limitar mi comentario a una especie de respuesta, digamos, de los co-patrocinadores del Proyecto de Resolución que figura en el documento CL 94/LIM/2 a las observaciones, a los comentarios, a las enmiendas, que han sido formulados en el Consejo.

Con relación a la República Argentina, es claro que, al co-patrocinar el Proyecto de Resolución, es allí donde ha delineado las prioridades que estima deben ser tenidas en cuenta en este momento. Consideramos, Sr. Presidente, que el Plan de Acción es amplio, es comprensivo y que, por eso mismo, el trabajo debe comenzar ya mismo. Consideramos también que el Consejo tiene autoridad y tiene mandato, de acuerdo a los Estatutos de esta Organización, para actuar como Órgano ejecutivo de la misma. El artículo XXIV de los Textos Básicos dispone que el Consejo actuará en nombre de la Conferencia entre los períodos de sesiones de ésta, en calidad de Órgano ejecutivo de la misma, adoptando decisiones en asuntos que no sea necesario someter a su consideración. Obviamente, éste es un asunto que la Conferencia ha delegado en el Consejo; porque, de otra manera, hubiera pedido que el Plan de Acción le fuera presentado a ella en su siguiente período de sesiones. En cambio, ha solicitado que se presente a este período de sesiones del Consejo.

Nosotros estamos seguros de que en el ánimo de los co-patrocinadores de la Resolución que pide este Plan de Acción nunca estuvo el demorar la acción de la FAO un año más para que la Conferencia decidiera.

Tenemos la gran satisfacción de ver que este Proyecto de Resolución ha concitado el interés y el apoyo generalizado de las Delegaciones que asisten al Consejo, y también de ver que tantas de ellas han señalado similares prioridades a las señaladas en el Proyecto de Resolución.

En los debates que se ha mantenido ha quedado claro que el Consejo estima que debemos hacernos cargo de que hay un sentido de urgencia, un sentido de que no demoremos más las cosas. Por esta razón pedimos a las delegaciones que han formulado observaciones o enmiendas en el sentido de dejar que esto sea decidido por la Conferencia y que el Consejo simplemente formule recomendaciones para que la Conferencia las adopte, que reconsideren su posición porque, como ya dijimos antes, la Conferencia delegó en el Consejo. Por otra parte, la Conferencia es siempre soberana y puede el año que viene, si así lo estima pertinente, ampliar, modificar o formular otras directivas que no estén contenidas en este proyecto de resolución que viene a lo que nosotros estimamos inmediato, a lo que nosotros estimamos que puede empezarse a hacer, sin prejuzgar sobre otras cuestiones que sí atañerán el año próximo a la Conferencia.

Con relación a algunas de las observaciones que se han hecho, debo señalar que la efectuada por la delegación de Suiza deriva de un problema de traducción. Creemos que hay otras delegaciones de habla inglesa, o que se manejan en inglés, que también han tenido pequeños problemas derivados de una no ajustada traducción. Les pedimos que se pongan en comunicación con nosotros porque estamos seguros que se puede encontrar una fórmula satisfactoria en todos los idiomas. Insistimos, está todo el mundo en este Consejo de acuerdo con la sustancia de la Resolución y con el sentido de urgencia que debe guiar nuestros trabajos en esta cuestión particular: la integración de la mujer en el desarrollo agrícola y rural. No queremos escatimar esfuerzos para que esta comprensión se haga ya a nivel de blanco y negro, digamos, a nivel de escritura.

Con relación a todo el resto de las inquietudes, que yo no voy a nombrar porque no he tenido tiempo de tomar nota, que han sido formuladas, o que puedan formularse, también pedimos a las delegaciones interesadas que comenten con nosotros estas inquietudes para tratar que sean tenidos en cuenta.

La delegación de Yugoslavia formuló muy precisas enmiendas al Proyecto de Resolución. Según teníamos nosotros anotado, en el párrafo 2 del Proyecto de Resolución, se sugería reemplazar donde dice: "con los recursos existentes", por: "dentro del límite de los recursos existentes". Nosotros creemos que esto no es nada más que un cambio semántico, y no cambia el significado. Lo que sí quisiéramos es que el Consejo fuera consciente de que lo que dice el párrafo 2, es decir que el Consejo cree que las actividades que están mencionadas desde la a) hasta la f), pueden ser llevadas a cabo con los recursos existentes. Esto es lo que estamos diciendo, que el Consejo cree esto, y si el Consejo se equivoca y la Secretaría no puede ni actualizar sus procesos administrativos y operativos, ni formular los lineamientos, ni diseñar el programa de capacitación y demás, con los recursos existentes, entonces la Secretaría nos informará el año próximo de que no ha tenido dinero para hacer ninguna de las cosas que se le piden de la a) a la f).

Quisiéramos que la formulación que dice: "pueden ser realizadas" se mantenga, en la medida de lo posible, ya que creemos que es fundamental que tanto la Secretaría de la FAO como los Estados Miembros tengamos de una vez para siempre la imagen correcta de que las actividades en favor de la mujer no son un plan especial y aparte de todas las actividades de la FAO, sino que son parte necesaria e integrante de todas las actividades de la FAO. Por el mismo motivo preferiríamos no incluir en el párrafo 5, como ha sido propuesto por la delegación de Yugoslavia, imaginamos que con un espíritu generoso y amplio, la petición de recursos extrapresupuestarios. Por esto mismo, para resaltar la pertinencia de la cuestión que nos ocupa en el Programa Regular de la FAO.

Si la Conferencia el año próximo no puede adoptar un Programa de Labores y Presupuesto que haga suficiente justicia a este bien detallado esquema de trabajo, en ese caso la Conferencia decidirá, si desea pedir eventualmente para esta o para alguna otra cuestión ayuda extrapresupuestaria; pero queremos dejar bien sentado que nosotros creemos que la ejecución del Plan de Acción es un paso más dentro de los trabajos habituales ordinarios de la FAO.

En relación a la observación que la delegación de Yugoslavia había hecho al párrafo 4, creíamos que había sido ya explicado por el corrigendum que había hecho el Embajador de México. Lo que nosotros estamos pidiendo a los Comités Principales de la FAO en este proyecto, entendiendo por estos el COFI, el COFO, el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, el COAG y el Comité de Productos Básicos, es que en su próximo período de sesiones, o sea en el de cada uno de ellos, después de esta sesión del Consejo, ellos traten este tema para dar directivas precisas, ¿con qué objeto? con el objeto de ajustar el Plan de Acción, con el objeto de particularizarlo, con el objeto de poder posibilitar a la Secretaría, contar con las opiniones de los Estados Miembros acerca de esta cuestión tan importante en cada una de las áreas de las actividades sustantivas de la FAO. Creemos que es una obligación de los Estados Miembros dar sus opiniones, así como se han dado en este foro en términos generales acerca de las prioridades y de los procedimientos que tenemos que adoptar.

Toda la argumentación que acabo de desarrollar hay que aplicarla también a las sugerencias con relación al párrafo 7. La delegación de Yugoslavia había propuesto que en lugar de informarse al 96 período del Consejo, se hiciera un informe al 98 período de sesiones; o sea a partir de ahora en dos años de tiempo.

Creemos que aun cuando no se pueda hacer tantísimo en todos los rubros que estamos pidiendo al Director General que tome medidas inmediatas; aun cuando no se pueda lograr todo, es importante tener un informe acerca de los obstáculos que, por ejemplo, pueden haberse encontrado en el cumplimiento de esta Resolución, acerca de lo que se va a poner a consideración de la Conferencia. Nosotros estamos pidiendo aquí que se informe sobre una serie de elementos del Plan de Acción y entonces pensamos que el Consejo, que es quien está dando este mandato, puede tomar en consideración todo lo que la Secretaría ha podido producir como aquéllo que no haya podido producir, para después poder elevarlo a la Conferencia, en el marco de los temas pertinentes que pueden ser el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto, la situación de la Mujer o problemas de personal. Esto se verá en su momento.

No tengo presente otras inquietudes en este momento para contestar. Nos parece que ha sido acertado el llamamiento efectuado por varias delegaciones de que esta Resolución sea adoptada por consenso, ya que estimamos que es un tema que puede, como bien lo demostró el proceso previo de preparación, acercar a las delegaciones de todos los continentes y de todas las situaciones económicas, del norte y el sur y de todas las regiones. Estimamos que sería interesante que aun cuando las observaciones no se hayan adelantado todavía, si hay alguna inquietud especial, se nos trasmita para obtener un resultado del trabajo conjunto de común acuerdo entre todos los miembros de esta Organización.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): La Doctora Spring hizo una excelente presentación que nos permite confirmar que la estructura de la FAO se ha puesto en buenas manos, el servicio a través del cual las mujeres participan esencialmente en las actividades de producción agrícola y desarrollo rural. La Doctora Spring encuentra una huella grata de inteligencia y competencia que dejó su antecesora la Doctora Ruth Finney; pero estamos seguros de que la Doctora Spring estará a la altura del cumplimiento de sus altas responsabilidades.

Este debate ha sido afortunado desde sus comienzos porque fue inaugurado por nuestra colega y amiga la Sra. Gunella Kurten, de Finlandia, a nombre de los países nórdicos. Países nórdicos altruistas y generoso que realmente se preocupan por estos asuntos con interés y devoción absoluta y con ejemplos pragmáticos, como fue en el caso de uno de esos países, Noruega, en su más alta estructura jerárquica de Gobierno.

Colombia es uno de los copatrocinadores del Proyecto de Resolución, y si sólo intervenimos ahora, es porque nos hemos sentido muy bien representados en nuestros colegas de México, Cuba, Argelia, Nicaragua y España. Nos toca el privilegio de haber seguido en el uso de la palabra a nuestra colega y amiga la Sra. Monica Deregibus, de Argentina, quien con competencia, conocimiento y lucidez habló a nombre de todos los copatrocinadores.

Apoyamos plenamente todo lo que dijo nuestra colega argentina sobre todo en relación con el texto mismo del Proyecto de Resolución.

Ojalá que nuestra distinguida colega y amiga de Yugoslavia quien hizo alguna propuesta con ánimo constructivo, entienda que hemos apreciado su contribución y que tratamos de reflejar, en la medida de lo posible, las ideas que ella expuso esta mañana.

Nuestra colega argentina quien ella sí es una abogada competente, presentó ya ante el Consejo la disposición de los textos básicos que justifican la adopción por este Consejo de esta Resolución; complementó así lo que había dicho esta mañana la colega de Argelia.

Entendemos muy bien las observaciones juiciosas y debo decir también, Sr. Presidente, sanas hechas por nuestro colega del Reino Unido al decir que no hay Comité de Resoluciones en este Consejo, pero podemos garantizar al Consejo, como lo ha dicho nuestra colega argentina, que a través de una serie de intensas consultas, la función del Comité de Resoluciones que sólo funciona en la Conferencia ha sido inclusive superada por nosotros.

La Secretaría expresó, el Dr. Rafael Moreno, alguna prevención sobre el hecho de que esta Resolución fuera adoptada por el Consejo. Entendemos esa prevención dentro del marco de la crisis financiera pero esperamos que el Dr. Moreno y la Secretaría en general, a través de las explicaciones de los oradores que hemos intervenido en este debate, entienda la razón fundamental por la cual deseamos ahora que este Consejo apruebe este Proyecto de Resolución. Como se dice claramente en el texto, se pide al Director General que en la preparación del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1991 se tengan en cuenta estas sugerencias. Es ahora, cuando está en preparación ese Programa de Labores y

Presupuesto para 1991, que nos interesa que estas ideas queden consignadas en una Resolución. Si aceptásemos el concepto de que esta Resolución debe ser presentada a la Conferencia sería tarde porque ya a la Conferencia se habrá presentado ese Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1991.

Somos conscientes también de que general emente el Consejo solo en ocasiones excepcionales adopta Resoluciones, y lo hace cuando el tema es importante como éste.

Creo que en este Período de Sesiones y a lo mejor en pocos otros anteriores, ningún asunto ha merecido tan general acogida como este Proyecto de Resolución.

Compartimos plenamente las observaciones de algunos colegas que han expresado su apoyo al fondo de este Proyecto de Resolución, pero como lo dijo la colega Argentina, la traducción y otros factores no han impedido que realmente se aclaren algunos aspectos. Estamos seguros de que esto va a lograrse sin afectar el fondo de la Resolución. En el Comité de Redacción están representados algunos de los copatrocinadores y representantes de otros Estados que también han participado en este debate.

Esperamos, Sr. Presidente, así lo desea la Delegación de Colombia, que este Proyecto de Resolución pueda ser aprobado unánimemente por el Consejo para contribuir realmente a que la mujer se vaya integrando al desarrollo.

András SZABO (Hungary): As agreed upon I shall be very brief. Hungary attaches great importance to the human factor. Let me remind you that a UNDP Round Table was devoted to this issue last year in Budapest and its conclusions were circulated in the UN Headquarters during the last year's Session of the General Assembly. With this in mind, we see with satisfaction that FAO has taken up this challenge also and supplied us with a very verbalised, comprehensive Action Plan for the Integration of Women in Development, which deserves our highest appreciation.

My delegation advocates for its implementation as soon as possible, since the problems concerned call for urgent actions. We think all delegations agree that the improvement of the situation of the role of women belong and will belong to FAO priorities, and that is why we do not see any special barriers to starting it at once. We sincerely hope that FAO will dispose of the necessary financial allocations not only for the realization of the aims set in the Plan, but also for its continuous monitoring. We consider that draft resolution contained in document CL 94/LIM/2 as an effective means and incentive for starting the implementation process without delay. For this reason the Hungarian delegation wants to join all those countries represented here who are for its adoption.

Due to the numerous amendments made by several delegates, we would however be happy to see the draft in a new concise form, reflecting all the corrections and suggestions agreed upon by the authors and co-sponsors.

LE PRESIDENT: Il nous reste à entendre six observateurs entre pays, organisations gouvernementales et organisations non gouvernementales. Je voudrais faire une suggestion: nous accueillerons avec beaucoup d'intérêt les observateurs qui voudront bien accepter soit de remettre leur communication au Secrétariat pour insertion au procès verbal, soit de résumer leur intervention et de la transmettre sous forme intégrale au Secrétariat pour insertion au procès verbal car nous avons une contrainte de temps que nous ne pouvons pas ignorer.

Horacio MALTEZ (Observador de Panama): Al ser la primera vez que he intervenido en nuestra calidad de Observador, permítame reiterarle nuestra complacencia por verle dirigir nuevamente las sesiones de este Consejo. Por su conducto, deseamos de la misma manera felicitar a los señores Vicepresidentes por tan merecida elección, lo mismo que a la Dra. Spring por la magnífica presentación del tema a examen.

La Delegación de Panamá manifiesta su total y decidido apoyo al Plan de Acción para la Integración de la Mujer en el Desarrollo. Para nosotros, este Plan de Acción puede y debe representar una respuesta concreta y seria a los objetivos y estrategias para la integración de la mujer al desarrollo en el contexto del ámbito de competencias de la FAO.

Por tales razones y por estar concordes con el pensamiento y las políticas de nuestro país en tal sentido, lo acogemos con gran satisfacción. Asimismo y por lo que se refiere al Proyecto de Resolución sobre dicho Plan de Acción, presentado por las delegaciones de México, Argentina,

Colombia, Argelia, España, Cuba y Nicaragua, al cual se han sumado otros países, nuestra delegación desea expresar también su más decidido apoyo al mismo. Al no ser miembros del Consejo, no podemos estar entre los copatrocinadores de dicha Resolución. Deseamos sin embargo evidenciar y dar constancia de la identificación de la Delegación de Panamá con la misma; hemos seguido en todo momento sus adelantos y estamos encantados con sus copatrocinadores.

Sra. María Eulalia JIMENEZ (Observador de El Salvador): Para contribuir un poco con Ud., remitiré mi intervención a la Secretaría. Pero he querido hacer uso de la palabra en forma muy breve porque considero muy importante recalcar el apoyo de la Delegación de El Salvador al Plan de Acción para la Integración de la Mujer al Desarrollo que nos ha sido presentado, e instar a los Miembros del Consejo a que aprueben el Proyecto de Resolución contenido en el documento LIM/2, al cual damos nuestro más fuerte respaldo.

De esta forma, Sr. Presidente, comenzaremos desde ya a trabajar efectivamente en el Plan de Acción.

Michel-Akis PAPAGEORGIOÛ (Observer for Greece): I will fully comply with your request and I will be very brief. I only would like to stress the great interest that Greece has already shown on women's role in the political and economic development of all societies.

My country has taken the lead repeatedly in initiatives to contribute to the application without any discrimination of the principles of universal human rights, human dignity and human participation of the women to the changing traditions of the economies and of the society of our time. In this respect, Greece considers in the first place, that the Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Development is about to increase awareness of governments and the general public of international standards concerning the statutes of women to which all governments are today committed. More particularly, we believe that with a Plan of Action, FAO will concentrate our efforts on the elimination of prejudices and the change of image of women through promotion of agricultural professions among women, among the decision-makers, and among the general public of our countries. Furthermore, with the group of measures that are envisaged, we can aim at enhancing women's role in agriculture, in the rural economy and at the same time, of maximising of the economic activities provided to women. In the social sphere also the Plan of Action can help develop and adapt social services to the specific needs of women and there are a wide variety of activities in the social sphere that will secure also women's role in the domestic sphere which is equally affected and influenced by agricultural activities.

Finally, we find the Plan of Action realistic, relevant and coherent. We give it full support. We believe the role of FAO ought to be fundamental to the development of opportunities of women, particularly in areas of FAO's mandate. We are also delighted to associate ourselves with the Draft Resolution of the Plan of Action presented by the delegations of Mexico, Argentina, Algeria and the others in order to ensure that women have an equitable share in the benefits of social economic and technological progress in rural areas and in food-related processes.

Eugène YOUNG (UNDP): I would like to make a few remarks and I hope they are to the point because this is an item which is of special importance to the UNDP and I would simply like to complement some of the comments that have been made earlier.

My colleagues at Headquarters have studied the Document CL 94/13 in great detail. I will share with you some of their reactions. They find the document to be comprehensive and addressing a variety of issues and placing them in the context of series of other meetings before, especially, Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies and System-Wide Plan and the System-Wide Medium-Term Plan for Women in Development. We also feel that the focus on cross sectoral analysis for women in development as outlined in Chapter 8, is also essential for a more realistic and productive approach to the issue.

I have one point here to make and that is that with respect to Annex 2 relating to the Implementation of the Plan of Action, we feel it could have received better, and I repeat what I have been told by my colleagues in the Division of Women in Development in New York, better visibility had the Annex been part of the main report itself as its contents set out the principle organ responsible for each substantive area of action.

I would like also to advise the Council here, that early in January this year, the Administrator of UNDP advised the field offices and sent them a set of guidelines to ensure that the role of women in development is given full consideration in all of UNDP's programmes and projects formulated. I

should stress that these guidelines are mandatory for all programmes and projects funded by UNDP resources, the formulation of all projects now are subject to the application of the guidelines. The application of the guidelines is being closely monitored by the Resident Representatives at the field level and by the Action Committee, of which I have been a member myself, and I have seen how Ingrid Eide and Sally Timpson have been looking at each project to ensure that the women's participation in that particular project is safeguarded.

UNDP's Governing Council follows the progress of the implementation of our Plan of Action by including a special item on this important subject at each annual session.

The UNDP is also in the process of finalizing a programme advisory note on women and development, whose section on agricultural and rural development has been prepared in close cooperation with FAO. We also participated in the ACC's Task Force on Rural Development and currently are preparing guidelines for the monitoring and evaluation panel of this task force.

In view of the shortage of time, I would just like to say that we give full support to FAO's Plan of Action for Women in Development. I would also like to add an offer to share with FAO some of the experiences that we have had already in this field, as was suggested this morning by the representatives of the United States of America, The United Kingdom, Japan and others. The suggestion of the delegate of Finland who spoke on behalf of the Nordic countries and who stated that some others have had some experiences in this area which should be taken advantage of, is fully in line with UNDP's views as well. Looking at the draft, I noted items dealing with such focal points as training and increasing the number of staff in the Organization, where we in UNDP have some experience. I recall that in my capacity as ex-Director of Personnel I had a lot of problems in increasing the percentage of women in UNDP from 7 to 25 percent in ten years with the full support of the Administration. Therefore, when I see that in five years it is suggested that the number of women in FAO be increased to 30 percent, I would say that, while the target is ambitious, it is in the right direction. We have a lot of experience by now, through our Division of Women in Development, the Division of NGO's and the people who deal with programme and policy matters, to share with our colleagues in FAO.

We look forward to the application of this Plan of Action and we hope to find in the future more cooperation between the two organizations in this area.

LE PRESIDENT: Il nous reste trois organisations: l'Union mondiale des femmes rurales, la Fédération internationale pour le progrès rural et l'Alliance internationale des femmes.

J'ai compris que ces organisations souhaitent parler mais je tiens à leur dire que nous sommes dans l'obligation de limiter leur temps de parole parce que nous devons encore examiner trois points de l'ordre du jour. Je serais heureux que leur intervention soit brève et ne dépasse pas dix minutes par délégation.

Ms. Lucy BRADER-BRENKEL (Observer for Associated Country Women of the World): My Organization, the Associated Country Women of the World, is happy with document CL 94/13. We especially like the way this document is set up with the clear links to the FLS (Forward Looking Strategies) adopted at the Nairobi Conference in 1985. We welcome the idea of a Plan of Action for women in development in FAO as we have said already on earlier occasions. We are particularly happy with Annex II where the overall task is divided over other departments and divisions of FAO. We all know that the ESHW service (Women in agricultural production and rural development service) is very small. On its own ESHW could never bring about the changes and reorientations of all FAO-programmes.

For years now we have talked about the necessity of bringing women into the mainstream of development. For ACWW this is the most important condition for sustainable development. Women are quite willing to do their manifold tasks. They have done so over the ages in all parts of the world. At least give them the tools to work in a professional way and let them also profit from technical changes and innovations. Apart from alleviating their tasks, this would improve their efficiency in production which is also of interest to the economy of their country.

So we are happy to note that this Plan of Action rightly focusses on women who work in agriculture and food production, either as wage earners or as farmers. That is a specific task of FAO.

From the plan it is clear that a huge task lays ahead for the whole of the Organization of FAO. Over the years the willingness to see women also as agricultural workers has increased in many ways in FAO. There have been quite a number of specific projects for women; notably in irrigation, forestry, fisheries, marketing, integrated pest management and others. Now is the time to recognise that automatically in all programmes of FAO a focus on women must be built-in. Women not only as beneficiaries but also as producers. This reorientation probably must be learned (otherwise it would have been an automatism already for a long time..). In-house training therefore seems to be a logical step and would be most welcome.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, ACWW as a world-wide organization of rural women and female farmers pledges its support to this Plan of Action in FAO. We welcome the meetings proposed in Section VIII 2C between FAO and the major NGO's involved in WID activities. We'll look forward to future progress reports and will follow the action with great interest.

Ms. Francesca RONCHI PROJA (Observer for International Federation for Home Economics): On behalf of the International Federation for Home Economics, which I represent at FAO, I would like first to congratulate Dr. Spring for her appointment as Chief of ESHW, and wish her a successful career in FAO. Second, I express our appreciation to FAO for a very comprehensive, clear and detailed plan of action for the integration of women in development. We have also read with interest the report on the expert consultation held last September, and the recommendations made to FAO for assistance to member Governments. We have noted the draft resolution presented by a number of delegations which we support.

Mr. Chairman, the IFHE has a long history of cooperation with FAO, with which it has had official status for several years. During this period, focus on objectives and activities has changed in IFHE - as it has in FAO. Originally centered mostly on the traditional fields of women's interests and responsibilities within the family-child and family care, food preparation, dressmaking, etc., the objectives have enlarged to reflect the new realities and the developments of women situations, aspirations and progress. In reading the FAO plan of action on WID, we find a lot of common ground, common goals, and issues of common concern. I mention some: home economics, nutrition and other family aspects, such as management of family resources and budget; training and education; food safety; rural extension; population problems and responsible parenthood; generation of new resources and income; provision of credit facilities to women, especially in rural areas. Several of these items were the subjects of discussion and reports at the last Congress of IFHE, held in July 1988 in Minneapolis, USA. This important Congress was attended by over 1300 highly qualified participants from more than 80 countries from all regions of the world. Having such a large audience and participation, IFHE can be an excellent forum in support of the objectives which it has in common with FAO. At the same time, FAO can take advantage of the technical knowledge, experience and professional capacity available through IFHE. Incidentally, the new President-elect of IFHE served in the past as an FAO field expert; and many members of IFHE have served either as FAO officers or consultants or experts, and are therefore quite familiar with the scope and activities of the Organization. We noticed the emphasis placed in the Plan on cooperation with NGOs: I can assure you that there is keen interest for such cooperation at the highest levels' in the Federation.

Speaking of cooperation, perhaps the most profitable field in the long run would be that of training and education, since IFHE primary role is to strengthen the home economics profession, whose ultimate goal is the improvement of the quality of life of families and their members. Within this subject, we note in the plan the objective to review and possibly revise curricula and modernize programmes in home economics in institutions of higher education. This is probably required in several developing countries, to take into account changing conditions, and to help women, especially in the rural areas, enter the economic life and participate more actively in the development of the community. Home economists are the professional group more qualified for reaching women, and through them families in rural areas, and for influencing their attitudes and modes of life.

At this point however, I would like to add a word of warning. In our efforts to assist women to enter new fields of activities, we should give greater attention to the need for more equal share of responsibilities within the family between men and women, we should avoid increasing the already heavy burden which lies on women's shoulders especially in the rural areas of developing countries. It is just not fair that, if women want and decide, as if it is their recognized right, to participate in development - in the sense given to these terms, namely activities outside the limits of the home - they should automatically be obliged to accept two jobs, one within and one outside the home. And it is not fair either that since the activities within the home are considered "women's jobs", they are not seriously considered part of development, they are not seriously recognized at the levels of dignity and respect which they deserve. Let me give only two examples. One is care of the child in the early years of life, which scientists have demonstrated to be the most delicate and determined period for the development of the personality of the future adult the other is nutrition of the child and the family, and we all know how important a balanced diet is for the physical and mental development and well being of individuals. These are almost always the exclusive responsibilities of women, they are important aspects of home economics, yet they are not seriously - I emphasize seriously, considered contributions to development. The proof is that those subjects together with home economics, are slowly disappearing from the curricula of primary and secondary schools even for girls, instead of being emphasized and shared - as they should be - for both boys and girls - perhaps it should be given a different, more acceptable title, for example "education for family life?". We would like in fact that men should be given equal opportunity with women to share such important responsibilities, which have an enormous influence on the development of countries. I know that it is not easy to accept a goal which implies a change of long ingrained

traditions, but we have to count on the new generations and educate them, if we really want women to achieve the aim of full participation in development.

I terminate my statement, Mr. Chairman, and look forward to a future of fruitful cooperation between IFHE and FAO in the implementation of the plan of action.

Ms. Sarojini PILLAY (Observer for International Alliance of Women): I am making this intervention not only on behalf of my own organization, the International Alliance of Women, but also on behalf of my colleagues next to me here - the International Council of Women and the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations - who do not wish to ask for your time in view of the urgency of the other programmes. They are fully supportive of the points I am now going to raise.

At the outset we would like to congratulate Dr. Spring and FAO for the excellence and comprehensiveness of the document presented for discussion. This is indeed a very special document as it implies a reassessment of FAO's own priorities and action plans on WID. I would like to assure Dr. Spring of the wholehearted support of my organization and those of my colleagues in the implementation of these guidelines laid down in the document.

All our organizations - these women's organizations - have affiliates in various countries. My organization has affiliates in 64 countries, and so we are in a special position to play a substantive role in the realization of the objectives of these guidelines for full integration of women in the process of development at rural as well as the urban levels and in practical training in the various relevant concerns. In this context I particularly welcome FAO's action plan of organization for a meeting of major NGOs involved in WID activities, as stated on page 24 of document CL 94/13. My organization would also like to go on record as fully supportive of the resolution presented by the delegates of Mexico and others this morning. I would, however, like to mention a few concerns that my organization has found to be a particularly important constraint in the full integration of women in the development process, especially in the rural context. Facilities for credit without collateral and modification of inheritance laws where essential to ensure equal rights of inheritance of land and other property that would give equal economic and civil status to women are two very important fields that need immediate action to alleviate disparities between the sexes. I would like to request the government delegations here to give these legal issues priority attention. I congratulate the delegate of Zambia this morning for so forcefully stating this issue.

In the field of education and training, especially for rural women, I would like to stress that women should be educated so as fully to understand their rights and privileges to equal participation in the social, political and economic fabrics of their immediate surroundings and to take full advantage of their rights.

A well-organized extension service is imperative to this and women's non-governmental organizations have a significant role to play here. However, what to my mind and in the experience of my organization is of vital importance - and I would like to emphasize this point above all else - is the education of men to ensure their realization of their part of the rights and privileges of women, particularly their own wives and daughters, to equal rights of participation as the men themselves in the lives of their communities and within their own families. This is a vital social issue that affects closely the personal lives of women, the welfare of their families and, by extension, the role of women in society.

Giuseppe VASTA (Observateur de l'Organisation pour la coopération et le développement économique): Eviter de prendre la parole sur un sujet si important comme celui concernant le Plan d'action pour l'intégration des femmes dans le développement serait comparable à une espèce de trahison à l'égard de la femme vue dans le contexte de mère, de soeur, de fille, d'épouse. Elle a sans doute les mêmes droits que l'homme et il faut bien reconnaître qu'elle mérite que lui soit attribué l'appellatif de sexe le plus fort. Je pense qu'il ne faut pas considérer la femme seulement dans le contexte limité du développement agricole, mais dans un contexte beaucoup plus large, en tenant compte surtout du côté spirituel de la femme. Dans la majeure partie des cas la sérénité, la paix, l'amour dans une maison dépendent d'elle, de cette créature merveilleuse qui mérite toute considération, tout appui et toute reconnaissance de la part de l'homme, de la part des gouvernements, de la part de l'Etat, en un mot de la part de la communauté toute entière.

Et alors que toute initiative pour mettre en lumière ces dons et ce charisme de la femme soit bénie et encouragée. Un développement sans l'aide de la femme serait incomplet et déséquilibré.

Monsieur le Président, je pense qu'il ne faut pas laisser échapper cette occasion pour rendre hommage à cet être incomparable, merveilleux et irremplaçable qu'est la femme et lui faire sentir tout le poids de notre solidarité. 1/

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

Sra. María Eulalia JIMENEZ (Observador de El Salvador): Con relación al tema que nos ocupa, elementos de juicio suficientes han sido expuestos en esta sala por los miembros del Consejo.

La relegación de El Salvador, en su calidad de observador, desea respaldar los conceptos vertidos, unimos nuestra voz a las declaraciones hechas por las delegaciones de México, Argentina, Argelia y Colombia.

Damos nuestro total apoyo al plan de acción contenido en el documento 94/13, el cual fue presentado en forma excelente por la Señora Spring. Agradecemos a la Secretaría la presentación de este documento.

Hay cuestiones que no compartimos plenamente en este plan de acción y que estimamos podrían ser mejoradas. Sin embargo, lo importante en esta ocasión creemos que es contar con este marco de acción, que nos lleve a mejorar efectivamente la situación de la mujer en nuestros países.

Es necesario, Señor Presidente, y mi delegación ya lo ha planteado en otras oportunidades, que dejemos ya de elaborar proyectos especiales para la mujer como si ella fuera un animal raro al que hay que darle una ocupación. Esta la tiene y hasta demasiado. La mujer debe estar integrada en forma adecuada en los proyectos de desarrollo que se lleven a cabo en nuestros países, trabajando en forma conjunta con el hombre.

Para lograr esta integración, sin embargo, es fundamental, Señor Presidente, una mayor conciencia de la problemática específica de la mujer. Tenemos primero que estar sinceramente convencidos nosotros para después llevar a todos los niveles ese convencimiento.

Mi delegación lamenta no ser miembro del Consejo, ya que ello nos impide copatrocinar el proyecto de resolución que ha sido sometido a la consideración del Consejo.

Estimamos que el mismo permitirá hacer operativas toda esa serie de resoluciones que sobre la mujer han sido adoptadas. Llevamos ya muchos años en esta lucha, como bien han indicado en esta sala tantos oradores, pero quizás ha faltado convencimiento sincero. Muchas cosas han sido realizadas es cierto, se ha progresado bastante, pero todavía queda mucho que hacer y quizás lo que falta es lo más difícil.

Tenemos que continuar esta dura tarea, la FAO y los gobiernos.

Instamos pues a los miembros del Consejo a que hagan suyo este proyecto de resolución.

Debemos trabajar desde ya en lo que se puede, lo cual a nuestro entender está claramente reflejado en el dispositivo 2 del proyecto de resolución, estas actividades pueden ser realizadas con los recursos ya existentes.

Como dijo la delegada de México, debemos ir de prisa ya que hemos comenzado tarde. 1/

LE PRESIDENT: Nous arrivons ainsi à la fin des débats relatifs à l'intégration de la femme dans le développement. Il n'y a pas eu moins de 46 orateurs qui ont pris part aux débats, c'est dire, comme l'a dit le représentant de la Colombie, que ce sujet a suscité l'intérêt de tout le Conseil.

Avant de passer la parole au Secrétariat et compte-tenu de la discussion qui a eu lieu sur la résolution, je voudrais proposer au Conseil de constituer un petit groupe de contact, avant que la résolution ne passe dans les mains du Comité de Rédaction. Pour ce groupe de contact, je proposerais le Mexique, l'Argentine, la Yougoslavie et le Royaume-Uni. Il ya eu une unanimité pour que la résolution soit approuvée, mais il y a quelques points à figner. Je suis persuadé que ce groupe de contact pourra facilement arriver à une conclusion qui permette d'approuver rapidement cette résolution.

1/ Texto incluido en las actas a petición expresa.

Sra. Margarita LIZARRAGA (Mexico): Señor Presidente, con mucho gusto atenderemos el encargo que nos acaba de conferir usted. Yo quisiera solamente proponerle que estuviera incluido dentro de este grupo la honorable Representante de Finlandia, porque con el grupo nórdico hemos trabajado muy activamente.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Señor Presidente, la colega Lizárraga, de México, se nos adelantó. Creemos que la participación de Finlandia, a nombre de los nórdicos, es fundamental.

Sra. Mónica DEREGBUS (Argentina): No es para agrandar demasiado el grupo, Señor Presidente, pero yo sugeriría que también la Delegación de Canadá participara, si a usted le parece bien, en nuestros trabajos.

LE PRESIDENT: J'accueille vos propositions. Il y aurait donc six délégations: le Mexique, l'Argentine, la Yougoslavie, le Royaume-Uni, la Finlande et le Canada.

Muhammad Saleem KHAN (Pakistan): Whilst we are adding names to the list could I recommend that we add the name of India.

LE PRESIDENT: Je crois que nous pouvons nous en arrêter là car il faut aboutir vite. Le groupe serait donc composé du Mexique, de l'Argentine, de la Yougoslavie, du Royaume-Uni, de la Finlande, du Canada, et de l'Inde. Si nous sommes trop nombreux nous risquerons de ne pas arriver à un résultat.

Nous laissons l'initiative de cette réunion aux auteurs de la résolution, le Mexique et l'Argentine. C'est à eux d'organiser cette réunion.

Ms. Anita SPRING (FAO Staff): We would like to acknowledge with gratitude the very broad support for the Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Development. Additionally, we would like to add our thanks for the expression of support of the introduction to the topic.

Let me say that we fully acknowledge the comments and suggestions made by the delegates and in the debate and would thank the distinguished delegates for their careful reading of the documents and for their broad understandings of the issues.

It is correct to say that we are not starting from zero by any means. We have had a lot of cooperation with other units in the Organization. The Plan does not deny what has taken place already but in fact builds on them. For example, the Forestry Department has created a special programme for local community development and has integrated women into its mainstream activities and developed women-specific projects. Fisheries have developed a plan to channel financial resources to women in fisherfolk organizations and women in fish marketing. The Department or Core Group on Women in Fisheries continue to scrutinize pipeline projects to include women.

In animal husbandry, activities for women have included a major programme for dairying.

The market and credit service has developed farmer to farmer teaching methods to promote skills and information related to marketing among women. The agrarian reform and land settlement service is studying the effect on drought and women. There are various units of the house which have already played their part and will continue to do so.

However, we appreciate the comments made on priorities, and as I mentioned we have set priorities in terms of a number of items; namely, the four-phase training programme, the establishment of focal points, strengthening linkages of the regular and field programmes, and reorienting the curriculum in home economics. Additionally, we will focus on upgrading women's technical, agricultural and management skills in the different farming systems and addressing the relationship between the integration of WID and women's reproductive behaviour. These priorities will be reflected in our Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 1990/91.

It seems as though everyone agrees with the need for massive staff training. We fully agree as well, and have targeted this particular topic for extra consideration. This Programme will focus on staff training, on how exactly gender issues can be effectively taken into consideration in the design, implementation and monitoring of the projects. The methodology of the training programme will be based on a very pragmatic operational approach and will be developed in accordance with FAO's current technical activities. The first to be trained will be those officers immediately responsible for project formulation and execution. Let me say in the design of our training programme efforts will be made to learn from the experiences gained from similar types of programmes that are currently being carried out within the major organizations in the UN system. Our timetable is such that we will make a preliminary needs assessment in December 1988. Stage two will survey training materials and techniques from the other UN agencies and the bilaterals and this will be done in early 1989. Stage three will deal with the collective strategy for the organization and we hope that our first training programme will take place in the Fall of 1989 for at least some members of the organization.

We will rely on the assistance of the Inter Divisional Working Group of Women in Development to help us to coordinate our efforts with the technical unit. In addition, we will not neglect cooperation with other human agencies. Thus far, in collaboration with INSTRAW, FAO has supported an international seminar on checklist and guidelines for reaching women farmers. It has worked for UNDP on a project in Africa as a follow-up to the Nairobi Forward Looking Strategies. Also it has worked with UNFPA on various population projects. Annually, we attend the UN Inter-Agency Annual Meeting in Vienna and FAO there provides information on food and agriculture. In fact, the Organization put forth the various issues in front of the ACC Task Force. We look forward to greater collaboration with IFAD which is just in its incipient stages. We especially desire to learn about the various programmes about women in development concerned with agriculture of the bilaterals.

Regarding the comment that regional and global exchanges should be strengthened, I am pleased to announce the workshop in May of 1989 covering the Asian countries of Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand. This type of meeting will be repeated in other regions. In terms of statistics and indicators we are already working with the technical units to delineate and increase the usage of women in agriculture indicators in FAO guidelines. We are making efforts to disaggregate the indicators by sex of household head, and we are promoting an analysis by gender for the 1990 round of the World Agriculture Census. In terms of monitoring and evaluation, as I noted, the first steps have already been carried out. All FAO regular programme and field activities have been coded as to how they target women as beneficiaries. The results show there is about a 30 percent inclusion. The results will be entered into the computer system and the data will be analysed thoroughly.

We will also develop monitoring and evaluation techniques for the Inter Divisional Working Group on Women in Development for internal monitoring of the implementation of the Plan of Action.

A number of delegates have stressed the need to discuss resource allocation directly. I welcome the opportunity to do so. First, we acknowledge that we have to build up our staff to its former strength. Financial considerations permitting we will move in that direction. Secondly, let me reiterate that in the regular programme we will turn attention to funding the priorities that we had delineated. We believe that we have the funds to start the process. For example, we have budgeted for the four-phase training programme to develop methods and materials. Having said that, probably we can fund some of the training at Headquarters and an occasional part of the training for the field staff. However, to do a thorough job and reach the large number of staff at Headquarters - there are about 1,500 and 1,200 in the field - we will need extra budgetary resources to carry out the comprehensive strategy. A number of delegates requested that we operationalize our plans in terms of providing a timetable, a planning schedule and realistic budgets. We are willing to present a concrete and selective type of document in this regard.

Finally, we would develop this Plan for the 96th Session. However, in terms of fulfilling the resolution we would prefer to present something of substance in the optimal time, which is only two years away, for the 98th Session of Council in 1990 as we move into the new biennium.

Sr. Rafael MORENO ROJAS (Director, Dirección de Recursos Humanos, Instituciones y Reforma Agraria): Solo dos o tres observaciones finales. Creo que las respuestas de la Doctora Spring, cubren en su gran mayoría lo que ha sido el debate del Consejo.

La Secretaría, tal como ha sido anunciado está a disposición de las delegaciones, ya sea en consultas informales, como durante el trabajo del Comité de Redacción, para contribuir a la finalización de la Resolución que ha sido presentada. La Resolución como ha sido también parte del

debate será contenida en el informe mismo del Consejo, el cual de acuerdo con el procedimiento de la Organización será sometido a la próxima Conferencia de la FAO para que tome conocimiento pleno de lo que ha sido el acuerdo de este Consejo, de los debates y, así como también la manera en que aquí se han discutido.

Asimismo, tendremos a disposición de quienes estén analizando materias pertinentes en este mismo aspecto, todo el material y los textos que aquí se han incluido, ya sea en los verbatim, como en la Resolución misma, a aquellas personas que dentro del Comité del Programa y de Finanzas, o trabajando para ellos, estarán en condiciones de conocer con mayor profundidad cuáles son las orientaciones en materia de políticas, de programas y de actividades específicas, en las cuales este tema ha sido señalado aquí en el Consejo.

Horacio CARANDANG (Philippines): As regards the resolution, you have set up a mechanism to settle the differences. I am hopeful we can come to an easy resolution of the issues that have been raised. With regard to the Plan of Action for Women in Development itself, there were some minor amendments proposed during the debate and I was wondering how you are going to handle this matter.

Rafael MORENO ROJAS (Director, Human Resources, Institutions and Agrarian Reform): The Secretary has taken careful note of the statements made by the different delegates, including the specific comments made by the delegate from the Philippines. I believe that we could incorporate them into the final text of the Plan of Action because they are merely complementing what is there already, there is nothing of substance to change the Plan of Action itself. So if the distinguished delegate of the Philippines agrees with this proposal we will introduce the amendments and the corrections taking into account his suggestions.

LE PRESIDENT: Cette question a soulevé un grand intérêt de la part de tous les Etats membres ainsi que de tous les observateurs; on peut dire que le Conseil unanime a souligné l'importance particulière de l'intégration des femmes dans le processus de développement, notamment du développement agricole et rural qui nous intéresse au plus haut point, et ce dans toutes ses composantes, y compris la transformation des produits et leur écoulement. Le Conseil a également insisté pour que l'on passe du stade de l'identification à celui de l'action.

Le Conseil unanime a approuvé le Plan d'action présenté par le Secrétariat de la FAO tout en ajoutant quelques rectifications.

Le Conseil unanime a recommandé qu'une résolution soit préparée et présentée pour approbation définitive à la Conférence, afin qu'elle devienne opérationnelle dans les meilleurs délais.

Comme l'a souligné Monsieur Moreno, il est important que ce projet de résolution figure dans le Rapport du Conseil car il est clair que le Conseil a été chargé de mettre au point une action énergique et significative; dès que le projet de résolution aura été rédigé, il sera très utile pour la suite de nos opérations.

Le Conseil a également manifesté le vœu que d'une manière ou une autre, l'on puisse faire figurer dans le Programme de travail et budget le coût et l'esquisse d'un programme d'action.

Quelques délégués ont souligné que bien que la FAO ait un rôle prédominant dans ce secteur, il est bon qu'elle coordonne son activité avec d'autres organisations internationales ou ONG afin d'éviter les double emploi et de ménager nos ressources.

Enfin, beaucoup de délégués ont insisté sur le fait qu'au niveau de l'Organisation et des Etats Membres, cette sensibilisation à l'action de la femme est de la plus haute importance, que ce soit sur le plan de la formation du personnel, de l'incitation ou de la vulgarisation.

Il me semble que ce débat a été très utile et important; le processus est maintenant déclenché et nous sommes persuadés qu'il aboutira rapidement à quelque chose de cohérent correspondant aux vœux de pratiquement toutes les délégations ici présentes.

10. Recent Developments in the UN System of Interest to FAO

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

10. Novedades recientes de interés para la FAO registradas en el sistema de las Naciones Unidas

Eberhard E. LÜHE (Director, Office for Inter-Agency Affairs): While listening to the very interesting debate on the advancement of women during this morning and part of the afternoon, and also watching the clock, I have decided to cut out whole paragraphs of my introduction I hope it is still intelligible.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, it gives me great pleasure to introduce the agenda item entitled Recent Developments in the United Nations System of Interest to FAO. This subject was discussed by the FAO Conference at its 24th Session in November 1987 and the Council now has before it document CL 94/12 which reviews the recent developments in the United Nations system since the FAO Conference in November 1987.

To begin with, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that, although document CL 94/12 covers a wide range of matters taken up within the United Nations system, it is certainly not exhaustive. The document is necessarily selective and it focuses mainly on those developments in the United Nations system which are considered to be of particular interest to the Organization.

As document CL 94/12 is up-to-date until the beginning of September of this year, there are only few recent developments which I need to report to you at this time.

The United Nations General Assembly is now holding its 43rd regular session in New York. There are many items on the agenda of the General Assembly which are of concern to FAO. I shall refer to some of them in the course of my statement.

As the document before you was prepared after the conclusion of the second regular session of ECOSOC, the resolutions and decisions of ECOSOC at its organizational, first and second regular sessions of 1988 have been taken into account in its preparation. Among the subjects discussed by ECOSOC, the following were of particular interest to FAO: food problems including the fight against locust and grasshopper infestation in Africa, narcotic drugs, UN Programme of Action for Africa (UN-PAAERD), United Nations assistance programmes relating to Afghanistan, trade and development, international cooperation on environment, operational activities for development, revitalization of ECOSOC, and the in-depth study of the United Nations intergovernmental structure and functions in the economic and social fields.

It may also be of interest to you that, following a recommendation of ECOSOC, the General Assembly in New York has approved the inclusion of Mozambique in the list of least developed countries.

On the revitalization issue you will note that in the document before you reference is made to ECOSOC Resolution 1988/77 on the revitalization of ECOSOC, which we consider a very significant development at the second regular session of ECOSOC, and which affects to a large extent the specialized agencies. The resolution attempts to strengthen the role of ECOSOC in policy formulation, monitoring, operational activities, and coordination. Considerable emphasis is laid on an improved dialogue between members of the Economic and Social Council and the heads of the United Nations agencies. Furthermore, new reporting requirements are introduced for the agencies, which are invited to "resume submission of analytical summaries of their annual reports". The Organizational Committee of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC), at its meeting in October 1988, reviewed the provisions of the resolution with a view to finding practical arrangements for a better dialogue and more in general to defining a common position on how inter-agency mechanisms can best contribute to the effort of revitalisation of ECOSOC. The committee decided to invite the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation to arrange for an informal meeting between members of ECOSOC and member organizations of the ACC in order to clarify a number of issues which are not quite clear from the text of the resolution, and to determine future directions.

Throughout 1988 FAO has continued to cooperate fully with the other organizations of the system through both formal and informal arrangements, including the coordinating machinery established under the aegis of the Administrative Committee on Coordination. These activities ensure a close cooperation among the organizations of the system, particularly at a time when member governments are devoting more attention to coordination issues, to enhance the efficiency of the system and to optimize the use of resources. The Director-General participated in both sessions of ACC in 1988, as he did in previous years. At the recent session of ACC in October 1988, the executive heads had a full exchange of views on, among other things, structural adjustment and social aspects of development, the new international development strategy, and sustainable and environmentally sound development.

FAO continues to play an active role in not only the ACC itself, but also in the different subsidiary bodies of ACC. Among these I should mention in particular the ACC Task Force on Rural Development, in which FAO, as the Chairman, continues to provide leadership for the United Nations system. FAO also plays a very significant role in the ACC Sub-Committee on Nutrition. As you will

see in the document before you, the secretariat of the Sub-Committee on Nutrition has just been transferred from FAO to WHO following the principle of periodic rotation of the secretariat among member agencies.

While still on the subject of ACC, I should like to mention that, through resolution 1988/64 adopted at its second regular session of 1988, ECOSOC decided that in future the joint meetings of the United Nations Committee on Programme and Coordination (CPC), the United Nations Programme Committee, as it were, and the ACC should be held in future in New York in conjunction with the autumn session of the ACC, instead of the current arrangement of holding them in Geneva in conjunction with the ECOSOC session. This was done in order to facilitate the participation of the members of the CPC at a high level, as well as the participation of the executive heads of the specialized agencies of the United Nations.

Turning to the document before you I would like to draw your attention to the first substantive section entitled "Operational activities for development", and in particular to the sub-section on the Jansson case studies.

At its forty-second session in 1987, the General Assembly considered the Jansson report and the views of the organizations of the United Nations system on the main findings of the report. In paragraph 2 of resolution 42/196 entitled "Operational activities for development", the General Assembly invited "the governing bodies of the organizations of the United Nations development system to discuss in detail, at their next sessions, the conclusions and recommendations of the report on the findings of the case studies and to submit their views to the Economic and Social Council".

As the General Assembly was expected to discuss this matter again under agenda item "Operational activities for development" at its forty-third session beginning September 1988 and the next FAO Council after passage of this resolution was not to be held until November 1988, it was considered important to submit the matter to the FAO Programme Committee in May 1988 so that its views could be submitted to ECOSOC in July 1988 and, subsequently, to the forty-third session of the General Assembly from September to December 1988.

The results of the Programme Committee's deliberations are noted in the report of the Joint Meetings of the Programme and Finance Committees, document CL 94/3, and were conveyed to the second regular session of ECOSOC in July 1988. The views of the governing bodies of various organizations of the United Nations system, including those of the FAO Programme Committee, have been considered by the Second Committee of the General Assembly in its just-concluded debate on operational activities for development. The latest information I have is that the Second Committee is now considering two draft resolutions on operational activities for development -- one submitted by Canada on behalf of eight donor country co-sponsors, and the other submitted by Tunisia on behalf of the Group of 77.

With regard to the critical economic situation in Africa, in particular the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action (UN-PAAERD), you may note in paragraph 21 of the document before you that the General Assembly decided, at its forty-second session in 1987, to establish an Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole to prepare the mid-term review and appraisal of UN-PAAERD prior to its forty-third session in 1988. Accordingly, the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole met in New York from 12 to 24 September 1988. After long negotiations, it recommended to the General Assembly that it adopt the conclusions of the mid-term review and appraisal of the implementation of UN-PAAERD. This review consisted of an assessment of the implementation of the Programme for the first two years and of proposed measures to accelerate the implementation of the programme. It also recommended to the General Assembly that it decide to conduct a final review and appraisal of the implementation of the UN-PAAERD at its forty-sixth session in 1991.

The conclusions reached by the Committee of the Whole are basically in two parts: Part I presents an assessment of the implementation of the Programme; Part II includes measures for accelerating the implementation of the Programme. In the assessment part of the report, it is stated that agriculture, on which more than 75 percent of Africa's people depend for their livelihood, has been a major area of sectoral reform. More countries have given higher priority to channelling resources to agriculture with the aim of achieving greater food security and increased agricultural production. Yet, the result is not fully satisfactory, as these efforts have been hindered by recurrent and persistent droughts, locust infestation and other natural phenomena, and an unfavourable external environment, such as the decline in commodity prices and the debt burden.

In Part II the report recommends that the African countries should continue to concentrate their efforts on agriculture and its supporting sectors, on the rehabilitation and development of agro-industries, the fight against drought, desertification and pests, and the other sectoral priorities identified in the Programme. The report further recommends that the African countries should intensify their efforts to establish early warning systems and national food security

arrangements, diversify exports, improve export performance, and maintain the incomes of farmers at appropriate levels. It attaches particular importance to ensuring that women have access to agricultural extension services, credit, land titles and new technologies.

For the international community, an increased flow of financial resources to Africa, the creation of a more favourable international environment for trade and commodities, and special measures to reduce the external debt burden are recommended.

In the section on World Food Council, the document before you reports on the outcome of the Fourteenth Ministerial Session held in May 1988 in Nicosia, Cyprus. I draw your particular attention to the Cyprus Initiative Against Hunger adopted by the Session.

In his statement to you on 17 November 1988, Mr. Trant, Executive Director of the World Food Council, spoke in some detail about the Cyprus Initiative. He mentioned the support given to the Cyprus Initiative by the Director-General of FAO, which was also reflected in the FAO statement made at the Second Committee of the General Assembly. Mr. Trant also informed the Council of the informal ad hoc Consultative Group which was established in October by the WFC president, he gave details about its task, its composition, its calendar of meetings, etc. Therefore, I do not have to dwell on this but I should like to emphasise that the Secretariats of the two Organizations are in close contact with regard to practical arrangements for co-operation in this area, and all of FAO's published and unpublished analytical material and information is put at the disposal of the World Food Council.

Paragraphs 51 to 72 of document CL 94/12 report on progress in the GATT multilateral trade negotiations - the Uruguay Round - since mid-1987 in the areas of principal concern to FAO and on the support provided by FAO to the negotiations regarding agriculture, tropical products and natural resource-based products. Since preparing the document in front of you, each of the Negotiating Groups established to deal with these three important areas, agriculture, tropical products and natural resource-based products, has continued its work with a focus, most recently, on the development of inputs to serve as a basis for the mid-term review of the Uruguay Round to be held in Montreal next month. This mid-term review, already referred to by many Members of the Council earlier in this session, will be conducted at Ministerial level by the Trade Negotiations Committee which supervises the Uruguay Round negotiations. We share the hopes expressed here for a successful conclusion of the mid-term review.

Briefly with regard to environment and the broader concept of sustainable development, you have before you a separate document CL 94/6 which examines in quite some detail the Organization's policies, programmes, budget and activities in this regard and which was discussed last Friday in great detail. The importance of close international co-operation in the field of environment was emphasized by many speakers. I would therefore confine myself here to saying that document CL 94/6, and the Council's response to it, will form the basis of FAO submissions to the General Assembly and to the UNEP Governing Council in compliance with the reporting requests of General Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 42/187 on the Environmental Perspective and the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development respectively.

In the area of nutrition, I would like to mention again our continuing close relations with WHO. You may recall that the 24th session of the FAO Conference in November 1987 was informed that a Joint FAO/WHO Consultative Group on Food and Nutrition Policies had been established. The first meeting of the Consultative Group took place in Rome on 1 February 1988 and there will be another meeting in the near future in Geneva.

You will note from the document before you that the advancement of women continues to occupy an important place on the agendas of intergovernmental fora. A brief summary of General Assembly and ECOSOC resolutions on this subject are presented for your information. A more detailed and substantive overview of FAO efforts in this regard are or were before the Council in document CL 94/13, which was considered in great detail today.

I would like to draw your attention to the section on science and technology for development in the document before you. You will note that the Inter-governmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development adopted in August 1987 a resolution on 'Policy guidelines for harmonization of activities of the organizations of the United Nations system in science and technology for development'. The Intergovernmental Committee has invited other intergovernmental bodies within the United Nations system to consider the report of the Secretary-General on this subject and to offer their comments. Accordingly, your views on this matter will be transmitted to the Intergovernmental Committee. In this connection, I may draw your particular attention to paragraphs 173 and 174 of the document in front of you.

It is mentioned in paragraph 237 of the document before you that the draft Relationship Agreement between FAO and UNIDO is going to be submitted for approval to the Industrial Development Board of UNIDO in October 1988. I am pleased to inform you that the Board, at its recent session in October, decided to approve the draft agreement. Follow-up action in this regard will proceed as indicated in the document.

Finally, let me now turn to another matter, which sounds rather mundane and somewhat bureaucratic, but which nevertheless needs your attention. It relates to the official title of the Joint FAO/IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) Division. In FAO this Joint Division is currently known as the "Joint FAO/IAEA Division of Nuclear and Biotechnology Applications in Food and Agriculture". It was drawn to our attention by IAEA earlier this year that a different title for the Joint Division is in use in IAEA, and yet another title is used by the Joint Division itself. It was felt that we should agree on one official title for the Joint Division which is to be used by everybody concerned. Based on a proposal from the Atomic Energy Agency it has been agreed that the title of the Joint Division for uniform application will be: "Joint FAO/IAEA Division of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture". Unless the Council has any particular difficulty with the new title, it is proposed to go into effect on 1 December 1988.

You will find also a section on relations with international financial institutions in the document at paragraphs 195 to 219, which I should like to bring to your attention here without dwelling on the content.

Lastly in the area of drug abuse we reported last year on the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking and the Comprehensive Multi-disciplinary Outline adopted by the Conference. Since then, FAO has outlined several proposals for policy orientations and possible fields of intervention in line with the CMO targets. FAO's fields of technical competence relate to three of these targets, namely the identification of illicit narcotic plant cultivation, elimination of illicit plantings, and redevelopment of areas formerly under illicit drug crop cultivation. FAO fully recognizes the overall co-ordinating role of the United Nations Commission for Narcotic Drugs and the leadership role of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control in funding the operational activities within the United Nations system. FAO continues to attend, on a regular basis, the ad hoc meetings on co-ordination in matters relating to international drug abuse control.

I intend to stop at this point, as I feel the major developments have been covered adequately in the document before you, which speaks for itself. I shall, of course, be happy to provide any information or clarification which members of the Council may wish to have in the course of their deliberations on this subject.

Before concluding, I should very briefly again remind you that there is a section on science and technology for development, and that your views on the policy guidelines will be conveyed to the Inter-Governmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie M. Luhe de sa communication introductive. Nous ouvrons le débat.

R.G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): I thank Dr. Luhe for the paper CL 94/12 and for bringing us up-to-date today. As always, with papers in this series, it has been carefully and objectively prepared. My only criticism, is that, as before, it does not bring out easily the parts of the documents which in the opinion of the author require action by the Council. Nor is this covered in the annotated agenda which in this Council tends to be less detailed than those of many of our sister organizations.

As my contribution to speeding the discussion this afternoon my intervention will be restricted to the first substantive section of the paper - Operational Activities for Development - on which action is clearly required by us at this Session. I feel my remarks may be slightly longer than usual, but this is a complex subject.

General Assembly Resolution No. 42/196, on operational activities of the UN system, was adopted by consensus last year and set various tasks for the organizations of the UN system. Some required responses by the Secretariat for the summer ECOSOC this year. Others were without date. Others were intended to provide an input into the major consideration of operational activities at the Triennial Review at next summer's ECOSOC, and the necessary preparatory work, notably the report of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation.

It would be helpful if Member Countries of the Council were informed at the 95th meeting of the formal responses made by the Secretariat in respect of all the relevant paragraphs of Resolution No. 42/196. This would amongst other things help ensure that member countries who are also members of ECOSOC would be able to take account of food and agricultural aspects of the discussion of operational activities.

There have no doubt been responses made by the Secretariat on behalf of the governing bodies of FAO which have already been made in connection with the 1988 ECOSOC. These could be made available by the Secretariat to members now. One of these would be the response to paragraph 24(c) of the Resolution which requires a report on the review and rationalisation of the field of this structure.

One of the requirements of the Resolution (paragraph 30) was the provision of full support for the activities of the Inter-Agency Procurement Services Unit (IAPSU), so as to enable it to provide more comprehensive and reliable information of the procurement activities of the UN systems. It would be helpful in this particular case if the Secretariat would let the Council know now whether there have been any difficulties here in the provision of information required by IAPSU - since this is a subject which will reappear first in the Governing Council of UNDP, i.e. before the summer ECOSOC, and is a matter of much concern to developing and underutilised countries. Is FAO a defaulter here?

However, the one subject covered by the General Assembly Resolution which certainly requires action by this Council is the provision of detailed comments on the "Jansson" report or to give it the proper title which I shall not use again, "the Report on the findings of the case studies on the functioning of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system". As Mr. Luhe has just said, the Resolution asked for a discussion in detail at the next session of the Governing Bodies of organizations in the UN system. This is that session.

The reason why the Resolution was drafted in this way, was that until now contributions from the agencies to the study of operational activities have often been from the Secretariats with little involvement of the membership. Incompatible and combative positions are often taken. The task of finding right solutions has fallen to the Director-General, Mr. Ripert, and ECOSOC. The Jansson Report provides some 16 paragraphs of recommendations and conclusions most of fundamental concern to the Specialised Agencies and other members of the UN system, on which the views of Governments in the role of members of the councils of the various sectoral bodies are required. If these views are provided by this Council it should ensure that practical conclusions emerge from the ECOSOC Triennial Review - conclusions which reflect the realities of co-operation in the field of food and agriculture. The conclusions should then be realistic, not merely idealistic.

It will be appropriate if the Council provided a response to all points in the conclusions of the report - i.e., in subparagraphs (a) to (p) of paragraph 82 of the Jansson Report; and provided these in a single document which can be transmitted to ECOSOC like those already provided by UNDP, UNICEF and so on. If current practice in this Council is to be followed the response would be a section of the Report of the Council. On the adoption of the agenda last Tuesday, it was decided that observations contributing to this subject might be made under this agenda Item 10 or under Item 13, when we will have the advantage of the presence of Professor Mazoyer to help us through the discussion of the report of the Programme Committee on the Jansson Report. I would suggest that the draftsman of this section of the report ensures that the discussion of the Jansson Report be grouped in one section wherever it was made which can be cited as our response to the General Assembly Resolution. If, as you Mr. Chairman, suggested earlier, the report of the Council is to be written concisely, then I would suggest to the Chairman and members of the Drafting Committee that they consider unusually including our response on this subject in a self-contained annex.

So far I have spoken on mechanics.

May I now make specific suggestions for our reply.

We should I suggest say, as the Programme Committee does, that the Council regard the Jansson Report to be a balanced and objective document, providing a realistic assessment of the issues and difficulties facing the system's operational activities, and that we find the recommendations on the whole acceptable. We could add I suggest that we confirm our commitment to the efforts of the international community to enhance the value of the operational activities of the system by more effective co-ordination and by the sharing of experiences in improvements in delivery and procedures.

In any introduction or covering note we should I think enter a disclaimer, saying that the views expressed are those of the representatives of governments in the FAO Council and are intended to be a contribution to the discussion of the subject in ECOSOC. Governments are not to be bound by the opinions contained in our reply. I suggest this because, though I normally prefer consistency in governmental action in different governing bodies, what is required here is the sectoral input into

the discussion. We should also say that some of the subject matter covered by the Jansson Report is also being examined in the review being carried out simultaneously under the aegis of our Programme and Finance Committees. The work of the team of experts considering the field programmes is particularly relevant, and the opinions expressed now may have to be modified in the light of the Review. We would wish to say that the follow up of the Review by FAO will need to take account of the conclusions of ECOSOC, and that we hope that material and ideas developed for the Triennial Review will be available to assist the work in our own Review. It is of course very appropriate that Mr. Jansson is one of our own experts in the field study team.

Of the conclusions (a) to (p) we need not make comments on (f), (h) and (j) which are not matters for FAO.

As regards conclusion (a) in which Jansson speaks of the importance of assistance from the UN system going beyond its value in terms of volume of aid flow, we, i.e. the Council, could concur with the view that advice from multinational development institutions is valued for its impartiality as well as its appropriateness. We could say that the role of FAO in providing country-specific advice on agricultural policy, and the balance in the programme between this and project execution, is one of the issues in the forefront of the Review that is our Review. Governments value the substantive and sectoral advice they receive, and the key role in planning assistance.

On (b) of Jansson which deals mainly with joint programming - we, that is the Council, could suggest that greater integration of activities of the UN system is desirable where these activities are substantially of the same type and in countries where they are a major contribution to the development of the resources of the country concerned. Where the input of the UN system is relatively small, the important factor is conformity with the mechanism of the host country's planning processes and in some cases with regional or global initiatives or programmes.

We should specify how many of FAO's activities are currently programmed in the (UNDP) country programming process - a large proportion are since they are financed by UNDP. Which others are? Clearly not TCP financed programmes since they are supposed to be for unforeseen and emergency purposes. What about the others such as Trust Fund finance programmes? Do FAO staff take account of the approved (UNDP) country programmes when preparing projects for submission for extra budgeting finance? If so we should say so. If not, why not?

In our reply we should specify what activities are not susceptible to joint programming with other activities of the UN system, and we should say what arrangements are made to ensure that such FAO activities are not in conflict with other activities of the system. Other agencies have, in some cases only recently, set up arrangements to ensure that their field representative and the Resident Coordinator is aware of all the country-specific activities of that agency in his area of competence. Our reply should say what are our arrangements.

On (c) - the strengthened role of the Resident Coordinator - we should give our opinion on whether there is a case, from the agricultural point of view, for the separation of the roles of the Resident Coordinator and the Resident Representative in countries with large UN or bilateral programmes; this is one of the recommendations of Jansson. I notice that Programme Committee did not appear to be interested in this suggestion, and neither is my delegation, at least in normal circumstances. There is a suggestion in this paragraph that Resident Coordinators should be provided with a small substantive staff of development management specialists. Would we be prepared to assist in this way by a redeployment of FAO staff - say in the South Pacific region or some similar one where the case for multisectoral advice from the UN system is strong? If we could, and I would hope we could, we should say so. If the provision of Associate Professional Officers is relevant here, would countries who participate in this scheme cooperate?

As regards (d) - which encourages decentralisation of management of operations and the gradual harmonisation of procedures - including programming cycles, project documentation, financial rules and delegation of decision taking, the Council may find it necessary to say no more than that these are matters being considered in our own review, i.e. watch this space and may wish to draw formally and draw to the attention of the expert group, if necessary, this conclusion.

The Secretariat may however be able to inform us of progress in harmonising procedures through the Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions (CCSQ) (Ops).

This is an important point for some smaller countries.

The Programme Committee agreed with (e) of the Jansson Report's conclusions that it is often more useful to promote sectoral and subsectoral coordination and we should I suggest include this view in our return.

As regards (g), I would hope we could reaffirm our commitment to the central funding role of UNDP, though could point out that the current position is satisfactory to sectoral bodies such as FAO only if one relevant sectoral ministries have an effective say in the allocation of external resources. The Programme Committee found hard to accept the proposal in this paragraph of the Jansson Report that Trust Funds should as much as possible be channelled through UNDP. I am inclined to agree with the Programme Committee", since if the money could be channelled through UNDP it could presumably be a straightforward contribution. But we may wish to say that Trust Funds to FAO are in the main additional, as they are an alternative to bilateral expenditure, and that donor countries bear in mind the need to ensure that neither the amount nor the purpose of the contribution conflicts with the central role of UNDP or with the national priorities of the benefitting government. The expert group may wish to consider whether a mechanism is necessary within FAO to ensure that there is no tendency for such a conflict; a field programme committee of members has been suggested in their place.

As regards the use of the UNDP country programme as a frame of reference for all sources of UN technical assistance - a point made in sub-paragraph (i) - it may perhaps not be entirely tactful to mention our high expectation from the review commissioned by UNDP of current procedures and recommendations for their improvement. The author is an old friend of FAO. The review team should make sure they see his report.

However, we should at least say that the country programme is used as a frame of reference for all county-specific activities in countries where the UN input is large. At least I hope this is the case.

Conclusions (k) and (l) deal with the UN system's capacity for analytical work. There is a suggestion that staff resources of the agencies should be redeployed for this purpose. Possibly we should say that this is a matter we expect the experts and the review to cover. The experts will no doubt be considering the need for a greater geographic focus for the organisation, and this should help to deal with the deficiencies identified by the Jansson team.

I would hope that the Secretariat can give us guidance on what should be said in response to conclusion (m) about the need to make development information easily accessible to governments and the donor community, using modern information techniques. No doubt members would wish the Secretariat to be ready to participate in plans to make information more readily available through links between existing computerised storage systems.

As regards point (n), which concerns the cultivation of the habit of coordination, the Programme Committee were right in their comment that coordination requires goodwill of all concerned, and should be catalytic.

Point (o) is about the desirability of having non-governmental organisations participating in aid coordination arrangements, especially in the social sectors. I leave it to others to comment from their experience.

Finally (p) deals with co-location of field offices. The Programme Committee advocated a case by case approach, with co-location to be considered when this was feasible. Of course here the views of governments must be taken into account. As the ACC in a report circulated to us as CL 94/INF/13 robustly puts it "field representations are established at the specific request of host governments with a view to their deriving greater benefits from the activities of the organizations concerned". Unless the experience in the agricultural field is different we must also take good account of the views of some countries, especially in the South Pacific, as reflected in the Jansson report -pleading for co-location of field representation and similar chains of communication. Co-location does not just mean having offices in the same building. It can mean offices in the same country or island.

These were my suggestions for inclusion in our response to ECOSOC.

LE PRESIDENT: Dans son intervention l'orateur a évoqué à maintes reprises le Comité du Programme et sa position sur le Rapport Jansson. Puisque le Président du Comité du Programme sera là demain peut-être pourrions nous alors évoquer cette question dans la séance de demain, comme on l'avait décidé au début de ce Conseil. Je ne me sens pas autorisé à parler pour ce qu'a fait le Président du Comité du Programme. Nous nous sommes mis en relation avec M. Mazoyer, comme il avait été décidé pour voir s'il pouvait venir aujourd'hui. Son calendrier ne le lui permettait pas. D'autre part, aujourd'hui nous avons eu une très longue et très intéressante question sur les femmes.

Nous pourrions donc attendre le Président du Comité du Programme pour que notre discussion soit plus efficace. C'est cela que je voudrais dire au représentant du Royaume-Uni. Puisque le Président et le Président du Comité du Programme sont impliqués personnellement, je vous serais reconnaissant si vous pouviez parler de cette question en présence du Président du Comité du Programme.

R.G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): I did address this point to some extent in my intervention and I followed our last discussion on Tuesday when it was suggested by, I think, my colleague from Italy that we might cover it in both, my suggestion that it be left to the Rapporteur or to the draftsman to gather up these points. I understand several delegations have prepared their interventions on both items and planned to include some reference to their subject under Item 10 and if it is acceptable I would suggest they be allowed to do this. These observations will, of course, be available for consultation when we do have the presence of Prof. Mazoyer and obviously on that occasion too other delegates will wish to address this subject to them.

LE PRESIDENT: Je pense qu'on ne veut pas impliquer dans une discussion le Président du Comité du Programme s'il n'est pas là. Donc si vous en convenez, tout ce qui concerne la question du programme, y compris cette partie du Rapport Jansson nous pourrions le faire en présence de M. Mazoyer car il me paraît délicat d'avoir un débat en l'absence du Président du Comité du Programme.

Gonzalo BOLA HOYOS (Colombia): Nuestro amigo Eberhart Luhe ha hecho una presentación clara y adecuada. Este es un documento rico en temas. Nos corresponde seleccionar, como lo ha hecho el colega del Reino Unido, quien se refirió esencialmente a las actividades de campo, a las actividades operacionales del informe Jansson. El Reino Unido ha hecho comentarios serios y profundos, Sr. Presidente, sobre los cuales no estamos ahora en capacidad de expresar una reacción, pero leeremos con cuidado la declaración del Reino Unido cuando sea publicada en las actas, a la luz de lo que dice el Comité del Programa, que ya ha dicho que el informe Jansson es un documento equilibrado y objetivo. Apoyamos la propuesta del Reino Unido, en el sentido de que, de todas maneras, los comentarios sobre este importante informe se consignen en una sola sección, para facilitar la comprensión de los miembros del Consejo. La reacción del Reino Unido a sus observaciones fueron flexibles y constructivas. Creo que el procedimiento no nos ofrecerá dificultades.

Pasamos a PNUD, Sr. Presidente. A los representantes de Colombia nos complace que la última reunión del Consejo de Administración del PNUD confirme que ese importante programa avanza satisfactoriamente, consolida sus recursos y se preocupa por "incrementar y mejorar la ejecución y la calidad de los programas que financia." El párrafo 12 del documento contiene el apoyo a la política de encargar a los Gobiernos que estén en condiciones de hacerlo, la ejecución de los proyectos. Pensamos que este Consejo debe pedir a la FAO, primer organismo de ejecución del PNUD, que ponga en práctica esa política, siempre que sea posible y conveniente, como dice el párrafo 12. Por propia experiencia nacional, pensamos que la FAO está haciendo ya algo en pro de esa política. Nos gustaría saber de la Secretaría qué se está haciendo al respecto, y, sobre todo, cuáles son las posibilidades progresivas de incrementar esa política, esa modalidad, a la cual atribuimos importancia, porque estimulará la formación y el fortalecimiento de instituciones nacionales y de expertos en los países en desarrollo. Además, esa recomendación fue respaldada unánimemente por la Conferencia Regional de América Latina y el Caribe celebrada recientemente en Recife, Brasil.

El párrafo 14 hace referencia a los recursos para el Cuarto Ciclo de Programación del PNUD, que deberá concluir en 1991. Nos complace que de esa suma se vayan a dedicar 20 millones de dólares al programa de asistencia especial para países de América Central. Esto está vinculado a los párrafos 124 a 127, sobre la situación en América Central, para la cual se ha elaborado un Plan Especial de Cooperación para Centroamérica, en cuya preparación participó la FAO, particularmente con la elaboración de un conjunto de proyectos prioritarios para el desarrollo agrícola y ganadero.

La Delegación de Colombia pide que en nuestro informe se solicite a la FAO que intensifique su asistencia a los países centroamericanos y que se pida al PNUD, a otros organismos de financiación y donantes en general, que suministren recursos para que los proyectos elaborados por la FAO puedan realizarse. Opinamos que la asistencia a los países hermanos de Centroamérica podrá contribuir a que en esa martirizada región se logre la paz, paz por la cual trabaja intensamente el Gobierno de Colombia en el Grupo de Contadora y también como miembro del Grupo de los Ocho.

Una última palabra sobre la distribución de los recursos del PNUD. Confiamos en que, en la medida en que se vayan recuperando las economías de los países más gravemente afectados y con déficit de alimentos, la fórmula de distribución de recursos aplicada actualmente por el PNUD permitirá que se incrementen los recursos -ahora explícitamente limitados- para aquellos países que han alcanzado el llamado grado intermedio de desarrollo, pero que aun tienen graves problemas y bolsones de pobreza.

El Gobierno de Colombia apoya plenamente la gestión del Sr. Draper, Administrador del PNUD, y del Dr. Ramírez Ocampo, Director Regional del PNUD para América Latina y el Caribe. La Delegación de Colombia reconoce el apoyo de la FAO al Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación, particularmente en la implementación de la Iniciativa de Chipre contra el Hambre. Esa cooperación, así como la de los demás organismos competentes, asegurarán la necesaria coordinación, por la cual todos nos preocupamos. La declaración hecha ante este Consejo por el Sr. Trant, Director Ejecutivo del CMA, confirma los avances que se han ido logrando en el cumplimiento de esa iniciativa, a la cual los representantes de Colombia estamos vinculados desde sus comienzos, en la reunión del CMA en Beijing, China.

Nuestro reconocimiento al Sr. Pesqueira, Secretario de Agricultura y Recursos Hidráulicos de México, Presidente del CMA, por el interés que ha tomado sobre esta iniciativa. Colombia ha sido elegido miembro del Grupo Consultivo, en cuya composición nos complace destacar la presencia, por Asia, del Japón, país que, sobre todo en los últimos años, ha venido asumiendo una actitud muy positiva en la cooperación internacional. Es satisfactoria y síntoma de buenas esperanzas la participación en el Grupo Consultivo de los Estados Unidos, primer productor, de Australia y Francia, en representación de la CEE.

Somos conscientes de que no es una empresa fácil; por el contrario, tiene muchas dificultades y plantea interrogantes y dudas. De todos modos, el Gobierno de Colombia piensa que bien vale la pena ensayar caminos, buscar fórmulas dirigidas a corregir la dolorosa y persistente paradoja, de que los grandes excedentes de cereales se hallan concentrados en unos pocos países productores, al tiempo que millones de seres humanos padecen hambre y malnutrición en el Tercer Mundo. Proponemos que este Consejo apoye la Iniciativa de Chipre y pida a la FAO y a los demás organismos interesados que ofrezcan su colaboración al Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación.

Rogamos al distinguido Observador de la OCDE que transmita a esa Organización los agradecimientos del Gobierno de Colombia, porque la OCDE ha ofrecido su sede en París para que se realice la primera reunión del Grupo Consultivo los días 19 y 20 de diciembre próximo. Esa actitud generosa de la OCDE es, sin duda, un aporte muy significativo, porque todos los Estados integrantes desempeñan un papel fundamental en la cooperación internacional.

La Ronda Uruguay de Negociaciones Comerciales Multilaterales es el último de los asuntos que comentaremos brevemente.

Registramos con satisfacción la participación de la FAO en la Ronda Uruguay.

Está muy bien, como dice el párrafo 68, que la FAO haya respondido con carácter prioritario a todas las peticiones de ayuda que se le han dirigido. La asistencia técnica a los países interesados, de que habla el párrafo 72, debe continuarse y extenderse a otros países o grupos de países. Esperamos que la revisión a medio término, que se llevará a cabo en Montreal, Canadá; Canadá con quien compartimos nuestras asociaciones al Grupo CAIRNS; Canadá país activo en pro de la liberalización del comercio, y esperamos que la reunión de diciembre próximo impulsará esas negociaciones.

Los Representantes de Colombia queremos destacar, con satisfacción, algunos de los apartes de la declaración hecha en la discusión del tema 4, por nuestro colega y amigo Sr. Goldsack, nuevo Representante Permanente del Reino Unido. Hemos tomado de las actas las palabras del Reino Unido cuyo Representante afirmó: "es innecesario el desacuerdo entre países desarrollados y en desarrollo sobre los objetivos de la Ronda Uruguay".

En la opinión del Reino Unido, la reunión de medio término, en Montreal, debería permitir que los países de la ODC y del grupo de los 77 se comprometan a decidir un marco para la solución de los problemas agrícolas, a largo y medio términos.

Si interpretamos adecuadamente las palabras del Reino Unido, con todo respeto por la traducción aproximada, seguramente imperfecta, creo que empezamos en el seno de la FAO a ponernos de acuerdo sobre la necesaria interrelación que debe existir entre los problemas del tercer mundo y los decisivos aportes de los países desarrollados para su solución. Todo ello dentro de un marco leal de mutua cooperación.

Waliur RAHMAN (Bangladesh): Not long ago at its 40th birthday the United Nations was under serious pressure. Some questioned its usefulness; some others even put in question its validity. Even at that time the FAO, as the watchdog of the state of global food and agriculture, worked quietly but definitely to assist those countries which needed its help. Today, when the UN is back in fashion, the FAO has not changed its rhythm. The important multilateral cooperation initiated and nourished by the FAO continues uninterrupted.

I pay my sincere compliments to Mr. Lühe for his presentation of the item which includes a broad spectrum of issues. Some of them are extremely important and relevant in the United Nations system. We are also thankful to the Secretariat for the hard work done in presenting and updating the recent developments in the present document CL 94/12.

Collective and coordinated endeavours are essential to face today's challenges. Good relationships amongst various multilateral organizations are all the more necessary at this moment. We are happy to note that the FAO has been maintaining close cooperation with other sister organizations. The Director-General and the Secretariat deserve our commendation for this.

With reference to operational activities for development, my delegation would like to express general support for the views of the Programme Committee on the Jansson Report. The Programme Committee's deliberations, we believe, took care of the major findings of the Jansson case studies. I believe it is a good effort in assisting us to improve and revitalize the operational activities of the UN System.

On the issue of the critical economic situation in Africa, we are happy to note that the FAO has been associated in supporting the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development. We agree with the Programme Committee that the FAO should continue to focus on Africa as its top regional priority.

As regards the Cyprus Initiative against Hunger, adopted at the Fourteenth Ministerial Session of the World Food Council, we would like to recall with satisfaction the active role of my country in that session towards the adoption of the Cyprus Initiative. We naturally attach great importance to this move and would welcome its early implementation. We express our full satisfaction at the total support and cooperation of FAO towards this document.

As regards science and technology for development, we appreciate the constructive role of FAO. My delegation has no problem in concurring with the name agreed upon between FAO and IAEA.

Regarding the special economic and disaster relief assistance, we express our sincere gratitude to the Director-General, Mr. Edouard Saouma, for the reference he made to the situation in my country which was very badly affected by floods of unprecedented magnitude in August and September this year. As the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh said, it was an abhorration of nature.

I am happy to inform you that the meeting on 16 November held in New York (convened by the Secretary-General, Mr. Perez de Cuellar) was an important landmark in the commitment of the international community to assisting my country in finding a more durable and effective solution to the problem of floods through regional and multilateral approaches. As his Excellency President Hussain Mohammed Ershad underlined: "Natural disasters do not respect political frontiers". He stressed that the solution to floods in Bangladesh lies in wider cooperation, interlinked endeavours on national, regional and international planes, backed by sustained development assistance.

Before I conclude, I should like to reiterate my country's appreciation of the role that FAO is playing, under the dynamic leadership of the Director-General, Mr. Edouard Saouma, in bringing succour and relief to the disadvantaged and underprivileged thereby correcting slowly but steadily, the injustice that may have been done to many of these countries under circumstances beyond their control.

FAO's contribution and cooperation in, and with, the UN system makes no small contribution this situation.

Mounir KHORAYCH (Liban) (Langue originale arabe): Nous félicitons le Secrétariat pour cet important document ainsi que le Docteur Luhe pour sa présentation exhaustive.

La Délégation du Liban exprime sa satisfaction pour la contribution efficace de la FAO aux activités des Nations Unies, dans le cadre de ses attributions. Cependant, nous tenons à exprimer notre inquiétude car en dépit de ce qu'une année s'est écoulée depuis que l'Assemblée générale a adopté sa résolution 42/163 sur le redressement économique et le développement de l'Afrique, les résultats escomptés n'ont pas été réalisés, bien au contraire, car la dette a augmenté et nous exhortons les pays concernés à honorer leurs obligations proclamées en 1987 pour réduire le déficit actuel.

Nous espérons que les recommandations présentées par le Groupe consultatif constitué par le Secrétaire général seront mises à exécution; à cette occasion, nous réaffirmons notre vœu que priorité soit accordée à l'Afrique en ce domaine, en veillant sur la situation des pays sous-développés dans le monde.

S'agissent des résultats de la quatorzième réunion ministérielle du Conseil mondial de l'alimentation, nous appuyons le contenu des paragraphes 44 à 50.

En ce qui concerne le Round de l'Uruguay, nous constatons avec satisfaction que les partenaires sont convaincus de la nécessité du règlement du problème du déséquilibre commercial mondial et nous attendons des solutions pratiques pour cristalliser cet accord.

Nous espérons que l'on trouvera un dénominateur commun au sujet des négociations concernant les produits tropicaux et surtout les produits naturels, en raison de l'importance de ces matières, non point pour les produits producteurs uniquement, mais surtout pour toutes les régions du monde, et en particulier les pays en voie de développement. Nous tenons à souligner le rôle accompli par la FAO qui a soutenu ces négociations et donné les informations nécessaires pour leur réussite.

Au cours de nos précédentes interventions, nous avons affirmé à la fois l'importance du développement et la nécessité de préserver le système écologique ainsi que le rôle joué par la FAO en ce domaine. A cet effet, nous attirons l'attention sur un danger inattendu qui vient d'apparaître récemment et qui soulève nos appréhensions: je veux parler du problème des produits toxiques; tous les pays de la communauté internationale doivent leur accorder une importance particulière surtout en ce qui concerne la protection des pays en voie de développement qui, en général, sont les premières victimes de ces résidus toxiques.

Enfin, nous exprimons notre satisfaction pour l'augmentation des ressources affectées à l'agriculture ainsi qu'à la coopération de la FAO avec les fonds affectés aux projets productifs, tendant à soutenir des petites entreprises dans les pays en voie de développement.

Ms Anna-Liisa KORHONEN (Finland): My delegation would like to thank the secretariat for document CL 94/12 now under discussion. The introductory statement by Mr. Lühe updated it with most recent events in a useful manner.

At this stage Finland would like to make some general observations concerning this agenda item, as well as some more specific comments about the document. At the 24th Conference of FAO my delegation made the general point that this agenda item could contain valuable information to the FAO Governing Bodies concerning developments in the UN system relevant to the activities of, this Organization. If the issues at hand had been presented in a problem oriented and an analytical manner then new events, which have a system-wide application, could also be distinguished from regular on-going activities. My delegation also expressed the wish that future reports in this field should have this orientation.

The document before us certainly highlights important events but gives only limited information about FAO's response. As a matter of fact, in some central policy issues, reference is made to other documents where FAO's response can be found. In some other instances no action by FAO is indicated, even if FAO's active participation in a meeting is reported. Therefore, my delegation is now repeating its request that next time more attention should be paid to the qualitative nature of the document under this agenda item in order that governments would benefit even more from its contents and be able to use it as a policy device in their future undertakings.

Turning now to the substance of the matter, first I should like to take up the question of operational activities for development, even though I noted your request to leave this matter until agenda item 13. My delegation welcomes this opportunity to participate in this discussion, also at FAO Council which is the first opportunity for governments to make known their position on the Jansson Report.

The operational activities of the UN system are now facing new challenges which require both flexibility and imagination. The needs of the individual developing countries differ, as do their external assistance requirements and arrangements related thereto. United Nations resolutions 41/171 and 42/196 focus on the changing international environment and invite comments from the UN system, not only to specific issues, but also to the broader questions at hand.

In paragraphs 2.21 to 2.31 of document CL 94/3 the Council has before it a short summary of the deliberations of the Programme Committee's response to the UN General Assembly resolution 42/196. My delegation was somewhat disappointed at this response. Considering the importance of the agricultural sector in the development process, my delegation would have expected a more innovative response. The report contains a traditional reply with no new thoughts or assessments for future orientation.

Against this background my delegation supports the proposal advanced by the delegation of the United Kingdom that the report of this Council session should contain a more structured response to the

request of the General Assembly so that it could be taken into account in the triannual policies review of operational activities at the ECOSOC Session in July 1989. A full response to the UN could be given on this very important matter when the Conference has decided on the results (in 1989) of the ongoing review, and in particular, on the future role of FAO field activities.

The second important question under operational activities deals with the agency support costs arrangements under the Fifth UNDP Programming Cycle. Here, I should like to note already at this stage that the procedures to be decided upon will have to be studied very carefully in the expert group to be set up by the UNDP Governing Council next February. In the ACC context a working group has already been set up to prepare its views on the important issues and there, FAO has the opportunity to put forward its ideas. It is important that all parties concerned use this phase to search for fresh ideas rather than basing their judgement on old models such as keeping their share of support costs reimbursement untouched or seeking for compensatory increases.

Regarding environmental issues, the Council has had already a separate debate and therefore it suffices to say that the document CL 94/12 describes only the various decisions and meetings in this field without explaining FAO's position on them. The same applies to the reporting on women in development. Therefore, I am confident that because of a separate debate on these two issues at this Council Session FAO activities will develop more vigorously in these areas. The Council is also asked to formulate its comments on the harmonization of activities of the organizations of the United Nations system in the field of science and technology for development, as set out in paragraphs 166 to 174. Finland agrees in broad terms with the outline presented in paragraph 173 and 174. In this context focus should indeed be on harmonizing activities in the areas of science and technology at the country level. However, it should be possible for FAO to specify more clearly its own programme of work from the point of view of being a programme of action in order to better reflect the Organization's involvement in science and technology matters under the broad objectives presented in paragraph 171.

Finally, Finland looks forward to the FAO's active participation in the implementation of ECOSOC Resolution 1988/77 entitled Revitalisation of the Economic and Social Council, which the General Assembly of the United Nations is in the process of endorsing, and here I appreciate the additional information that Mr. Luhe already gave on this issue. But my delegation would like to hear from the Secretariat more how it has planned to implement the specific requests of the Resolution quoted in paragraphs 192 and 193 of document CL 94/12.

Achille RAHARISON (Madagascar): Comme toujours, le document qui traite de ce point de l'ordre du jour est riche en informations actualisées relatives aux faits nouveaux intervenus dans le système des Nations Unies. Le document est en outre très clair et l'on doit s'en féliciter. Chaque sujet présenté dans le document mérite des commentaires de la part de chaque délégation mais le temps imparti ne nous permet pas de procéder de la sorte. Aussi nous contenterons-nous d'émettre quelques réflexions et de formuler quelques suggestions à l'endroit d'un ou deux points qui nous tiennent particulièrement à coeur.

Nous voudrions en fait insister sur certaines déclarations que notre délégation a faites lors de l'examen des points 3 et 4 de l'ordre du jour actuel. Le constat de l'exécution du Plan d'action des Nations Unies pour le redressement économique et le développement de l'Afrique, établi par les comités ou groupes mis sur pied par l'OUA ou par le Secrétariat général des Nations Unies, est malheureusement un constat d'échec. Il s'agit fort heureusement d'une évaluation à mi-parcours. On peut donc encore et l'on doit sans plus tarder prendre les mesures de redressement appropriées.

L'on n'insistera jamais assez et l'on ne répétera jamais trop qu'une volonté politique plus ferme de coopération internationale s'impose. Les paragraphes 19 à 31 du document CL 94/12, et notamment les paragraphes 27 et 28, rappellent et dégagent la voie à suivre, et ils donnent une idée assez précise de l'apport complémentaire que la communauté internationale doit assurer au continent africain. Pour ne citer que quelques-unes des contributions requises, nous relèverons, premièrement, que le succès du programme exige une mobilisation massive des ressources; la majorité de ces ressources doivent être assorties de conditions de faveur. Nous relevons aussi que toute disposition utile devrait être acceptée et promue pour que la dette extérieure des Etats du continent puisse être gérable, c'est-à-dire que sa réduction ou son rééchelonnement permettent à ces Etats d'établir des plans de développement de leur économie à moyen et long terme. Bien entendu, il faudra valoriser le capital humain et donner un appui vigoureux à la recherche agronomique.

Le problème de la détérioration des termes de l'échange et celui de la baisse des recettes d'exportation des pays en développement ne sont pas traités dans le document à l'examen, mais ils n'en constituent pas moins des facteurs limitants pour la relance de l'économie en Afrique. Par contre, les propositions de redressement qui sont formulées ailleurs sont valables pour le continent et doivent faire partie intégrante des programmes à mettre en oeuvre.

Bernard LEDUN (France): Dans le document CL 94/12, qui retrace de manière condensée mais précise les événements écoulés au cours de l'année dans le champ d'activité économique du système des Nations Unies, la délégation française souhaite plus particulièrement mettre l'accent sur quelques-uns des points évoqués.

Elle tient tout d'abord à manifester d'emblée sa concordance de vues avec les observations du Comité du Programme sur le Rapport Jansson telles qu'elles figurent dans le document CL 94/3 notamment sur le rôle fondamental des gouvernements en matière de coordination et sur la nécessité de renforcer les mécanismes de coordination existants au niveau des pays avant que le système ne se lance dans la mise en place de nouveaux cadres de coordination.

De même, il est opportunément souligné, dans ce document, l'importance du rôle des représentants de la FAO qui, au sein du système, s'occupent souvent du secteur principal de l'économie des pays où ils travaillent en collaboration, qui doit être nécessairement étroite, avec les représentants résidents du PNUD.

Tout en approuvant donc les conclusions générales du Rapport Jansson, notre délégation tient à faire remarquer que le présent Conseil n'est peut-être pas l'enceinte appropriée pour en débattre longuement sur le fond. En effet, le PNUD, le Conseil économique et social et, à nouveau, la quarante-troisième session de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies sont les cadres naturels de discussion du Rapport Jansson. Il ne convient donc pas, selon nous, de revenir en détail, au cours des sessions du Conseil ou de la Conférence générale, sur des thèmes qui font déjà l'objet d'un examen approfondi et d'un consensus lors de réunions des comités techniques de notre Organisation. Qu'il nous suffise donc de redire ici notre approbation des observations du Comité du Programme telles qu'elles figurent dans le document soumis à notre attention.

Par ailleurs, ainsi que vous le faisiez remarquer tout à l'heure, Monsieur le Président, rien ne nous empêche éventuellement d'aborder ces points plus longuement mais avec la participation du Professeur Mazoyer qui a dirigé les débats au sein du comité qu'il préside.

A propos de la situation économique critique en Afrique, notre délégation tient à rappeler le rôle très actif joué par la France à la Conférence qui s'est tenue en septembre à New York sur l'exécution à mi-parcours du programme d'action des Nations Unies pour le redressement économique et le développement de l'Afrique. Que ce soit sur la question des produits de base, des flux concessionnels ou de la dette, nous avons concouru à l'adoption à New York, de résolutions allant dans le sens d'un engagement soutenu des pays industrialisés, et plus particulièrement des pays membres de la Communauté économique européenne aux côtés des pays africains.

C'était d'ailleurs déjà en faveur de ces derniers que le Président Mitterrand avait proposé, au moment du Sommet des pays industrialisés à Toronto, des formules novatrices visant à assouplir les conditions de remboursement des pays les plus pauvres leur permettant, au choix, des options allant de l'annulation partielle de leurs dettes à des périodes de remboursement de longue durée. De même, au cours de son allocution récente devant l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies, le Président de la République a proposé que, lors d'une prochaine allocation de droits de tirage spéciaux, les parts revenant aux pays industrialisés soient reversées à un fonds géré par le FMI dont la garantie serait ouverte aux pays à revenu intermédiaire ayant de graves problèmes d'endettement.

M. Gèrald Trant est venu exposer l'autre jour, devant cette assemblée, l'initiative dite de Chypre adoptée lors de la quatorzième session du Conseil mondial de l'alimentation qu'il dirige. Cette initiative vise à étudier les voies et moyens propres à accroître les flux de ressources nationales et internationales vers les pays les plus pauvres de notre planète.

Notre pays a accepté de participer aux travaux du groupe consultatif ad hoc constitué au sein du CMA et qui est chargé de présenter un rapport sur cette question à la quinzième session ministérielle, qui se tiendra au Caire en 1989. En effet, tout se tient: pas de développement sans sécurité alimentaire, pas de sécurité alimentaire sans l'adoption par les pays de politiques agricoles appropriées permettant un renforcement des incitations à la production locale et la création de circuits adaptés de commercialisation et de distribution. La FAO a un rôle à jouer dans la définition et le montage de ses politiques agricoles. Il importe qu'elle serve de force de proposition pour la mise en place de politiques agricoles adéquates sans lesquelles les paysanneries des pays en voie de développement seront ballottées au gré des programmes d'ajustement décidés loin de leur capitale.

Lors de la Conférence de novembre 1987, notre ministre de l'agriculture a mis à la disposition de la FAO une ligne de crédit de l'ordre d'un million de dollars pour la formation technique des personnels nationaux d'encadrement chargés de la définition et de l'exécution de ces politiques agricoles. Nous redisons ici que la FAO doit assumer pleinement ce rôle de conseil, de guide pilote, qui correspond à sa vocation. Elle peut exercer une action préventive qui, si elle faisait défaut,

serait remplacée par les actions correctives autrement plus contraignantes des institutions financières internationales. C'est une voie dans laquelle, pour notre part, nous souhaitons voir s'engager sans tarder la FAO, au risque pour elle de se retrouver réduite à des tâches purement techniques d'ingénieur-conseil. Sa longue expérience des pays du tiers monde, sa familiarité des problèmes de développement lui commandent d'aller plus loin, de dépasser ce rôle exclusivement technicien et d'être un conseil politique en matière agricole au même titre et en complémentarité de la Banque mondiale et du Fonds monétaire international.

Gian Luigi VALENZA (Italie): Je voudrais m'associer aux félicitations déjà exprimées au Secrétariat par plusieurs orateurs pour le document particulièrement intéressant, clair et complet que nous avons sous les yeux, d'où ressortent aussi bien le rôle très important que la FAO joue aux sein des Nations Unies, que la collaboration efficace et effective qu'elle est toujours prête à fournir et qu'elle continue à fournir.

L'Italie n'a jamais manqué pour sa part de souligner l'importance de cette collaboration et de cette coordination afin d'éviter tout chevauchement et atteindre de meilleurs résultats en exploitant, sans gaspiller de forces, toutes les expériences disponibles.

Christoph JESSEN (Germany, Federal Republic of): In the document CL 94/12 (paragraph 7, page 2) the Council members are invited to comment on the views of the Programme Committee as shown in document CL 94/3. Indeed we are of the opinion that the functioning of the operational activities for development of the UN system in the field is a topic of utmost importance, and we would therefore like to add our views to those expressed, especially those of the United Kingdom, which did give food for thought to all of us, and which go along the following lines:

When the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany made its comments to the Jansson Report at the 42nd General Assembly, we explained our disappointment about, and now I quote, "the assessment of the report which states that not even the UN systems' activities are presented through UNDP country programmes in a consolidated manner at a time when we, in our bilateral context, have come to the conclusion that a consolidated approach incorporating the multilateral as well as the bilateral dimensions would be the most efficient way to help solving a country's development needs, and we are ready to join in such an exercise."

Given the enormous burden developing countries' administrations experience through uncoordinated bilateral and multilateral approaches, varying in procedures, aims and intentions, we feel that more could be done to take up, for example, the recommendation 82(a) of the Jansson Report to indicate which improvements FAO could perceive for an integration of the development process on location. We also feel that comments to the very concrete recommendations (a) to (p) could be more in depth and action oriented.

If this Council does not take up the matter during this Session, it would hardly be able to comply with the relevant recommendation of the General Assembly Resolution 42/196 which states: "Governing bodies should discuss in detail the conclusions and recommendations of the report". I will therefore briefly outline our position regarding most of the essential recommendations of the Jansson Report. However, in view of the limited time, I would share with you only the highlights, and give the rest of my text to the Secretariat so that it can appear in the verbatim records.

Let me start with point 82(b). The procedures of the Joint Consultative Group on Policy (UNDP, UNICEF and WFP) ought to be explored by FAO; it ought to be established whether FAO could join the meetings with its own operational activities.

Point 82(c). We do approve of the idea of inter-agency agreements which define the role of the Resident Co-ordinator precisely; such agreements should as well lay down the criteria under which the Resident Co-ordinator will be drawn from an Organization other than UNDP, and should probably give guidance on the issue of the provision of technical agency personnel to the UN Co-ordinator as well as on the question of office location. Certainly the developing country would have to be a third party to the agreement. It should define, in precise terms, the co-ordinating authority it would like to convey to the UN Resident Co-ordinator in technical co-operation.

Point 82(d). We fully subscribe to the recommendation to harmonize procedures on the one hand, and to decentralize decisions on the other - in the interests of the effective discharge of operational activities for the benefit of the developing countries. We appreciate in this context that the Director-General for International Economic Co-operation and Development has taken up the question of overall aid co-ordination and harmonization and promised to provide a study on the issue to

ECOSOC/GA. We would be glad if FAO would be ready to joint into procedures which arise from the deliberations in the two fora.

Point 82(e). The relevance of UN activities in developing countries results from a realistic status quo analysis and the consequent application of the mandatory potential. We support the suggestion that UN programming needs a clear focus, and a clear concentration in priority areas, given also the relative marginality of UN resources in the overall development context.

Point 82(f). The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany is basically in favour of the proposal to concentrate UNDP resources on the neediest countries and neediest groups in more advanced countries. In our view the principle of universality remains untouched as long as the access of all countries to knowledge provided by UNDP and the UN system as a whole - if necessary through payment of the services requested - remains guaranteed.

Point 82(g). The Federal Government does not see a possibility to channel trust funds through UNDP for the reason that our budgetary provisions exclude such a procedure. We do, however, ask the agencies with whom we carry out multi-bilateral projects to inform the Resident Co-ordinator of the respective country so that a minimum of co-ordination is achieved. Any remonstrance on the side of the Resident Co-ordinator would be taken up by us.

Point 82(i). I have referred to the importance of recommendation (i) at the beginning of my statement. The Federal Government believes the country programme ought rather to be an instrument of actual co-ordination, a sort of frame, than just a document to justify financial flows. We expect the proposals of the Director-General for International Economic Co-operation and Development regarding this issue as well and strongly hope FAO as well as other specialized agencies will actively take part in the opinion-seeking and decision-making process of this central question.

While paragraphs (j) to (o) are either self-evident or hardly controversial recommendation (p) deserves our comment. The Federal Government continues to favour the general co-location of UN system organizations and would like to see this effected wherever possible, but especially so in the cause of services for operational activities. We emphasise at this point, because in general it is the developing country itself which provides local accommodation and pays for it; any rationalization on this side certainly means saving for the host country concerned.

I have taken this issue at large because my delegation is sincerely convinced that a consolidation of approach of a system of which FAO is part is indispensable if developing countries receive what they ought to, which is optimal services to assist them in their development process.

As a concluding remark, let me just mention that in preparing the statement I had some difficulties in finding the views of the Committees on the Jansson Report - I had read them some time ago. Therefore I would appreciate, like my British colleague also said, if their location could come out more clearly in the indexes. This would save all of us some time.

Ms Joan DODIK-GAYOSO (United States of America): This agenda item and document CL 94/12 covers a broad range of issues. The document is a useful compendium of events and issues affecting FAO across the multilateral system. We appreciate very much Mr. Luhe's introduction, and the improvements FAO has made in the document since the one provided for the Conference last year. However, we would have appreciated an explanation of the item being included in the annotated agenda, which would have helped us prepare better for the debate.

We would also like to suggest that future documents include, in addition to the report on developments, at least an analytical introduction pointing out those developments which, in the Secretariat's view, are the most significant and what bearing the Secretariat believes they will or should have on the work of FAO.

The Council has already covered some issues - for example, the situation in Africa, women in development, the environment, sustainable development, under other items. I will therefore be selective in the topics I address here.

First, the Council has already considered in detail the African situation for the purposes of this debate. I would only emphasise the importance for all participants, developed and developing countries, and multilateral agencies to fulfill their respective responsibilities in implementation of the UN Programme of Action.

Second, FAO's role in implementing UNDP programmes. As the document notes, the UNDP Governing Council took up the issue of high "agency accountability" or how the UNDP, as the central funder of

UN system technical assistance, can assure adequate performance by those UN agencies implementing UNDP projects. This is a serious and long-standing concern of my Government. The reports of the External Auditor which we will consider later in the agenda, as well as UNDP implementation in evaluation reports, indicate serious problems in project design, implementation and back topping. FAO also noted some of these problems in its report on field programmes presented to the 1987 Conference.

These problems are inherent in the development process. Therefore, I am not singling out FAO for special criticism. My delegation feels strongly that more intensive co-operation is needed to address these problems and, as we indicated in our statement to the UNDP Governing Council, little will be achieved by finger pointing. All participants in the system must take their appropriate responsibility for identifying the problem, addressing and solving them.

This leads me to note that, although many other UN agencies have signed what is known as a standard basic agreement with the UNDP, which governs their role in designing and implementing UNDP projects, FAO is one of those agencies which has not done so. Thus, under the present arrangements, UNDP must reimburse FAO for the services it provides, regardless of how well or how poorly work has been done.

This state of affairs is not encouraging to those concerned about accountability in the management of multi-lateral technical assistance. We would like to note the reasons FAO has no standard basic agreement with UNDP and we urge FAO to regularise this situation.

As the documents and other delegates have noted, by 1991 the UN system will need a new support cost arrangement as the basis upon which agencies like FAO will be reimbursed by UNDP for the costs they incur. This is not simply a financial question of whether 13% is enough or too little. This is a broad question touching the roles and relationships of the partners in the system. These roles and relationships are evolving. We can see it, for example, in the degree to which FAO's capacity to fund its own technical assistance has grown. Even more importantly, we can see it in the growing number of projects, implemented by developing country governments themselves, and the growing desire of these governments to be increasingly selective in choosing those aspects of project design and implementation for which they use external expertise, and those aspects they can manage themselves.

This is what development is all about, and my Government looks forward to an arrangement for support costs which reflect this evolution and put as much emphasis as possible on building and using the capacities of the developing countries themselves. FAO will be participating in the negotiation of the new arrangements for support costs and we urge the Secretariat, like I believe the delegate of Finland also did a little while ago, to look forward and keep very much in mind the changes that have been and are occurring in the management and use of multi-lateral technical assistance.

Third, FAO's role in relation to structural adjustment. Structural adjustment and economic policy reform are a relatively new focus of external assistance at the macro economic and sectoral level. The Director-General in his opening remarks made a number of suggestions and raised some issues about how FAO should be involved. It is a legitimate question. It raises the question of the role FAO sector-focussed technical assistance plays in the structural adjustment process of FAO's role in project implementation and policy analysis as compared to its function as a policy advisor. First, although we have been quite pleased with FAO's analytical work, in all candor, I must say that my delegation is still at this point uncertain about FAO's ability to move from analysis to recommendation of action in the policy area. Our field experiences with FAO in this role have been very mixed so we would urge caution. We would not encourage FAO at this point to rush into an expanded role as policy advisor. We very much look forward to learning the views of the experts, both as to what FAO should do and as to what FAO has the capacity to do in this area because it has important implications for the future of FAO's field activities and the structure of its field offices.

On the other hand, we believe that within the limits of its existing capabilities, FAO should be working closely in-country with others concerned with the support of structural adjustment effort. For example, we would expect FAO's proposals to be consistent with policies agreed to by the government in the Brettonwood Institutions. The projects FAO supports should be consistent with the priorities established in the public investment plan as part of the structural adjustment process.

We support the role of the UNDP as a United Nations Systems Representative at World Bank Consultative meetings. We urge the FAO to encourage its field staff to work closely with the UNDP to ensure that as thorough attention as possible is given to sectoral policies and technical assistance needs in consultative groups and UNDP round tables. Obviously FAO's effectiveness in this area depends greatly on the technical skills of its field staff and the working relationships they establish with other bilateral and multilateral experts in the field as well as with the government.

I would like to point out how frequently the document we have before us mentions reviews underway, reviews not unlike the ones FAO is currently engaged in, have or are occurring in many organizations, including the African Bank, the Asia Development Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank and the United Nations System itself. The timing of FAO's review is very appropriate.

It would be logical now to turn to the Report of the Programme Committee on the Jansson Report. Other representatives have done so. I am not quite sure what you would prefer. I will defer to you and postpone my remarks until tomorrow morning if there is a clear understanding we will have the opportunity to intervene on this issue separately and on the review of FAO. I do not see how we can combine those two. I would only say at this point that my delegation believes this Council should prepare a report on the Jansson Report and in response to UNGA Resolution 42/196 for ECOSOC. So I am in your hands.

LE PRESIDENT: Est-ce que je peux vous suggérer de faire votre communication et votre commentaire en présence du Président du Comité du Programme? Cela n'empêche pas que le Conseil aura à prendre position en tant que Conseil sur le Rapport Jansson. Si vous voulez parler aujourd'hui, vous êtes libre de le faire, mais je pense qu'il serait plus utile que le Président du Comité du Programme soit présent.

Je voudrais vous aviser que le Délégué de l'Australie a demandé que son intervention soit insérée au procès-verbal de la séance. Nous lui en savons gré.

V. K. SIBAL (India): The paper under discussion provides an excellent overview on certain important developments in the United Nations System and we would like to express our appreciation to Mr. Luhe for his very clear presentation. We think your advice is very wise and very logical that the Jansson Report should really be discussed when we discuss Item 13 primarily for the reason that the Programme Committee is an Advisory Committee to the Council. It has considered this Report, a summary of those views; are here, but the full views are not here before us. The logical thing would be to take up this matter when we take the Report of the Programme Committee. We have heard support for those views, we have heard some differences also but we can then take a consensus as to how the Council should react and how it should formulate its views. We should also take note that the views of the FAO and the Programme Committee have been sent to the Economic and Social Council. The matter has been before the United Nations General Assembly where at the moment two resolutions are pending. We also believe that the usual procedures for formulating the reports of the Council should be observed and there need not be any exceptions.

Insofar as the implementation of the UN-PAAERD is concerned, we have noted the contents of the Report of the Ad Hoc Committee. This Programme is more relevant and more important than ever before and we hope that the assessment of its implementation and the measures for its implementation in the future would contribute positively in taking this Programme forward.

We also note with appreciation the role of the Advisory Group on resource flows which has resulted in the assistance gap for Africa being reduced from 5 billion dollars to 2 billion dollars.

We would also like to join other delegates in expressing our appreciation for the Cyprus Initiative which is a very important and very high-minded initiative. We hope that the developments to come, including the role of the Consultative Group, will result in making this initiative into an operational reality. On trade issues, the FAO has been very helpful with its technical assistance to those who sought it and we appreciate that. All eyes are now fixed on the Montreal Review and we hope that this review will satisfy substantially the expectations from it.

So far as environment, women and locusts are concerned, these have been already widely discussed or are still in the process of discussion.

On science and technology for development, we agree with the approach in paragraphs 173 and 174. We recognise that FAO's programmes in science and technology were initiated before the Vienna Programme of Action and could not follow closely therefore the eight programmes that were identified as these were developed in response to the member countries. We note that FAO's activities are planned in full awareness of the VPA and that the FAO is cooperating in the harmonization of science and technology at country level. We also agree with the change of nomenclature of the division of the FAO which is cooperating with the IAEA and finally we thank you for your consideration.

Sra. Margarita LIZARRAGA (Mexico): La delegación de Mexico agradece a la Secretaría la preparación del documento y la presentación del Sr. Eberhart Luhe. Nuestro Gobierno considera que es un tema muy importante ya que permite plantear la interrelación de la FAO con los trabajos realizados por otros organismos tanto internacionales como regionales y subregionales, dedicados a la solución de los problemas agrícolas alimentarios, con objeto de lograr una mayor coordinación y evitar la duplicación de esfuerzos así como para emprender actividades conjuntas en las áreas donde se requieren mayores recursos.

Nuestra delegación considera muy importante los planteamientos hechos por el Director General en su declaración inaugural y apoya la vinculación de la FAO con las del Banco Mundial y el GATT, en apoyo de los gobiernos que así lo soliciten en el ámbito de su competencia.

La delegación mexicana considera, asimismo, importante que la FAO redoble esfuerzos para mejorar la participación de la Organización en la coordinación de las actividades operacionales para el desarrollo en el Sistema de las Naciones Unidas y de los esfuerzos para asegurar la mayor armonización posible de las actividades, en particular la activa cooperación de la FAO con el PNUD.

En lo que concierne al informe Jansson, nuestra delegación se limitará, conforme a lo establecido en la agenda a apoyar los aspectos contenidos en este documento.

La delegación ve por otra parte con satisfacción la colaboración de la FAO con la ONUDI, en particular, el acuerdo oficial sobre las relaciones entre las dos organizaciones, conforme a lo estipulado en la 24 Conferencia de la FAO. Nuestro Gobierno le da gran importancia y satisfacción a la estrecha relación de FAO con la OMS, en el sector de la nutrición que no sólo abarca el Codex Alimentarius sino que prevé también la creación de un grupo consultivo mixto sobre política alimentaria y nutrición.

Por otra parte, la delegación mexicana expresa su deseo de que en la próxima reunión de medio camino de la Ronda Uruguay del GATT, a celebrarse próximamente en Montreal, Canadá, las partes contratantes, en particular los países industrializados, adopten una actitud más flexible que permita allanar el camino para el alcance de acuerdos en los grupos de negociadores de interés para los países en desarrollo, en particular, sobre productos agrícolas y tropicales.

Nuestra delegación ratifica su apoyo a la iniciativa de Chipre contra el hambre y se congratula del apoyo expresado por la FAO al CMA.

Washington ZUÑIGA TRELLES (Perú): En primer lugar felicitamos a la Secretaría por la presentación del documento. Quiero referirme a algunos asuntos que mi delegación juzga necesario resaltar.

En primer lugar, nos parece muy acertada la decisión del Consejo de administración del PNUD de recomendar que en las políticas y procedimientos del Sistemas de las Naciones Unidas se capacitara sistemáticamente al personal profesional de proyectos de contratación nacional. Esto es muy importante y significa que con este sistema se pueden lograr economías para muchos países que no tienen muchas disponibilidades de recursos sobre todo las contrapartidas, con el uso de técnicos nacionales. Asimismo, expresamos nuestra conformidad a lo expresado en el punto 12 que dice: "el Consejo de Administración apoyó firmemente la política de encargar a los gobiernos la ejecución de los proyectos". Estos dos aspectos, Sr. Presidente, nos parecen muy positivos.

También nos satisface que en el punto 15 se considera la suma de 20 millones de dólares para un programa de asistencia especial a los países de América Central, que tanto lo necesitan y que ultimamente han sido víctimas de catástrofes y guerras. Es interesante, Sr. Presidente, tomar nota de lo que dice el punto 25 sobre PAREDA. "Un año después de la adopción del Programa de Acción no se había logrado gran cosa, ni en crear un ambiente favorable para la recuperación y el desarrollo en Africa ni en ampliar de forma significativa las corrientes de recursos financieros para Africa. Quedó de manifiesto la incapacidad en muchos países de satisfacer los pagos del servicio de la deuda por sus frecuentes ajustes del calendario de pagos y acumulación de atrasos". Me parece que es interesante tomar nota además de lo que se señala en el documento, que dice "los reembolsos del Fondo Monetario Internacional durante los primeros años del decenio, vencieron y empezaron a aumentar más rápidamente que muchos nuevos fondos. La corriente neta de préstamos del Fondo Monetario Internacional, prácticamente es cero, en 1985, pasó a ser negativa en unos 500 millones de dólares E.E.U.U. en 1986". Esta situación refuerza la posición nuestra de pedir los cambios estructurales a que tanto nos hemos referido.

En cuanto al Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación, mi delegación considera que lo más positivo de la Reunión de Nicosia es la que señala en el punto 44, sobre todo en la posibilidad de utilizar excedentes de alimentos en los Programas para aliviar el hambre. El otro aspecto interesante es la relación que existe entre la seguridad alimentaria y el medio ambiente.

Estamos plenamente de acuerdo, Sr. Presidente, y creemos que estos son los aspectos más sobresaliente de la reunión de Nicosia. Ojalá que estos excedentes pudieran utilizarse como ayuda alimentaria y la mayor parte de estos recursos pudieran utilizarse en proyectos para proteger el medio ambiente.

También es interesante que el Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación estime imprescindible que en las negociaciones se considere un trato especial y diferencial a todos los países en desarrollo.

En el grupo de negociación sobre agricultura estamos de acuerdo con lo que expresa la CEE al pedir que se establezcan medidas especiales a corto plazo, frente a tres sectores que presentaban problemas tales como cereales, lácteos y azúcar.

En cuanto a la negociación de productos tropicales, hay algo que nos preocupa y nos gustaría que se nos pudiera dar una explicación adecuada. El punto 61 dice que: "una disposición general en favor de la liberalización del comercio de productos tropicales". No se si se ha contemplado el caso de algunos productos, como el caso del café, con lo cual, una liberalización del comercio quizás no sería conveniente, debido a que existe el Convenio Internacional del Café que creemos, que a pesar de sus defectos, o de los defectos que pudiera tener es el mejor sistema para podernos entender entre los países productores y los países compradores, teniendo en cuenta que el café es un producto en el que la oferta es mayor que la demanda y que tiene una importancia muy grande en los países en vías de desarrollo.

También estamos de acuerdo con lo que se señala en el Comité de Nutrición del CAC, sobre el punto 144 que señala que el desplazamiento de cultivos alimenticios a cultivos comerciales, no significa ningún peligro. Esto es muy importante porque todavía existe la idea en muchos países en desarrollo de que solo deben producirse alimentos, cayendo hasta en la demagogia. Todos los que sabemos algo de economía agrícola, sabemos que si hay un cultivo comercial, y aun si éste puede ser exportado y tiene mayor rentabilidad que un producto alimenticio, es preferible cultivar productos comerciales que da mayor ingresos, y con los mayores ingresos podemos importar alimentos de países que producen a menos costo. Esto es lo que se conoce como ventajas comparativas.

Convendría que la FAO pudiera insistir sobre este asunto, para que los países desarrollados pudieran tener más conciencia sobre este asunto.

Finalmente, Sr. Presidente, estamos de acuerdo con lo que se señala sobre ciencia y tecnología, y con los puntos 170 y sucesivos. El punto 168 dice que: se han iniciado muy pocas actividades nuevas en el campo de ciencia y tecnología y en el 70 y sucesivos se invita a que se efectúen ajustes estructurales y de política en los Programas de Trabajo y Presupuestos, de la manera que en lo posible todo el Sistema de las Naciones Unidas puedan utilizar un marco común para la ciencia y la tecnología. Creemos que este punto también es muy importante.

Bashir El Mabrouk Said, Vice-Chairman of the FAO Council took the Chair.

Bashir El Mabrouk Said, Vice-Président du Conseil, assume la présidence

Ocupa la presidencia Bashir El Mabrouk Said, Vicepresidente del Consejo.

CHAIRMAN (original language Arabic): Ladies and gentlemen, first of all I would like to welcome you all and thank you for having chosen me as Vice-Chairman for this very important session.

Earl W. WEYBRECHT (Canada): The Canadian delegation appreciates and has taken note of the Summary document CL 94/12 prepared under this item.

In the case of the section of the document dealing with Operational Activities for Development, the Canadian Government has had the opportunity to make its views known in the context of the 54th Session of the Programme Committee. Therefore, we would not propose to speak further on this particular subject under Item 13. We do, however, recognize that the United Nations General Assembly has specifically requested that the governing bodies of the specialized agencies comment on the Jansson Report. It is, therefore, entirely appropriate that this Council should add its views to the wide-ranging debate that has been launched. In this spirit we appreciate and endorse the comments and proposals made by the delegate of the United Kingdom and other delegates, and we would suggest that they be incorporated as an addendum to the Report. We find that the observations made by the delegate from the United Kingdom are not inconsistent with the findings of the Programme Committee. As the largest single executing agency of the UNDP, FAO has a unique and important contribution to make to the system-wide discussion on the eve of a new development decade.

Regarding the other sections of document CL 94/12 we would like the Council's record to reiterate the importance it attaches to improving and strengthening FAO's close and cooperative working

relations with other UN agencies on cross-sectoral issues. We appreciate, and were encouraged to learn of, the FAO's contribution to inter-agency efforts in the areas of environment and sustainable development, the UN Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, and the system-wide preparation of a medium-term Plan for Women in Development.

We similarly note FAO's contribution in support of the Uruguay Round of negotiations and wish to highlight again the importance that Canada attaches to the GATT Ministerial meeting in Montreal in providing the necessary direction to bring these negotiations to a substantial conclusion.

We would as a final suggestion also note that we would welcome a document in the future that would highlight specific items for this Council to address. This is a point, I believe, that has been raised as well by other delegates.

Antoine SAINTRAINT (Observateur de la Belgique): Je me félicite de pouvoir intervenir sous votre présidence éclairée; vous permettrez certainement à un modeste observateur, de faire quelques observations sur le document bien structuré et bien pensé qui nous est soumis, et qui touche pratiquement à tous les aspects du développement.

J'ai personnellement relevé une toute petite erreur en page 41; en effet, s'agissant de la troisième reconstitution des ressources du FIDA, l'objectif de la catégorie 3 est de 75 millions de dollars et non pas de 70. C'est la seule erreur que j'ai trouvée dans ce document bien fait qui situe l'action de la FAO au sein de la famille des Nations Unies; la FAO joue un rôle important mais elle pourrait peut-être le jouer mieux et plus dans une perspective d'avenir, mais pour ce faire faut-il encore lui en donner les moyens.

J'ai eu l'occasion d'étudier le Rapport Jansson qui est bien fait et rencontre dans l'ensemble notre agrément sauf sur un point, qui fait d'ailleurs l'objet de réserves de la part de la FAO, et qui concerne le transit des fonds fiduciaires par le canal du PNUD.

Cela ne me semble pas une bonne chose; la plupart des pays industrialisés contribuent de manière substantielle au PNUD, et les fonds fiduciaires, affectés aux organisations spécialisées, sont des moyens supplémentaires dont l'importance est considérable.

Nous connaissons le rôle du PNUD, et je soulève à nouveau un point qui me paraît particulièrement important: le PNUD joue, par essence, un rôle de coordination. Sa situation financière s'est beaucoup améliorée; il faut, notamment au sein du Conseil d'administration du PNUD lutter contre une tendance qui va en se développant, et qui tend à ce que, pour un certain nombre de projets, le PNUD se transforme en organisme d'exécution. L'OPE a eu son utilité. Elle est devenue l'OPS; il faut à tout prix éviter que l'OPS ne prenne une dimension trop grande et qu'en définitive une partie des ressources du PNUD soit sous-traitée et gérée par l'OPS, organisme du PNUD.

Il existe au sein de la famille des Nations Unies un certain nombre d'organisations spécialisées auxquelles il est normal que le PNUD s'adresse. La Banque mondiale devrait davantage s'adresser aux organisations spécialisées; elle a un programme important dans le domaine agricole, et nous souhaitons une relation plus étroite entre la Banque mondiale et la FAO. Le document est intéressant. Il évoque un certain nombre de problèmes extrêmement vastes qui mériteraient tous une discussion très approfondie *in se*.

Le problème de l'Uruguay Round est incontestablement, dans la perspective de la construction du monde, un problème extrêmement délicat et important. Qu'il s'agisse des négociations sur la production des produits tropicaux ou de celles relatives aux produits provenant des ressources naturelles, il est incontestable que la FAO a un rôle à jouer. Le voeu en avait été émis, et je crois que le rôle qui est imparti à la FAO devrait aller grandissant dans les mois qui viennent. Si l'on veut arriver à un équilibre et au succès, la place de la FAO et son rôle sont prépondérants.

On aborde également, dans le cadre de ce dossier, les problèmes de l'environnement. Je crois qu'il faut à tout prix garder à ces problèmes leur dimension planétaire de façon à éviter qu'on ne déplace chez le voisin ou dans d'autres continents les problèmes que l'on a chez soi. C'est un aspect extrêmement important qui a été souligné longuement à la Conférence européenne à Cracovie, et je pense donc que cette approche planétaire est indispensable.

En ce qui concerne l'Afrique, on a déjà dit beaucoup de choses mais je crois que les conclusions du Groupe consultatif sur les flux de ressources en faveur de l'Afrique sont extrêmement inquiétantes. On a parlé d'ajustements structurels. Or je crois que les ajustements structurels doivent se faire dans tous les pays, qu'il s'agisse des pays développés ou des pays en développement. Mais lorsqu'on voit qu'en Afrique - et je cite le rapport - "les flux nets de prêt du FMI, pratiquement nuls en

1985, sont devenus négatifs (d'environ 500 millions de dollars) en 1986", il y a de quoi être particulièrement inquiet.

On a parlé du Programme pour le redressement économique de l'Afrique. Là, je crois qu'il faudrait quand même que l'on arrive à voir exactement où nous en sommes: quel est le montant des besoins ? Quel est le montant des engagements ? Il est noté qu'il manquera encore 2 milliards de dollars par an. C'est un élément quantitatif mais il y a également l'aspect qualitatif, qui me paraît important.

Dans un domaine important, celui de la lutte contre les criquets pèlerins, non seulement la FAO a un rôle clé à jouer mais c'est elle qui doit incontestablement jouer le rôle de coordination générale. On a évoqué - je crois que pas mal de progrès ont été faits dans ce domaine - les relations avec l'Organisation mondiale de la santé. Le problème du SIDA, avec ses répercussions possibles sur le problème agricole, a été évoqué. Incontestablement, une collaboration suivie avec l'OMS est non seulement souhaitable mais indispensable.

In fine, je voudrais insister sur la collaboration qui doit exister entre les trois organisations qui s'occupent des problèmes de l'agriculture au sens large: la FAO, le Programme alimentaire mondial et le FIDA. On parle beaucoup de coordination mais essayons au moins, au niveau de Rome et de ces trois organisations, de réaliser une bonne articulation dans la perspective du développement du secteur agricole mondial. La FAO a une vaste expérience en matière de politique agricole. Le rôle du Conseil de la FAO est non seulement souhaitable mais indispensable, et c'est pour cela qu'il n'est pas tellement important de discuter du problème de localisation des bureaux. Il est parfois plus important que les bureaux de la FAO se trouvent dans les ministères de l'agriculture de certains pays plutôt que de vouloir à tout prix réaliser, par économie, une harmonisation au niveau des locaux. Telles sont les quelques modestes observations que je désirais faire à l'occasion de la discussion de ce point de l'ordre du jour. Je me permettrai peut-être de revenir demain sur certains points particuliers du Rapport Jansson et je m'excuse d'avoir été quelque peu long.

Lassaad Ben Osman, Independent Chairman of the Council, took the Chair

Lassaad Ben Osman, Président indépendant du Conseil, assume la présidence

Ocupa la presidencia Lassaad Ben Osman, Presidente independiente del Consejo

Masahiko YASUMURO (Japan): We highly appreciate document CL 94/12 which provides us with a compact review of the recent activities of the United Nations system which are of special interest to FAO. Since those issues, which relate to activities of many UN organizations have been increasing in many areas such as "women in development" and "sustainable development", which were on the agenda of this Council Session, my delegation believes that it is most important that each organization in the UN system should play its respective role effectively and systematically. It also believes that as the central agency in the area of food, agriculture and rural development, FAO should participate more positively in the teamwork of the UN system than it has done before.

Therefore, my delegation feels that more informative reviews of the activities of the UN system (and the reactions of FAO) would be more useful for the Governing Bodies of FAO in order to manage the Organization's activities more effectively and maintain close cooperation between FAO and other organizations.

My delegation would like to touch upon one of the very important issues in the document. My Government supports the UN's International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction the object of which is to reduce loss of life, property damage and economic disruption caused by natural disasters such as earthquakes, windstorms, floods, landslides, wildfires and locust infestations. My delegation is satisfied that FAO has participated at all the meetings of the Steering Committee and Inter Agency Working Group and that FAO is preparing an inventory of its relevant activities as reported in paragraph 111 of document CL 94/12.

My delegation would also like to mention the Jansson Report under item 13 on the agenda.

Sra. Mónica DEREGBUS (Argentina): La Delegación de Argentina agradece a la Secretaría y en especial al Sr. Director de la Oficina para Asuntos entre Organismos, por la presentación del documento que nos ocupa.

Al respecto, quisiéramos señalar nuestro apoyo a las sugerencias formuladas por las delegaciones de Finlandia y Estados Unidos de América en la primera parte de sus intervenciones, en el sentido de revisar la factura del documento sobre este tema.

En efecto, encontramos adecuado que se intente mejorar la presentación de las diversas cuestiones de interés para el Consejo incorporando opiniones de la Secretaría sobre su pertinencia y utilidad en las labores de la FAO.

Asimismo pensamos que el Consejo podría, tal vez, considerar hacer sus comentarios respecto de los diversos temas de los que se informa, cuando sea el caso, en los correspondientes puntos de su Agenda. Así, varias de las cuestiones analizadas hasta ahora en nuestras sesiones, como por ejemplo las negociaciones comerciales multilaterales, la 14ª Reunión Ministerial del Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación, el Medio Ambiente, y la Mujer en el Desarrollo, hubieran podido analizarse conjuntamente con la actualización de la situación en las tareas de otros Organismos Internacionales.

Mi Delegación coincide con oradores presentes en que el Consejo debería expresar sus opiniones con respecto al Informe Jansson, según lo solicitado en la Resolución 42/196 de la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas.

Hemos escuchado al respecto numerosas ideas del Representante del Reino Unido como así también del de la República Federal de Alemania. Lamentablemente no podemos, dado su número y complejidad, opinar sobre las mismas en este momento, pero deseamos pedirle a Ud. la posibilidad de hacerlo cuando lo considere oportuno, y una vez que sea circulado el texto escrito de dichas declaraciones. Esperamos que ello sea posible cuando se analice el Informe del Comité del Programa; pero repetimos, quisiera reservar la posición de nuestra Delegación sobre tantas sugerencias hasta que sea posible analizarlas detenidamente.

Roger PASQUIER (Suisse): Notre délégation désire appuyer, tout d'abord, le pladoyer qu'a fait la France afin que la FAO consacre une plus grande part de son activité à l'octroi de conseils en matière de politique agricole. Deuxièmement, nous voulons appuyer globalement l'intervention du Royaume-Uni. Troisièmement, au sujet de la question posée par le délégué du Royaume-Uni à propos du renforcement de capacité de management des coordonnateurs résidents du PNUD, nous voudrions répondre en disant, comme nous l'avons fait au Conseil d'administration du PNUD, que ce renforcement doit se faire principalement avec du personnel expérimenté capable de donner certains avis aux responsables gouvernementaux, et seulement accessoirement par des administrateurs stagiaires ou des experts associés.

Enfin, nous profitons du présent débat pour signaler que la délégation suisse, au Conseil d'administration du PNUD, ne manque pas une occasion d'insister pour que, dans le secteur agricole le PNUD mobilise en priorité les capacités de la FAO. C'est dans le même esprit que nous demandons ici que la FAO collabore le plus étroitement possible avec le PNUD.

C.B. HOUTMAN (Observer for the Netherlands): As this is the first occasion for my delegation to take the floor I should first of all like to say how pleased we are to see you in the Chair. As so many delegations have voiced views with which we agree, we can be brief.

We will limit ourselves to remarks concerning the Jansson Report (as have other delegations) which my country was happy to co-finance and which is the basis for Resolution 42/196. To a large extent we can associate ourselves with the UK statement. We would like also to be informed of the formal responses made by the secretariat in respect of all the relevant paragraphs of Resolution 42/196. We would also like Council to discuss the scope and conclusions of the Jansson Report in order to present views that ensure practical conclusions emerge from the ECOSOC tri-annual review. Along with the Programme Committee we found the Jansson Report a balanced and informative document. We would confirm our commitments to the efforts of the international community in order to enhance the value of the operational activities with more effective coordination.

We fully agree with the Belgian delegate when he stated that coordination should start here in Rome where IFAD, WFP and FAO with fields of operation so related should give an example of how coordination should take place in the UN system.

It is a small step to come from the word "coordination" to the word "coordinator" and in this connection to "Resident Coordinator". In a letter to the Director-General of FAO some months ago our Minister of Agriculture wrote some ideas which he thought to be important in the light of the FAO Review. Among other things, he touched upon the subject of Resident Coordinator and said "The Resident Coordinator - as *primus inter pares* - should guide the implementation of the contributions of the various specialized UN agencies (if possible under one roof). Integrated and well-coordinated efforts can result in a consistent overall policy regarding both the main issues and their implementation at the country level."

With these last words I come to the last point of my statement that I want to mention, namely decentralisation. Our view has been expressed in the letter to Dr. Saouma and also in the beginning of this month in the Second Commission of the General Assembly, where the Minister for Development Cooperation said the following words: "The economic, social, political and cultural context in which UN organizations have to operate vary from country to country. This calls for a country-specific approach which is sometimes at odds with centralised decision-making processes in many UN organizations. I would be in favour of a considerable degree of delegation of authority to the field level."

Finally, I would like to state that certain recommendations of the Jansson Report should be seen in relation to the FAO review. Hence I might elaborate a little more on this subject during the debate on agenda item 13, as you requested.

Eugène YOKEL (UNDP): I consider it a privilege for someone who served FAO a quarter of a century ago today, to speak about the UNDP/FAO cooperation as far as the operational activities are concerned.

Let me attempt to comment on some of the issues raised in document CL 94/12 which are of direct relevance to the UNDP/FAO cooperation. At the same time, I shall touch upon some of the decisions and actions taken by the Organization and its Governing Council which, in my view, have a relevance to the item under consideration and have a bearing on FAO's activities.

Referring to Operational Activities for Development contained in paragraphs 3 to 7 of the documents, I would like to stress that the Governing Council of UNDP, at its Thirty-fifth Session in June this year, conducted a long and lively debate on the Jansson Report and General Assembly Resolution 42/196 which resulted in a detailed response reflected in decision 88/56 of the Governing Council.

The decision deals with the role of the country programme and the programming process; collaboration between UNDP and the executing agencies and the international financial institutions; the concept of joint programming; the round-table meetings and the national technical cooperation assessment programmes, NATCAPS, as well as the UNDP substantive participation in the consultative group meetings. The decision calls for the strengthening of the capacity of recipient countries for coordination of external assistance, as well as the cooperation among representatives of UNDP and the United Nations agencies in the field, including through sharing of common premises, so as to provide multisectoral and integrated advice to governments at their request. The recommendation related to reinforcing the central funding role of UNDP was strongly endorsed by the Council. As Mr. Luhe indicated, the response of the UNDP's Governing Council and of other organizations in the UN system, are now being reviewed by the Second Committee of the General Assembly.

In paragraphs 8 to 18, the document gives a brief account of some of the decisions of the Governing Council of UNDP which they considered might be of special relevance and interest to FAO. I should like, however, to provide some additional information which is not in the document, because in our view it has some bearing on the UNDP/FAO collaboration for the rest of the current programming cycle.

By decision 88/31 the Project Development Facility, better known as PDF, received additional funding of \$3.5 million from the Special Programme Resources. It is foreseen that costs incurred in the financing of new PDF missions for the remainder of the Fourth Cycle shall not be subject to reimbursement from the IPF. The responsibility for approving PDF missions for country and regional IPF's has been delegated to the various Regional Bureaux. UNDP is looking forward to involving FAO and other participating agencies more actively in missions financed from this fund for the purpose of helping to build up a pipeline of well-designed projects.

In implementing decision 88/32 on the Fight against the Locust and Grasshopper Infestation in Africa, UNDP allocated \$3.3 million to combat the spread of locusts throughout North Africa and the Sahel, an initiative which is carried out in close collaboration with all concerned and, among those at the front line, FAO. We are pleased to note paragraph 42 of document CL 94/12 reflecting this point and the role our Resident Representatives are playing in these countries.

In its decision 88/50, the Council took an important first step in exploring successor arrangements to the present agency support cost system, once the present system comes to an end at the conclusion of the Fourth Development Cycle in 1991. The Council decided to establish a small group of experts in the field of international development to make a thorough study of all relevant issues and requested that its recommendations and the views of agencies be circulated to governments no later than February 1990. It further requested the Administrator to make appropriate proposals on the composition, terms of reference and cost of this expert group. It should be noted that, as concerns the terms of reference, the Council has expressed its preference for a broad approach covering

issues such as appropriate compensation arrangements which ensure enhanced accountability, project quality and maximum cost-effectiveness; and alternative arrangements between UNDP, executing agencies and governments in the execution of projects and programmes.

Needless to say that all agencies are fully involved in this entire review process and first consultations have already taken place, some four weeks ago, where the members of CCSQ (OPS) discussed the terms of reference and the composition of the expert group where I was present, and under the chairmanship of Mr. Brown, our Associate Administrator in Geneva, the whole issue was discussed. Further consultations are foreseen in the near future.

Another decision of the Council will have an important bearing on future development cooperation. The Council decided to devote the high-level segment of its Session in June next year, to review UNDP's role in the 1990s. It has requested the Administrator to submit a comprehensive report to the Council. The outlines and preliminary elements of this report will be discussed by the Working Group of the Committee of the Whole of the Council scheduled for February 1989. Steps are now underway to implement this decision. It is expected that the broadest possible consultation with FAO and other agencies will be taken.

Turning to the critical economic situation in Africa, which a number of delegates made reference to, and which we see contained in paragraphs 19 to 43 of the document, we would like to indicate that taking into account that Africa is the continent to which a major part of the LDCs and low income countries belong, the Governing Council allocated a major share of UNDP's resources for the Fourth Cycle to this region. The total volume of the UNDP core resources allocated to the African countries' IPFs for the Fourth Programming Cycle, amounts to approximately \$1.4 billion representing 38 percent of the total UNDP resources, which is a 40 percent increase over the Third Cycle. Needless to say that, in addition, the African continent is also a priority target for all other funds administered by the UNDP's Administrator. In the formulation process our Regional Bureau for Africa, in cooperation with the African governments, took all necessary measures to ensure that the country and regional programmes for the Cycle fully reflect the priorities and objectives laid down in the UN Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development. The programmes as adapted to UN/PAAERD, and approved by the Governing Council, allocate, in line with UN/PAAERD objectives, over 45 percent of the UNDP resources to agricultural development, the highest record rate in this sector among all geographic regions. No doubt the agricultural development will receive also in future a high priority in view of the fact that in the last twenty years in famine-stricken areas in Africa, agricultural production has grown by one percent while the population increase raced at 3 percent a year. We do not need to stress that FAO, with its technical competence, will be our closest partner in the execution of these programmes.

In accordance with the provisions of the Governing Council decisions 88/24, UNDP is now closely monitoring the implementation of the African programmes. Four sub-regional meetings of Ministers for Planning are in their final stage of preparation and will take place between now and the end of 1988. Mr. Draper, our Administrator, attended two of them last week, one in Botswana and one in Uganda. The main themes of these meetings were: relations with Bretton Wood Institutions in Africa, NATCAPS, Round Table meetings, planning experience and modalities of project execution. Further to implement the above decision, the Administrator continues his efforts to mobilise more external resources for Africa. UNDP is anticipating that six country Round Table meetings for the region this year, will bring about \$1 billion of external resources per annum over the next two or three years. Document CL 94/12 gives account of several other issues. We have already intervened on the item on environment and the women earlier, so I will not make any reference to it.

I would like, however, to make some comments on the latest pledging conference which was held between 1 and 2 November in New York. Taking into account the pledges announced amounting to \$748 million, and best estimates of the contributions of those countries which, due to internal legislative procedures, could not pledge now, the central resources of UNDP for 1989, it is estimated would reach \$1 billion eight hundred thousand - a 6 percent increase, whereby marking this year again the highest level of core contributions received from all Member States, donors and recipients. I should like to take this opportunity to thank, on behalf of our Administrator, all governments from both developed and developing countries, who generously contributed to UNDP. At his particular request and on his behalf, I would like to pay tribute to the Government of Italy, the host country of FAO, for the most generous increase of 43 percent made to the UNDP during this pledging conference.

Let me end my statement by thanking FAO, our major partner, for its co-operation and delivery of the programme. I should like to inform you that, according to the most recent UNDP computer print-outs on delivery and approved budgets of over 2,000 UNDP funded FAO executive projects for 1988, the total volume of the latter, as of 3 November 1988 amounts to 211 million dollars. This figure is the record level for several past years now; yet, to the end of the year we have two more months to go.

This is the kind of co-operation which exists between UNDP and FAO, and we will do our utmost to continue in this manner.

Giuseppe VASTA (Observateur de l'Organisation de coopération et de développement économique): Je voudrais féliciter le Secrétariat pour le document très complet et son excellente présentation.

Je voudrais assurer M. l'Ambassadeur de Colombie que je ne manquerai pas de présenter ses remerciements à l'OCDE au sujet de la réunion du groupe consultatif créé à la suite de la conférence de Chypre, réunion qui sera tenue à Paris les 19 et 20 décembre 1988. A ce sujet je dois toutefois préciser que cette réunion aura lieu par suite d'une initiative du Conseil mondial de l'alimentation, que l'OCDE mettra à sa disposition les locaux de son siège et participera aux travaux en qualité d'observateur.

Je remercie M. l'Ambassadeur Bula Hoyos pour la sensibilité démontrée à ce sujet et j'espère de tout coeur que cette réunion pourra donner de très valables et encourageants résultats.

Paul R. BRYDEN (Australia): My delegation welcomes the outline of recent developments in the UN of interest to FAO as contained in CL 94/12. It could perhaps, as has been said, be more analytical of FAO's construction.

We support FAO's assistance to member countries and the GATT Secretariat in preparations for the Uruguay Round. We commend the Programme Committee's consideration of the Jansson Report and are confident that their comments contributed to ECOSOC's deliberations. We agree with the view expressed by a number of delegations that the Council, as governing body of FAO, has a responsibility to convey to ECOSOC fuller, authoritative views. In this connection the United Kingdom intervention, in our view, provides a good, logical starting point for Council. For our part we support the views put forward by the UK as to a possible response to points (a) to (p) of the Jansson Report's conclusions in paragraph 82 of the Report.

We note that in a number of instances our response will need to emerge from our debate or from advice from the Secretariat, or to note that a particular issue is subject to review by our own team of experts.

It would of course assist our deliberations if the Jansson Report were available to the wider membership of Council.

Finally, we think Council should record the importance it attaches to FAO's maintaining close and harmonious working relations with other UN organizations. There is ample evidence that this is the case and in addition to the GATT Round we welcome FAO's collaboration with other agencies in the areas of UNPAAERD, women in development, the environment and sustainable development.^{1/}

LE PRESIDENT: Nous sommes à la fin du débat sur ce point très important de notre programme de travail.

C.H.BONTE-FRIEDHEIM (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): I can be very brief. With your permission, I will afterwards ask Mr. Luhe to answer some of the specific questions which have been raised. In accordance with your own wishes, I would like to postpone the Organization's reply to anything dealing with the Jansson report until tomorrow. Furthermore, tomorrow I think some of the queries will be able to be answered much better by the Chairman of the Programme Committee who will be here and can explain the position the Committee took. However, in this regard also I would like to ask that the question on the standard basic agreement with UNDP will also be answered together with the Jansson Report - I will be frank on this one - because I do not have the answer at the moment.

There are two other points I would like to take up. One, we have heard some opinions with regard to FAO's role in the field of structural adjustment, and we have been told that perhaps FAO's role as a policy adviser is not as good as it should be; while FAO's role as a policy analysis specialist is good. I would like to state here that we are a policy adviser only in those cases

^{1/} Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

when governments ask us to take on this role. Governments have done so in the past, and governments are doing so now. Therefore, I think to the best of the ability of this Organization we are going to continue to be a policy adviser.

Related to this point is my second point. It was stated from the floor by a Council member that we should work with the governments and the Bretton Woods Institution, and this is exactly what we are doing and in that order: with the governments and then with the Bretton Wood Institution. We are sometimes a little bit concerned that, although many governments or some governments wish that FAO should participate in consultative group meetings, in round tables and in other donor meetings, it is felt by some institutions or by donors that it should be only represented by one agency. There we feel government has a role to play and government should decide who attends.

With that, I would like to ask Mr. Luhe, with your agreement, to answer other questions which have been raised. **Eberhard E. LÜHE (Director, Office for Inter-Agency Affairs):** First of all, I should like to thank all Council Members for their very interesting contributions on this item. I think it was an extremely interesting discussion. Many questions were raised. I do not think I am going to reply to all of them, firstly in view of the time constraint we are working under; secondly, I do not think I can answer all comments or questions. However, the Council Members may be assured that everything that has been said will be taken very carefully into consideration.

It has been said that the document discussed here covers a very wide range of activities, and that is certainly true. This is what has made the discussion extremely stimulating and interesting. Many points and comments were made on the operational activities. I think we can leave that until tomorrow, as Mr. Bonte-Friedheim has suggested, and I can confine myself to trying to reply to certain questions, criticisms and proposals that were made during the debate.

On the document itself, it was said to be too descriptive, not analytical enough, despite certain improvements that were made to the similar document presented to the Conference a year ago. I should like to make it very clear that the main purpose of this document is actually to inform Council Members in the UN family. There we have to be extremely selective and we cannot go into a deep analysis of all the many, many, many projects and activities that were carried out over the last year. However, I am inclined to agree and, on a personal note, I would like to say, on rereading the document, that I found it perhaps a bit too long. Less important things were included, described, and elaborated on at the same length as important events and developments. I think we can improve just by making the document a little shorter next time and focusing more on developments of greater importance. That should, in itself, make the document more analytical.

We could also perhaps make it clearer what the purpose of the various sections are: action, discussion, decision? If that could be done, that would focus the attention of the Council better on what they are expected to do. We will also make an effort to be even more analytical, but here I would like to say, within certain limitations, because it is mainly a document for information.

Perhaps one or two proposals that were made are very useful in this respect. I think it was the delegate of the United States who proposed that there should be, before coming to the description of the various activities, a kind of analytical introduction of developments which were, we feel, of greatest importance to FAO. I think this is an excellent proposal. In short, we are trying to improve further the document next time.

Most of the questions were about the situation in Africa, the Cyprus Initiative, science and technology, structural adjustment, revitalization of ECOSOC co-ordination and co-operation etc. On the Cyprus Initiative I think there were no questions asked, but I would like to make it very clear that FAO fully supports the Cyprus Initiative adopted at the 14th Ministerial Session of the WFC. The urgent review and assessment of efforts made to date in hunger reduction called for by the Cyprus Initiative we think is very timely. It has called for the identification of ways for improving current policies and programmes and of very useful, pragmatic, feasible and potentially effective new initiatives. I should say here that the goal of eradicating hunger and malnutrition and ensuring food security for all is really central to all FAO activities. The initiatives put forward by the Organization in the past are very relevant to the Cyprus Initiative.

I have mentioned already in my introductory remarks that both Secretariats, FAO and WFC, are in very close contact on this. We are happy to make available all information, experience and data we have to the WFC.

The distinguished Ambassador for Italy has made very thought provoking statements and observations on co-ordination which I feel tempted to reply to at great length, but in view of the time I shall not do this. However, I would like to say that the Director-General of FAO attaches great importance to co-ordination and co-operation with other agencies and organizations of the system. The need for co-ordination is fully recognized. I should also, however, like to say that co-ordination has a price. It costs money. I remember that almost ten years ago a document was presented to this Council where the costs of co-ordination were estimated (even at that time it was about ten million dollars) including FAO contributions to inter-agency bodies like the Joint Inspection Unit and the Inter-Agency Board on Information, and the ICSC etc. It also includes -and this is the main item of cost - the time for travel, work and other expenses of substantive and supportive staff on more serious co-ordination exercises.

Now with costs, and it was said at the time that it is not only a quantitative problem, it is also a qualitative problem because more and more ADG's and even the Director-General himself are involved with these problems, travelling, attending ACC's, etc., so that is one thing I wanted to say. The other thing is also on coordination, it should not be a one-way street, it is a two-way procedure. The Director-General himself gave a very good example in his opening statement when he referred to structural adjustment and structural adjustment means adjustment of economies and in many many developing countries the economy is based on agriculture, so he said that we are witnessing a very interesting phenomenon now in the development history that it is in many cases, the World Bank and the Bretton Wood Institutions that are redefining agricultural policy, which is economical policy and now it was said, I think Mr. Bonte-Friedheim mentioned it already, that there is one institution in the world which is responsible and whose function it is to offer to advise governments on their agricultural policies, this is the advisory function which we are trying to perform. Now it would be logical in such a case that all the United Nations agencies involved kind of pooled their experience there, their vast body of data that they have and offered these services to help countries with their policy formulations and operations in accordance with these considerations. So it would seem reasonable, this is what the Director-General said, in envisaging structural adjustments in the economies, that the bank and interested governments should have systematic recourse to FAO for independent opinions backed by long years of experience but the Director-General also said they do not and only rarely FAO has been asked for their advice by the Bretton Wood Institutions. Now this is a question of coordination again. Apparently the ministries involved in dealing with the Bretton Wood Institutions are the ministries of finance, and here they are the representatives of the ministries of agriculture so somebody said some days ago, that we should perhaps urge you people, the governments represented here at this Council, are also urging for coordination in other bodies and institutions.

Now, this was just a little, there are more examples. There was one specific question by Peru on paragraph 61 of the document which has to do with the tropical products in the Uruguay Round. I can confirm very briefly that the list of products does include coffee and other products which are the subject of international commodity agreements.

The tariff and non-tariff measures which are the subject of negotiation in the GATT are not part of the operational concern of the international agreements. The benefits from the liberalization of trade in these products includes expansion of markets and for both the primary commodities and perhaps of even greater importance semi-processed and processed forms of these commodities. The market expansion would also be expected to the extent that importing countries reduce their internal consumption, taxes on products like coffee, etc.

The other question was on cash crops versus food crops. It is a long story but I think the reply is there in the document itself, in paragraph 144. It says that the possibility of negative effect on nutrition resulting from shifts in production practices, notably from food crops for own consumption to crops for sale has been a matter of wide concern but then it is being said here that the data considered and discussions showed that in general cash cropping has resulted in increased incomes to farmers, increased food consumption and with little effect on local food prices. I hope this satisfies the delegate of Peru.

I am of course extremely grateful to the observer from UNDP for the additional information that he gave. This is exactly part of what I had cut from my introductory remarks before when I made my introductory statement because I felt time was too short. I think there was, and we have noted this, broad agreement on the science and technology for development item which will be reported to the intergovernmental committee.

There was the delegate of Finland who asked to hear some more about how we are intending to implement the revitalization of the Council. This is also a very interesting story but it might be a bit premature at this Session to talk about it. All I can say at this stage is that the Chairman of the ACC, which is the Administrative Committee on Coordination, and the Secretary have convened a first meeting in New York of selected agency members. FAO was represented and we have tried to find

very practical arrangements to help the Council in the revitalization exercise and there will be at the next meeting -- we have not changed the world and we have not improved the world but we have made a little progress and there will be another meeting early next year.

R.G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): Just a point about reserving responses on the Jansson Report to Item 13, there were some questions put by me and I think by other delegates which were not actually about the Jansson Report but about other paragraphs on General Assembly Resolution 42/196. I assume this will also be covered then. I think this is what Mr. Bonte-Friedheim meant but I think he did not actually say that. It is just that I would like this confirmation.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Sobre la referencia al tema 13 solo decimos, que usted y la Secretaría piensen como se debe proceder, ya que parece que se están acumulando muchos elementos de discusión sobre el tema 13. Serían por lo menos tres los asuntos dimanantes: la propuesta de la reunión especial sobre la cual debe decidir el Comité, y el examen que está previsto para información, que parece se va a someter a discusión. Ojalá se escoja la mejor manera para que la discusión del tema 13 sea fructífera y ordenada.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie le Délégué de la Colombie. J'ai pris note des trois points que nous examinerons. A l'occasion de la discussion du Rapport du Comité du Programme, nous discuterons spécifiquement du Rapport Jansson, comme cela était prévu depuis le début de nos travaux. Je propose donc que les délégués qui n'ont pas pu prendre la parole aujourd'hui et qui ont préféré attendre la présence du Président du Comité du Programme abordent cette question à l'occasion d'un paragraphe à part, au cours de l'examen de ce Rapport.

Nous examinerons les autres questions que vous avez bien voulu signaler mais le Rapport Jansson sera individualisé à l'intérieur de nos débats sur le Comité du Programme.

J'ai pris note de l'observation de Monsieur le Représentant du Royaume-Uni.

A. REGNIER (Director, Field Programme Development Division): Mr. Chairman, it is up to you to decide. I may have the answer already now to questions raised by the delegate of the United Kingdom on the Jansson Report and some additional remarks, as well as my other colleagues, or do it tomorrow. It is up to you, I am in your hands. I can answer now or later.

LE PRESIDENT: On me dit que cela fait un tout et que cela sera abordé en même temps que le Rapport du Comité des Programmes.

Je remercie les délégués de leur patience. Je voudrais intervenir rapidement pour dire que tout le monde est d'accord, au Conseil, pour reconnaître qu'il faut renforcer la coopération entre représentants des diverses organisations des Nations Unies dans les pays, harmoniser les procédures et centraliser les décisions.

Je crois que tout le monde a également convenu que les gouvernements sont partie prenante au premier chef dans l'élaboration de ces programmes, compte tenu des chiffres indicatifs de planification, de façon à entreprendre, avec les mêmes crédits, plus d'études et plus de travaux.

La FAO a été invitée par quelques membres à présenter une réponse structurée pour le rapport de la réunion triennale de l'ECOSOC quant à sa position au sujet de la demande faite par l'Assemblée générale dans sa Résolution 42/196.

La majorité des orateurs ont souligné que l'on devait continuer d'accorder la priorité à l'Afrique et je pense que le Conseil suivra avec intérêt la réunion qui aura lieu à Montréal aux fins de l'étude à mi-parcours de l'exécution du Plan d'action des Nations Unies pour le redressement économique et le développement de l'Afrique. A cet égard, je voudrais relever ce qu'a dit le Représentant du PNUD, à savoir que 38% du Programme du PNUD, c'est-à-dire 1, 400 milliard de dollars, seront réservés à l'Afrique, ce qui constitue une majoration de 40% par rapport à ce qui était prévu auparavant. C'est un point très important qui mérite d'être souligné.

Je crois que l'ensemble du Conseil a appuyé avec vigueur l'initiative de Chypre visant à augmenter les flux financiers nationaux ou internationaux. dans les pays les moins avancés, initiative qui a été prise lors de la quatorzième session ministérielle du Conseil mondial de l'alimentation, et a souligné son intérêt à la voir mettre en oeuvre le plus tôt possible.

J'ai également noté que l'on approuvait que la FAO puisse intervenir plus activement dans les programmes d'ajustement structurels agricoles qui sont en cours dans de nombreux pays et qu'elle puisse être partie prenante dans la conception et l'élaboration de ces programmes et même, le cas échéant, qu'elle soit représentée au sein des comités consultatifs et de tables rondes spécialisées.

Nous pouvons donc clore ce point.

Ms Joan DUDIK-GAYOSO (United States of America): That was a masterpiece both in comprehensiveness and speed but because of some discussions that occurred on Saturday in the Drafting Group, I would just like to say that silence following your summary, Mr. Chairman, does not necessarily imply that everyone in the room agrees with it. I will not go into greater detail but it was raised with me on Saturday in the Drafting Group that if we had not objected to the Chairman's summary why should we object in the Drafting Group to something that was proposed in the draft? I would just like to signal that here.

LE PRESIDENT: Avant de passer au point 11 de l'ordre du jour, je voudrais annoncer, qu'en accord avec l'exécutif du PAM, nous avons convenu que l'examen du point relatif au PAM aura lieu demain matin à 9 h 30.

11. Progress Report on World Food Day Activities

11. Rapport d'activités sur la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation

11. Informe parcial sobre las actividades del Día Mundial de la Alimentación

Rafael MORENO ROJAS (Director de Dirección de Recursos Humanos, Instituciones y Reforma Agraria): Trataré de ser extraordinariamente breve porque comprendo que la sesión se prolonga más allá de lo que fuera necesario. Me corresponde en esta oportunidad presentar el tema sobre las Actividades del Día Mundial de la Alimentación cuya información está contenida en el documento CL 94/INF/4.

Como es del conocimiento de todos Uds., las actividades alusivas al Octavo Día Mundial de la Alimentación celebrado este año se centraron en torno al tema de "La juventud rural". Este tema, de acuerdo con los informes que hemos recogido, encontró una gran acogida en la mayoría de los países miembros ya que reunía dentro de sí un elemento que no sólo permitía individualizar, a nivel de cada país, un grupo específico de la población que constituye un tema de gran preocupación cual es la relación de la juventud en el medio rural con los medios productivos y su permanencia en el ámbito de este sector, y al mismo tiempo, permitió que un número importante de gobiernos conmemorasen con elementos emblemáticos, así pudiéramos denominar, el Día Mundial de la Alimentación que es, como todos sabemos, el día que señala la fundación de la FAO.

No voy, por efectos del tiempo, a relatar lo que se ha realizado en muchos de los países. Me permito solamente señalar dos grandes aspectos. El primero, la conmemoración de la FAO, aquí en la sede central en Roma, en la cual tuvimos el privilegio de tener como invitado de honor al Excmo. Sr. Presidente de la República de Portugal, Dr. Mario Soares, quien acompañado por el Presidente del Consejo de Ministros de Italia, Sr. Ciriaco de Mita, honraron la ceremonia de ese día entregando ambos su intervención, la cual como Uds. saben, está recogida dentro de los textos oficiales de la Organización.

Quiero señalar al mismo tiempo que en dicha oportunidad, como ya es tradicional, se recibió el Mensaje Especial de su Santidad el Papa Juan Pablo II.

A nivel de los países en vías de desarrollo hubo una celebración extraordinariamente rica y vasta. Sólo quisiera señalar cuatro o cinco ejemplos que no están contenidos en el documento que fue conocido por Uds. para esta reunión, cuales son la realización en Barbados del lanzamiento de un proyecto agrícola de un año de duración con los Clubes Juveniles 4H; en Chipre, el inicio del Plan gubernamental para alentar a los jóvenes rurales a permanecer en el campo; en Filipinas, la realización de la Primera Convención Nacional de la Juventud que aprobó un plan quinquenal sobre acceso juvenil a políticas agrarias; en Canadá, donde la Asociación del Día Mundial de Alimentación

preparó, como en años anteriores, materiales educativos sobre el tema de la alimentación que fueron distribuidos en las escuelas básicas a nivel nacional; en Ghana, donde ha entrado en funcionamiento con motivo de esta fecha el Centro de Capacitación para Jóvenes Campesinas que reciben asistencia técnica del Consejo Nacional para la Mujer y el Desarrollo; en Nicaragua, donde el Día Mundial de la Alimentación desde 1981 y en particular el de este año, ha estado vinculado claramente al Programa Nacional de Reforma Agraria impulsado por el país y en esta ocasión se conmemoró con la entrega de títulos de reforma agraria a cooperativas agrícolas y a individuos y a campesinos en la región de Estelí; en Bahrein, se realizaron actividades de sensibilización sobre los problemas del mundo en todas las instituciones de educación del país; especial mención corresponde a las ceremonias que fueron realizadas en la República Federal de Alemania, como ya fue informado en el documento, en donde el Director General fue invitado por el Gobierno a participar en la ceremonia organizada en Mainz; y obviamente la República de Italia, la cual cada año va expandiendo tanto a nivel de Roma como en las distintas regiones del país, los eventos y las actividades que a través de distintas iniciativas van siendo cada vez incrementadas en la medida que esta celebración va tomando cuerpo promovida por el Comité Nacional Italiano, presidido por la honorable Tina Anselmi.

Esto es respecto de lo que pudiese ser el informe de las actividades pasadas. Paso ahora a lo que es probablemente el anuncio más sustantivo que en este tema nosotros pudiésemos entregar, cual es informar sobre la decisión del Director General sobre el tema para el año 1989. El tema que debería centrar el Día Mundial de la Alimentación en 1989, tomando en consideración una serie de indicaciones recibidas por países miembros, será dedicado al tema: "La Alimentación y Medio Ambiente". Creo que la traducción en distintas lenguas es: "Food and Environment" en inglés y "Alimentation et Environnement" en francés. Me excuso por no poder pronunciarlo en chino y en árabe.

Este tema, como creo queda de manifiesto tanto en los debates de este Consejo como en una serie de intervenciones que se han escuchado en la Conferencia General de la FAO y en distintos foros, permite realmente sintetizar en un tema una preocupación constante que tanto los países en vías de desarrollo como los países desarrollados vienen señalando sobre lo que es una de las preocupaciones mayores que está centrándose en el debate internacional y nacional al término de la década de los años 80.

Por eso, creemos que este tema es de tal riqueza que permite a cada país, cualquiera que sea su ubicación geográfica, su aproximación a él; diversificar el tema tanto ya sea en aspectos que toquen a los problemas de los recursos naturales en sí mismos, al problema del hambre, al problema de la desnutrición, al problema de un desarrollo autosostenido, al problema de la deforestación, de la desertificación, de la explotación abusiva de los recursos marinos o de los recursos pesqueros, dado que obviamente el problema del medio ambiente permite precisamente centrar por cada gobierno, y la FAO preparará el material informativo, la riqueza que esta temática entrena. Esto es el anuncio probablemente sustantivo que queríamos señalar y es, repito, el tema del año 1989 que será: "Alimentación y Medio Ambiente".

F. Warren J. MAJOR (Canada): In the interests of brevity, I would be happy to provide the Secretariat with a copy of the 1988 Report and Financial Statement of our World Food Day Association of Canada. The Association, as has been mentioned, operates autonomously with strong governmental and non-governmental support and has now grown to 245 member organizations country-wide.

Ms Marasee SURAKUL (Thailand): First of all, my delegation welcomes the document before us. It is not an easy task to organize and celebrate a World Food Day in a developing food exporting country like Thailand. It needs a lot of cooperation and coordination on the part of the central government of the country where the majority of the people are farmers. However, in response to the advice given by the FAO Conference and the Director-General, Thailand has followed and organized a World Food Day on the following items. The outstanding orchard farmers received medals and certificates from FAO. The Thai rural youth took part in a panel discussion on rural youth development. An exhibition and panel discussion on rural youth development was organized on 14 October. All agencies under the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, including the Office of the National FAO Committee of Thailand, took part in this exhibition. All government agricultural extension stations throughout the country were instructed to hold an exhibition on World Food Day for one week.

The Minister of Agriculture was interviewed on television Channel 9 for half an hour on World Food Day in general and on Thailand in particular, the food and agricultural situation in the regions, rural youth in Thailand and the Government's plans in this field. There were special radio broadcasts. There was a special World Food Day address by the Prime Minister, and an interview with the Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the World Food Day of Thailand. There was a World Food Day quiz programme. A quiz competition for students was organized and the subject was FAO fisheries, forestry and agriculture in general.

In conclusion, my delegation strongly supports FAO's celebration of World Food Day on the theme of food and the environment for next year.

LE PRESIDENT: Je voudrais communiquer au Conseil que le délégué du Mexique nous a fait parvenir son intervention afin de l'insérer au procès verbal.

Hartmut STALB (Germany, Federal Republic of): This year's World Food Day in the Federal Republic of Germany was held at the invitation of the Federal State of the Rhineland Palatinate in Mainz. The main events included the televised central event at the Electors Palace in the city of Mainz with a number of prominent speakers, an ecumenical service, a panel discussion on the theme "Fight against Hunger and Malnutrition, a challenge to the young generation, and various exhibitions on themes of development and policy significance.

This year's World Food Day in my country gained special importance by the attendance of the Director-General of FAO, Mr. Saouma, who presented the main paper on the occasion of the central event. Likewise present was the Minister of Agriculture of Rwanda, Anastase Nteziyayo, whose country has a partnership with my own. The Federal Government would like to thank both guests for their active contributions to this year's World Food Day in the Federal Republic of Germany.

The events of this year's World Food Day could activate again the interests of the German public in world food problems. The response to World Food Day 1988 shows that our citizens are meanwhile fully aware of the importance of the World Food Day.

World Food Day 1989 will be held in the Hanse city of Hamburg. The Federal Government, the Land Government of Hamburg and a great number of non-governmental organizations will also endeavour on the next World Food Day to focus the attention of our fellow citizens on the still unsolved problem of food security. The full report on our 1988 World Food Day Activities is available in German and English for those who are interested in it.

LE PRESIDENT: Je porte à la connaissance du Conseil que le Portugal nous a adressé sa communication qui sera insérée dans le procès-verbal.

Marcelo Leonardo da SILVA VASCONCELOS (Brazil): I thank Mr. Moreno for the comprehensive and interesting information presented to the Council both orally and in document CL 94/INF/4. I should like to add to the information he brought to this room by saying that during the 24th Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean held in Recife, Brazil, last October, the regional commemoration of the World Food Day was held on the 6th of that month independently of the Regular National Programme which was organized on the traditional date. The commemoration at Recife, was held in the presence of the Director-General of FAO, of high ranking Brazilian authorities and several delegates of Member Countries who were attending the Regional Conference.

Dang MEKOULA (Cameroun): La délégation du Cameroun a suivi avec grande attention l'excellente présentation par le Secrétariat de ce rapport sur les activités de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation célébrée le 16 octobre de cette année.

Au Cameroun, comme dans bien des pays en développement où les problèmes alimentaires et de développement rural restent au centre des préoccupations du gouvernement, cette manifestation se transforme progressivement, depuis son lancement en 1981, en une campagne de sensibilisation de l'opinion publique sur les problèmes cruciaux de la faim, de la misère et de la malnutrition qui restent le lot des ruraux et des marginaux sans emploi des centres urbains qui ont déserté la campagne.

L'organisation au niveau national de cette journée apparaît à certains égards comme une invite visant à mettre en condition l'ensemble des couches actives de la population, dans l'optique d'éveiller l'intérêt de tout un chacun sur la portée du débat engagé, sur le droit fondamental de tout citoyen à une alimentation suffisante, disponible et accessible.

C'est un véritable défi à relever.

Le thème de réflexion choisi par la FAO pour célébrer la 8ème Journée mondiale de l'alimentation qui a porté sur la jeunesse rurale, a suscité un intérêt soutenu à tous les niveaux.

C'est d'ailleurs dans cette lancée qu'au niveau du siège de l'Organisation les cérémonies ont été marquées par les déclarations du Président de la République du Portugal, du Président du Conseil des Ministres d'Italie, du Directeur général de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'Alimentation et l'Agriculture et par le message de Sa Sainteté le Pape Jean-Paul II.

Les manifestations ayant marqué la célébration de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation au Cameroun cette année ont été programmées sur une semaine baptisée Semaine nationale de l'alimentation, au cours de laquelle la presse écrite et parlée a été largement mobilisée pour concevoir et publier, en rapport avec les services techniques concernés, tous les sujets ayant trait aux thèmes de la Journée.

Notre délégation appuie l'idée d'impliquer autant que possible les organisations non gouvernementales dans le processus de l'organisation de manifestations devant marquer la célébration de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation. L'idée de la création d'un organisme spécial des ONG chargé d'appuyer les activités du mouvement de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation de par le monde apparaît comme une excellente initiative à soutenir.

Le thème retenu pour l'année 1989 est déjà connu. Il porte sur l'alimentation et l'environnement. C'est un sujet d'actualité et ceci doit permettre au Comité national de préparer dès maintenant les programmes des manifestations appropriées.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Creo que el Consejo ha tomado nota de las interesantes informaciones que nos dio el Dr. Rafael Moreno y de la manera como se celebra en países desarrollados y en desarrollo el Día Mundial de la Alimentación. Todos estamos de acuerdo en apoyar el Día Mundial de la Alimentación y Medio Ambiente como tema de 1989.

Pero si hemos pedido la palabra es para tratar de ayudarle un poco, Sr. Presidente, aunque sea mínimamente. Ya que no se puede tratar esta noche el tema 9.1, tal vez, si terminamos rápidamente este tema, que es para información, podríamos pasar en seguida al tema 9.2: Elección de cinco miembros. Sabemos que venció el plazo, que hay cinco candidatos. No se necesita elección; leer el Reglamento, los nombres de los países, aclamarlos e irnos a comer.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie le délégué de la Colombie. Je dois dire que j'avais pensé à la question et j'avais eu le même réflexe. Mais comme le Directeur exécutif du PAM vient demain, j'ai pensé que l'on pourrait annoncer cela en sa présence.

Washington ZUÑIGA TRELLES (Perú): Muy brevemente. En vista de la petición del amigo Embajador de Colombia, mi Delegación desea felicitar al Dr. Moreno por el informe escrito y oral que nos ha hecho llegar sobre el Día Mundial de la Alimentación. Sólo quería señalar que en mi país se celebró también el Día Mundial de la Alimentación, con una magnífica actuación en la mejor universidad agraria que hay en el Perú, que es la Universidad Nacional Agraria, con la presencia del Ministro, todo el Ministerio de Agricultura, alumnos y profesores, y se le dio amplia publicidad por todos los medios de comunicación.

Sra Evangelina BELTRAN PIMIENTA (México): Felicítamos al Dr. Moreno por su interesante informe de actividades sobre el Día Mundial de la Alimentación. México, como todos los años a partir de 1981, se sumó al llamado de la FAO para conmemorar este evento teniendo por sede la celebración nacional la ciudad de Tlaxcala. De esta manera, previo al día 16, se realizó un seminario sobre la "Juventud Rural y la Alimentación", en donde reconocidos especialistas abordaron temas que directamente afectan al entorno de ese sector de la población, proporcionando información a los jóvenes campesinos sobre algunos aspectos de la alimentación por medio de una dinámica de retroalimentación entre los ponentes y el auditorio.

Asimismo se celebró un "Encuentro Nacional de la Juventud Rural", en el cual participaron miembros de la Confederación Nacional Campesina, del Sindicato de Jornaleros Agrícolas, de programas juveniles y de organizaciones de productores, entre otros. Su objetivo fue aportar elementos para un diagnóstico nacional sobre la juventud rural y sistematizar una serie de propuestas que contribuyan a superar su problemática.

Durante el acto del Día 16, se destacó el mensaje del Ejecutivo Federal a través del Secretario de Agricultura, Lic. Eduardo Pesquera, de apoyar y reconocer la problemática de la juventud rural, y se hizo entrega de los premios nacionales de investigación en alimentos y reconocimiento simbólico a alumnos de escuelas rurales que se destacaron por su contribución al mejoramiento de su comunidad. Se firmó un convenio interinstitucional de atención a la juventud rural y se canceló una estampilla postal conmemorativa de esta celebración en 1988. Cabe mencionar que a nivel de las entidades federativas, la celebración se realizó bajo un esquema similar al observado en Tlaxcala. De esta manera, Sr. Presidente, en México los jóvenes, lejos de ser sólo objeto de la celebración, tuvieron una participación muy directa y significativa, además de que se fortaleció e intensificó el esfuerzo interinstitucional para fomentar las actividades de participación organizada de ese sector de la población.^{1/}

Oscar PETINGA (Observateur du Portugal): Au Portugal, la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation est d'habitude commémorée comme la fin d'une campagne de sensibilisation qui s'écoule pendant toute l'année et avec laquelle on tente d'atteindre surtout les professeurs et les élèves de l'enseignement secondaire, ainsi que les médecins, ayant pour but de corriger les erreurs nutritionnelles.

Au niveau des écoles on cherche à sensibiliser les élèves au problème de la faim dans le monde et, pratiquement, dans toutes les écoles du pays les étudiants sont invités à présenter une étude sur ce problème. Le Comité national portugais de la FAO a préparé un ensemble de textes de base sur cette matière, qu'il livre aux étudiants afin de les aider à élaborer leurs travaux.

Cette année, on a créé un grand concours, au niveau national, parmi les investigateurs, sur le thème "L'alimentation et le succès scolaire". Le meilleur travail recevra un prix de 2 000 dollars. En ce moment, un jury est réuni pour apprécier les travaux présentés.

Cette année, grâce à l'honorable distinction qui a été conférée à notre pays, le Président de la République a été l'orateur officiel de la célébration solennelle de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation ici, siège de la FAO. En cela, cette journée a été plus ressentie par la population portugaise.

Monsieur le Président de la République portugaise en prononçant son discours ici à Rome, ne pouvait pas s'empêcher d'exalter le rôle accompli par la FAO contre la faim et en faveur du développement; il a demandé aux principaux pays contributeurs d'augmenter l'aide à la FAO afin que celle-ci puisse réaliser un travail encore plus vaste; il a attiré l'attention sur le besoin de renforcer le dialogue et la coopération entre les pays riches et les pays moins riches; il a offert la coopération du Portugal, de techniciens et d'informations accumulées dans le pays sur le monde tropical et a annoncé l'intention du Portugal de créer un Centre de dialogue entre le Nord et le Sud.

Etant donné que le thème principal de cette année était "les jeunes agriculteurs", le Comité National de la FAO a entretenu avec des associations de jeunes agriculteurs, au long de toute l'année, un dialogue ouvert, ce qui a permis au Président du Comité national portugais de la FAO de transmettre un message sur la tâche des jeunes agriculteurs en faveur du développement, lors de la session de clôture, le 16 octobre, et qui a conclu une année d'étude sur les problèmes des jeunes agriculteurs.

Cette année, les moyens de communication sociale au Portugal ont donné un grand relief à l'événement, encore plus motivés par la présence du Président de la République à Rome à l'occasion de la J.M.A.

- Le programme TV rurale a transmis la session du 16 octobre en horaire noble de dimanche.
- Pendant la semaine du 9 au 16 octobre la télévision a transmis, tous les jours et plusieurs fois par jour un "spot" de 20 secondes, concernant la J.M.A.
- Le "Boletim Agrário" (Bulletin Agraire) du Ministère de l'agriculture, que la télévision transmet tous les jours, s'est référé à la J.M.A.
- La RTP a transmis, le 16 octobre, une entrevue avec le Président du Comité national de la FAO, sur la J.M.A. dans le journal télévisé de 20 heures.

^{1/} Texto incluído en las actas a petición expresa.

- Et, évidemment, la télévision portugaise a transmis, en direct, l'intervention de Monsieur le Président de la République portugaise, ici à Rome.

A la radio, outre plusieurs nouvelles à ce sujet, on peut faire référence aux programmes suivants:

- Programme "Hommes de la terre" transmis quotidiennement pour les agriculteurs, entre 6 et 7 heures du matin.
- Programmes spéciaux de 15 minutes, dans quatre stations de radio, dont les émissions couvrent tout le pays.

Le 16 octobre ont été publiés deux livres, sous la supervision du Comité national de la FAO, ayant pour but la vulgarisation des principes d'une alimentation rationnelle.

- 1 Un livre de grand tirage intitulé "Manuel de l'éducation alimentaire", édité par une librairie privée, pour le grand public et ayant 220 pages.
- 2 Un autre, intitulé "Alimentation - Nutrition - Santé" édité par le Ministère de l'éducation et distribué à grande échelle par les professeurs de tous les niveaux d'enseignement.
- 3 Distribution d'autocollants relatifs à la J.M.A. et à la valeur du pain, distribués surtout dans les lieux publics, dans les restaurants, dans les brasseries, dans les cantines, dans les centres de santé et dans les cabinets de consultation des médecins.
- 4 Distribution gratuite d'échantillons de divers types de pain, accompagnée de commentaires sur les avantages des uns et des autres. Nous citerons éventuellement "le pain du coeur" qui est fabriqué seulement avec une petite quantité de sel.
- 5 Présentation, dans une vitrine de Lisbonne, dans un des magasins les plus centraux, des objectifs de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation.

En ce moment, à Lisbonne, dans la faculté d'Agronomie, et parce que le 16 octobre la Faculté se trouvait encore en période d'inscription des étudiants, se déroule encore une semaine liée aux problèmes de la faim et de la nutrition, organisée par les étudiants.

Pour terminer, je voulais dire que la commémoration de la Journée Mondiale de l'alimentation, depuis 1981, a toujours eu un grand intérêt au Portugal.

Les portugais, qui ont une longue expérience du contact avec les pays du tiers monde où le problème de la faim existe, se sensibilisent beaucoup par cet événement et organisent des campagnes de collecte de fonds, vêtements, médicaments et autres produits, qu'ils envoient, plusieurs fois par an, aux pays nécessiteux.

Généralement, ils utilisent un intermédiaire choisi situé dans le pays auquel s'adresse l'aide avec l'objectif d'augmenter l'efficacité de la distribution.^{1/}

LE PRESIDENT: Je voudrais clore ce point de l'ordre du jour en disant que nous nous félicitons de la réussite de cette Journée mondiale de l'alimentation, de l'intérêt apporté par les différents Etats à cette journée qui, dans certains cas, s'est convertie en une semaine de l'alimentation. C'est un facteur intéressant de sensibilisation des populations aux problèmes qui nous intéressent.

The meeting rose at 19.30 hours

La séance est levée à 19 h 30

Se levanta la sesión a las 19.30 horas

^{1/} Texte reçu avec demande d'insertion au procès verbal.

council

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

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

consejo

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 94/PV/11

Ninety-fourth Session

Quatre-vingt-quatorzième session

94º período de sesiones

ELEVENTH PLENARY MEETING
ONZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
11ª SESION PLENARIA

(22 November 1988)

The Eleventh Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.30 hours.

Lassaad Ben Osman, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La onzième seance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 30.

sous la présidence de M. Lassaad Ben Osman, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la 11ª Sesión Plenaria a las 9.30 horas.

bajo la presidencia de Lassaad Ben Osman, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

III. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP (continued)

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

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

9. World Food Programme

9. Programme alimentaire mondial

9. Programa Mundial de Alimentos

9.2 Election of Five Members of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes

9.2 Election de cinq membres du Comité des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire

9.2 Elección de cinco miembros del Comité de Políticas y Programas de Ayuda Alimentaria

LE PRESIDENT: Le Secrétaire général du Conseil a reçu, dans les délais voulus, les propositions de candidatures suivantes pour les cinq sièges à pourvoir: Congo, France, République Fédérale d'Allemagne, Mexique et Zambie.

Il y a donc autant de candidats que de sièges à pourvoir. Le règlement général de l'Organisation prévoit, dans son article XII-9(a) que "les élections ont lieu au scrutin secret sauf s'il y a plus de candidats que de sièges à pourvoir; le Président peut proposer au Conseil de procéder aux nominations par consentement général manifeste".

Puisqu'il y a autant de candidats que de postes à pourvoir, je propose que les candidats soient déclarés élus par acclamation.

Nomination by acclamation

Nomination par acclamation

Nombramiento por aclamación

Je déclare élus le Congo, la France, la République Fédérale d'Allemagne, le Mexique, et la Zambie.

9.1 Thirteenth Annual Report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes of the UN/FAO World Food Programme

9.1 Treizième rapport annuel du Comité des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire du Programme alimentaire mondial ONU/FAO

9.1 13° Informe Anual del Comité de Políticas y Programas de Ayuda Alimentaria del Programa Mundial de Alimentos Naciones Unidas/FAO

James INGRAM (Executive Director, WFP): You have before you the thirteenth annual report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes for 1987. As we closed our books on that year and moved on to 1988, we found our Twenty-fifth year of operations to have been an exceptional one.

It is with pride we take note of the Programme's many accomplishments. From its experimental modest beginnings in 1963 it has grown to be the largest source of grant assistance to developing countries within the entire United Nations system. When we tallied the Programme's expenditure over the past quarter century we found it had invested more than 10,000 million dollars in efforts to combat hunger and malnutrition and promote economic development. From its first cautious beginnings WFP has learned to use food aid as an effective and appropriate tool in helping people to overcome poverty.

Yet, as we look back on past deeds, we are not complacent. There are too many pressing needs to permit relaxation. Thus the Programme is always looking for new ways to improve the effectiveness of food aid, to find new and innovative ways of using food aid, to speed up deliveries, to rationalize the distribution arrangements and improve our management programme.

In 1987 we were called on to meet the individual needs of about 35 million people: nearly 15 million received emergency food aid and new development projects were approved to benefit some 20 million people. As a result of this high level of activity, the Programme shipped a record 2.4 million tonnes of food in 1987.

The strain, particularly on our emergency resources, became evident in Autumn 1987 as we faced widespread drought in South-East Asia, flooding in other parts of Asia, a growing threat of famine in Ethiopia and an exodus of people fleeing civil strife in Mozambique.

I am glad to report the Programme managed to cope with these crises and that donors responded generously to our calls for additional resources. At the end of the year, WFP had shipped more food than ever before in its history for emergency relief; a figure I might say that even exceeded the amount shipped during those critical peak years of the great African drought and I am very pleased that in dealing with several of these disasters, the Programme was entrusted by donor governments to handle overall coordination of all relief food shipments.

I must, unfortunately, also report that the situation has not improved during 1988 and, in fact, has rather deteriorated. We can now say, with certainty, that 1987 was not exceptional and the pressure on WFP's emergency resources continues to grow. There are many reasons for this but I would like to point out one in particular. In 1987, WFP had a commitment to feed eight-and-a-half million of the world's refugees and displaced persons, an increase of two-and-a-half million from the preceeding year. I have frequently reminded donor nations of our special responsibility towards refugees. People who have lost everything and have been forced to abandon their homes should not be further punished by lack of food.

The year 1987 saw the beginnings of what has since become one of the world's largest concentrations of displaced people. Crossing the border from Mozambique, hundreds of thousands of people entered Malawi and WFP responded accordingly. It was not a simple task and as we look ahead we know the Programme will face continuing difficulties in dealing with this influx of people, which will soon reach about 800 000. To channel the massive amount of food needed to this landlocked country is a highly complex logistical operation. Malawi, in other times a dependable source of food for purchase by the Programme, was itself struck by drought and parasite infestation in 1987 and itself needed food assistance.

It is becoming increasingly clear that the International Emergency Food Reserve does not give us access to a volume of food sufficient to meet the needs of victims of both natural and man-made disasters. Our recurrent resource problems severely limit our ability to respond effectively to unforeseen disasters.

My statement introduces the governing body's report for 1987 but the calendar tells us 1988 is almost over. I would, therefore, like briefly to touch on some of the emergency situations that lately have called for the Programme's intervention.

Floods caused havoc in the Sudanese capital of Khartoum, leaving thousands homeless. Here, the Programme was able both to borrow from in-country food stocks to alleviate suffering and to divert a ship carrying wheatflour to Port Sudan.

Bangladesh, as we know, experienced one of the worst floods of the century, perhaps the worst. Likewise, we borrowed from development stocks for an immediate response until we could channel additional relief food from abroad. Because flooding is a recurring natural phenomena in this country, our development projects have a built-in provision to deal with emergencies such as this. Many of the people struck by the disaster were already involved in WFP-assisted development programmes. Thus, they could engage in necessary rehabilitation work while receiving food as payment.

More recently, in Jamaica, we were also able to channel development assistance to help victims of the disastrous hurricane "Gilbert". The Programme's support of the Government's food-stamp programme, approved by the CFA as late as June, was speeded up and expanded in order to reach more of the poorest and most affected people.

Just last month, another hurricane, "Joan", swept through Central America causing widespread destruction in Nicaragua. Within two to three days of receiving the Government's request for assistance, WFP was again able to provide food aid.

These examples, by no means the only ones that have kept my staff extremely busy this year, demonstrate once again that WFP can and does react with great urgency if the situation necessitates. These particular examples that I have chosen also show that we have ongoing development programmes in almost all developing countries. Development stocks can usually be utilized for immediate relief and we also have the capacity to divert ships under charter to us and at any one time, the Programme has upwards of 40 ships under charter.

The events I have just outlined have all been sudden disasters, events which very often receive the focus of world attention. Other situations of prolonged and protracted suffering attract less attention. Throughout 1987, and I am sorry to say throughout most of 1988 as well, we have tried by all means possible to channel food to southern Sudan. We have met with a few successes but quite a few disappointments. Our food convoys have come under attack and earlier this autumn seven drivers were killed en route.

Since then overland transport to southern Sudan has come to a virtual standstill and we have been forced to initiate recently a very costly, but of course essential airlift which has turned out to be a considerable undertaking. The Press sometimes asks us about the risks associated with delivering food to this area. Our reply is very simple: We have no choice. We are committed to alleviating suffering by all means at our disposal.

Let me turn now to our development work, much of which deals with the root causes of situations which give rise to crop failure and food emergencies.

First let me recall that the Programme is a very strong supporter of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development. In particular, the sub-Saharan African region receives a very substantial share of WFP's development resources and for 1987 the figure was 37 percent and at the June meeting of the CFA, a Plan of Action for Africa was approved, outlining an investment level of more than 1.8 billion dollars for the period 1986-90. More than four-fifths of this expenditure is forecast for sub-Saharan Africa.

The Plan establishes a structural framework for the Programme's future assistance to the region, identifying potential areas for increased and sustained involvement. Above all, for the first time the Programme has a plan for a continued strong and enduring commitment to the recovery and development of Africa.

It is noteworthy that measures to combat environmental degradation will be awarded the largest allocation of development resources. This is a reflection of the increasing awareness of the need for sustainable development to overcome the problems of environmental degradation. Although highlighted lately by the Brundtland Commission, the Programme has followed this direction for many years. More than 100 WFP-assisted projects worldwide, with a total value exceeding 1 000 million dollars, presently support environmental activities such as erosion control, watershed management, reforestation and many other measures needed to undo the damage done to nature by mankind.

Many African countries as we know are now in the process of restructuring their economies, an arduous and necessary exercise. Yet as social programmes are scaled down, the burden often falls on the poorest. The programme can help and does help ease this transition by providing food to the neediest.

To supply sub-Saharan African nations, and other recipient countries as well, WFP has made increasing use of triangular transactions. On its own account and on behalf of bilateral and multilateral donors, the Programme in 1987 spent approximately 100 million dollars to buy a record quantity of food. Three-quarters of this amount was spent in developing countries.

This year we have already spent more than 125 million dollars on purchases and 80 percent of this was spent in developing countries. However, while the amount is substantially more, the money will not buy quite as much. We are not able to get as much food as last year because we are now paying 40 percent more per ton on average. Thus the Programme continues to spend more money than any other UN agency in promoting South-South trade. I have spoken about world events which have influenced the work of the World Food Programme and our response to poverty and disaster. I should like to remind you that our staffing is lean, very lean and I aim to keep it that way. But lean should not mean meagre, and meagre is precisely the way we feel about our office facilities. If we are to keep staff morale high, it is imperative that we move out of our cramped surroundings.

As many of you may know, the Government of Italy has been extremely forthcoming and understanding and has very generously offered to provide us with a separate headquarters building and I thank the Italian Government for their positive response. However, this action, that is the provision of a Headquarters building, is contingent upon the signing of a Headquarters Agreement for the World Food Programme. Negotiations toward this end were carried out earlier this year with the Italian authorities under the leadership of the FAO Legal Counsel. There was rapid progress on the FAO draft agreement which was near finalization some four months ago when the whole process was unfortunately suspended. I am hoping that negotiations can be resumed forthwith and I thank very much the Italian Government for its patience and goodwill.

I have briefly described some of the events and trends that have recently characterized our work, some of our frustrations and successes. Every year brings new crises, new challenges and, occasionally, even a new ray of hope and I would like to assure you that WFP's planning, under the leadership of the Secretary-General's special representative, for the return of refugees to their own countries and the rehabilitation of Afghanistan is well advanced. This is an extraordinary formidable undertaking, involving perhaps the return of 5 million people into a country where the infrastructure has largely been destroyed. The planning process alone is most demanding and when

the return starts in earnest as we hope it will next year it will in fact represent the biggest challenge, not only to the United Nations, but I would suggest also to the international community, since, effectively, the end of Second World War.

Just a few days ago we received encouraging news of Namibia. For some time the Programme has been planning for this eventuality, and I can assure you all that the Programme is as ready to contribute towards the necessary repatriation of affected people and the development of Namibia as it is in relation to Afghanistan.

Our job has always been two-fold: to help people in dire need whilst working to prevent the very occurrence of such situations. It is an awesome task but the encouragement of seeing people feeding themselves is our reward. For our sake, for your sake, for the sake of the world, may we continue to be enthusiastically supported by all governments.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie M. Ingram de sa communication introductive.

B.P. DUTIA (Director, Commodities and Trade Division): The entire range of activities presented in the 13th Annual Report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes - which has just been introduced by Mr. Ingram, the Executive Director of the World Food Programme - is of interest to FAO. However, I shall confine my remarks to those points which the Director-General wishes to highlight particularly for consideration by the Council.

First, as already stressed by the Director-General in his statement to the Council last week and also referred to by the Executive Director in his statement, I would like to stress the very serious resource position of the International Emergency Food Reserve. This situation has been of particular concern to the Director-General for nearly a year. 1987 was the first year in its history that the Reserve did not finish with a positive balance. In fact, as noted in paragraph 45 of the document, it became necessary to call forward substantial quantities from 1988 resources to meet 1987 emergency operations.

The situation since then can best be described as a hand to mouth operation. As early as July this year a substantial call forward of 1989 IEFRR resources had to be made in order to meet 1988 emergency needs.

The Director-General, in his address earlier this year, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the World Food Programme, highlighted the severe resource constraints of the Reserve and reiterated his earlier suggestions on ways to improve this situation. These suggestions included the proposal to transform the Reserve into a legally binding Convention. Such a change would guarantee the availability of at least a minimum quantity of emergency food aid on a multilateral basis.

Another measure to improve the effectiveness of the Reserve which was stressed by the Director-General on that occasion was the proposal for stand-by pledges of 1.5 million tons of cereals which could be mobilized if required. Adding this flexibility to the resources of the Reserve would enable it to respond more effectively to emergency aid requests, which inevitably fluctuate widely from one year to another.

Secondly, I would like to refer to the study on triangular transactions mentioned in paragraph 11 of the Annual Report. For this study, I am glad to mention that FAO has already supplied data collected through its Global Information and Early Warning System. It may be recalled that both the Council and the Committee on World Food Security have expressed interest in this subject on several occasions in the past. The Director-General has repeatedly stressed the importance of this mode of assistance. Triangular transactions not only help increase operational flexibility but also encourage those developing countries which, as a result of conscious development efforts, increase production and generate exportable surpluses. Triangular transactions can also make a positive contribution to South-South cooperation and trade. Moreover, at the present time, when stocks in several donor countries have been substantially reduced, the opportunities for triangular transactions need to be explored to the maximum extent possible. At the same time, according to the latest information available to the Global Information and Early Warning System of FAO, exportable surpluses in 1988/89 are expected to increase in several developing countries following good harvests. In our view, these surpluses can and should be tapped to meet food aid needs in neighbouring countries. The study on triangular transactions under preparation by the World Food Programme Secretariat is therefore of particular interest to FAO, and we will be glad to contribute further to this effort as appropriate. The Director-General looks forward to a constructive discussion on this subject as soon as possible with the hope that guidelines for promoting triangular transactions could be eventually developed.

Thirdly, in paragraph 46 the Report mentions estimates of emergency food aid requirements which had been presented by the World Food Programme Secretariat to the Autumn Session of the CFA in 1987. While an important element of the emergency requirements each year can be estimated with some precision in advance, namely that related to the needs of refugees and displaced persons, the estimates of emergency requirements resulting from drought and crop failures can only be made on the basis of the food supply situation assessments at the time of the main crop harvest each year in individual countries. On the basis of the information on crop conditions and the food supply situation collected by the Global Information and Early Warning System, FAO has, by the end of each year, preliminary estimates of the aggregate food aid needs for the following year which could be used, if requested, for presentation to the CFA. Although still preliminary and subject to revision, these estimates would reflect the needs more accurately, and hence be more useful to donors, than the averages for the previous five years used in the presentation to the Committee at its Autumn 1987 Session. The FAO Secretariat will be glad to cooperate with the WFP Secretariat in this important area.

Fourthly, I would like to refer to the WFP Secretariat's plan, which is mentioned in paragraph 90 of the Report, to undertake a systematic effort to bring together information on the level, direction and use of food aid and the prevalence and characteristics of world food hunger, in an attempt to enable food aid to be turned more purposefully toward lasting solutions to problems of hunger. FAO is interested in this proposed activity. We discussed, at the request of the World Food Programme, some broad issues with the WFP consultants undertaking this study, and we have also made available relevant data and findings of our own analytical studies, including our estimate of the incidence of hunger derived from FAO's periodic World Food Surveys. FAO believes that the role of food aid in hunger alleviation needs to be analysed in the broader perspective of the hunger problem. It is now universally recognized that the root cause of hunger is poverty, the elimination of which is inseparably linked with the process of economic development including in particular the development of the food and agriculture sector. It is also recognized that the attack on hunger and malnutrition requires a multi-dimensional approach. In this context, and given the small quantities of food consumed in the form of food aid relative to the magnitude of chronic malnutrition, food aid, although very important, can play only a contributory role. We trust that the WFP Secretariat's effort will keep this broader framework in view. Of course, FAO will be glad to continue to cooperate in this important endeavour.

Fifthly, reference is made, in paragraphs 83-86, to the development of the International Food Aid Information System (INTERFAIS). FAO is interested in this data collection effort and considers it could be a useful complement to our own work. As the Council is aware, FAO has built up and maintained data on food aid flows by donors, recipient and commodity over the last 15 years. This information, which forms part of FAO's AGROSTAT System, is used in analyzing trade flows and world market developments, as well as in assessing the role of food aid in the food security situation of individual countries. This information is regularly published and widely disseminated in our bulletin, Food Aid in Figures, as well as in the regular publications of the Global Information and Early Warning System.

In the process of developing this data bank, FAO has maintained contacts with other international agencies such as the International Wheat Council, OECD as well as WFP and bilateral donors. We trust that INTERFAIS will complement and not duplicate FAO's data bank in this important area so that both the organizations can exchange information to their own mutual benefits as well as to the benefit of the governments.

Finally, with reference to paragraphs 36 to 39 concerning the role of the World Food Programme and environmental improvement, I should like to confirm that as the awareness of environmental considerations has grown in recent years FAO and WFP have collaborated usefully in this important field. As one aspect of this collaboration, FAO and WFP are conducting an appraisal of the potential environmental impact of selected WFP projects with recommendations for steps which could be taken to minimize, or avoid, environmental degradation. We attach particular importance to this collaborative effort between FAO and WFP in this crucial area, and look upon it as a model for cooperation also in other areas of mutual interest.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie M. Dutia pour sa contribution.

Waliur RAHMAN (Bangladesh): I should like to express my sincere appreciation to Mr. James Ingram, for his presentation of Item 9.1 - World Food Programme. He has attained another high-water mark in clarity and perspicacity in his presentation. I thank him for the concern and the compassion expressed about the spate of natural disasters ravaging a large part of the globe. The wrath of nature which befell Bangladesh in August and September of this year was unprecedented. It was

indeed an aberration of nature. I wish to thank Mr. Ingram for his leadership in contributing to the success of the United Nations Special Session convened in New York on 16 November which was addressed by President Hussain Mohammed Ershad. Mr. Dutia's comments were eminent made a sharp focus on the prime need of food aid and elimination of hunger worldwide. The points that have been put in sharp relief by him are reassuring. Needless to say, the role of the World Food Programme in mobilizing assistance to Afghanistan refugees is most commendable. His reference to Namibia is another example where the World Food Programme is continuing to be the harbinger of hope and support to the unfortunate victims of disasters which are in many cases man-made. My country is appreciative of the role of the World Food Programme. We have a commitment with the United Nations resolution falling in place. My country is committed to contribute to the peace keeping contingent in Namibia. I am Chairman of the Council for Namibia Session. With all the good things that are happening I am sure it will not be long before the UN responsibility is over.

Viewed in the context of the utmost need for the efficiency and effectiveness of the United Nations system, the World Food Programme is a unique organization drawing commendation from all quarters -donors as well as recipients. After twentyfive years of successful operation, the organization now stands as a symbol of efficient and effective multilateral cooperation. The World Food Programme now manages about a quarter of the world's food aid both for emergency relief and development assistance. Of course, WFP's commitments during the past years clearly indicate (unhappily so) a steady emphasis on a policy of shifting from relief to development. This has a special significance for my country and there are many others I am sure.

Developing countries, especially the low income Countries, look to the World Food Programme both during emergencies and for development efforts. To a considerable extent this innovative approach has a great potential in contributing to our structural adjustment with a human face. The 13th Annual Report of the Governing Body of the World Food Programme, as contained in the document under discussion, is generally a story of success and effective contributions. During 1987 the Programme set a record for the amount of food shipped to developing countries. Shipment to development projects rose to an all-time high and about twenty million people are expected to benefit directly from the projects undertaken by the World Food Programme in 1987.

The setting up of INTERFAIS is an important contribution in the field of collection, collation and dissemination of data affecting the state of food and agriculture in the world. In cooperation with the Data Collection System of the FAO I am sure the capability of the United Nations system to forecast and take precautionary measures in a more effective manner in the future will be extended.

We also appreciate and commend the role of WFP in promoting South-South cooperation by way of triangular transactions - very unique transactions - integrating women in development and fighting against environmental degradation. The resolution adopted in this connection in the last session of the CFA was a solid achievement. The clear message of the monumental work of the Brundtland Commission was not lost on the international community. Another positive aspect of WFP's activities in 1987 was its increased support for the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development. It also developed a Plan of Action for Africa concerning the UN Programme of Action.

The major beneficiary of the World Food Programme of assistance - my country - is naturally preoccupied with the sound resource base of the Organization. We would welcome early fulfillment of the target for regular pledges for the 1987/88 biennium. In this context I refer to the statement of the Director-General pertaining to the need for quick replenishment of the IEFR (International Emergency Food Reserve).

1987 was a record year for emergency food assistance. As I indicated at the beginning of my statement, the current year has also been marked by a series of natural disasters including an unprecedented flood in Bangladesh. Therefore, we urge donor countries to enhance the level of the present IEFR.

Bernard LEDUN (France): Je souhaite bien entendu m'associer aux félicitations et remerciements qui viennent d'être présentées par l'honorable délégué du Bangladesh au Directeur exécutif du PAM, M. James Ingram, pour la présentation qu'il vient de nous faire de la situation du PAM.

Les millions de tonnes de produits et les millions de dollars recensés au fil des pages du document CL 94/9 témoignent de façon éloquent à la fois de l'ampleur sans précédent des crises alimentaires qui affectent de nombreuses populations démunies à travers le monde, et de l'importance également sans précédent des mesures de sauvegarde que met en oeuvre la communauté internationale pour y faire face.

Le Programme alimentaire mondial est, on le sait, l'instrument privilégié de cette aide et notre délégation, à de nombreuses reprises, a fait savoir tout le prix que la France attache à son action irremplaçable. Cet attachement est d'ailleurs partagé par les autres pays membres de la Communauté économique européenne qui sont devenus ensemble, en 1988, le contributeur majeur de l'aide alimentaire mondiale.

Parmi les actions décrites dans le document que nous examinons figure un type d'opérations que nous estimons très important et prometteur pour l'avenir. Il s'agit des opérations triangulaires, qui permettent à des pays en voie de développement de s'entraider en encourageant des flux commerciaux intra-régionaux et la consommation de denrées produites localement par les agriculteurs autochtones. C'est là un facteur essentiel de développement et d'autosuffisance alimentaire, et nous nous réjouissons de voir le PAM y consacrer une étude dont nous attendons avec intérêt les résultats.

De même sommes-nous très attentifs aux efforts que poursuit le PAM en vue d'enrayer la dégradation de l'environnement dans diverses régions qui voient progressivement disparaître leur couverture végétale ou leurs ressources forestières.

Certains pays, que l'on songe par exemple au cas dramatique de Haïti, ne connaissent hélas que trop bien le résultat désastreux d'une déforestation anarchique. La dégradation de l'environnement constitue l'un des périls majeurs de cette fin de siècle. Nous ne saurions donc trop encourager le PAM à poursuivre ses efforts dans ce domaine, en liaison étroite avec la FAO et le PNUE.

Enfin, nous suivons avec intérêt l'étude mentionnée au paragraphe 89 actuellement menée par le PAM et la Banque mondiale sur les moyens propres à accroître l'efficacité de l'aide alimentaire pour faire face aux problèmes que pose la sécurité alimentaire en Afrique. Nous tenons à dire ici combien ces questions intéressent aussi de très près tous les donateurs, et qu'il convient donc de les associer étroitement à ces travaux pour lesquels il est bien clair que le CPA doit rester l'instance décisionnelle.

Je ne voudrais pas terminer cette brève intervention sans faire état du document C 89/7 qui fournit une étude détaillée des comptes vérifiés du PAM. Ce n'est pas le moment, bien sûr, d'analyser ce document, qui accorde d'ailleurs un satisfecit au PAM pour la mise en oeuvre des projets vivres contre travail et d'alimentation directe.

Toutefois, le même document relève des difficultés rencontrées par les projets comportant l'utilisation de fonds provenant de la vente ou de l'échange de produits. Nous ne doutons pas, pour notre part, que le PAM s'emploie déjà à remédier à ces lacunes et à ces faiblesses inhérentes à toute organisation de cette taille. Mais, dans la lutte contre la faim et pour le développement, chaque dollar compte et il importe que des projets qui ont été lancés soient suivis de bout en bout, minutieusement, afin que le PAM puisse continuer d'exercer pleinement et efficacement la mission qui est la sienne et qui, nous le répétons, est irremplaçable pour encore de longues années à venir.

Hartmut STALB (Germany, Federal Republic of): Let me first thank the Council for its confidence that it showed in the work of the Federal Republic of Germany in the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes by re-electing it as a member. As a member of the CFA my delegation supports the annual report and agrees with its results and recommendations. We particularly welcome the fact that the WFP again had a good year. More than 2.4 million tons of food were generated through the WFP, an increase of almost 10 percent. On the other hand, these figures proved the need of hungry people all over this world and a lot still remains to be done to ease their burden. There has also been an increase in need for emergency measures with a total volume of over 800,000 tons of food. We share the WFP's concern about the continuation of that trend.

It is also to be welcomed that the WFP responded positively to the results of the UN General Assembly Special Session on Africa and participated in its own activities in the UN/PAAERD in the 1986-90 period. It is particularly gratifying that the share of the food commodities purchased in developing countries has increased substantially and thus an important contribution is being made to south-south cooperation. The Federal Republic of Germany cooperates particularly closely in that field with the WFP by channelling bilateral funds of food purchases in developing countries mainly through the WFP.

My delegation believes that the WFP has also made progress in its conceptual work by reviewing the existing packages of measures for individual sub-sectors and submitted future oriented proposals to the CFA. Moreover, structural improvements were made in management and project implementation which will result in a long-term improvement in WFP's work. The CFA should continue to monitor the activities of the WFP and attach special importance to a proper handling of project proposals for WFP development matters.

Finally, let me point out that the Federal Republic of Germany has fully met its delivery commitments in food aid for this year and made additional contributions to meet emergency situations. My country has also fulfilled the pledge for the International Emergency Food Reserve announced at the Pledging Conference in New York in March 1987 and made an additional amount of 10 million DM available this year in order to help meet unexpected emergency needs stemming from unforeseen events and emergencies which were caused by refugees.

R. MULELE (Zambia): Thank you for affording my delegation the opportunity to make a few observations on the subject under discussion in document CL 94/9.

Before I go further I would like to join those who have spoken before me in complimenting the Secretariat for the preparation of the high quality report. In our view Mr. Ingram deserves a pat on the back for his concise and clear introduction of the paper. We very much appreciate Mr. Dutia's remarks.

Because I want to be brief in my intervention I will limit my remarks to only a few items in the report.

First, we are indeed happy to note, as reflected in paragraph 8, that pledges to the regular resources of the Programme for the 1987-88 biennium have been expected to exceed those of the previous biennium. We sincerely hope that all intending contributors will soon do so.

Second, in the field of development assistance, my delegation is pleased to note that WFP's commitment still continues to be to the low-income and least developed countries and that sub-Saharan Africa is very much on top of this assistance.

Third, it is encouraging to learn, as indicated in paragraphs 30 and 31 of the report, that more attention is being paid to the role of women in WFP's programme activities. This is as it should be, for as we discussed only yesterday, under agenda item 8, there is a dire need for the full integration of women in all areas of human endeavour.

Since I promised to be brief in my intervention I just wish to underscore the importance of the International Food Aid and Information System. This system we believe is of paramount importance in the usually too long process of providing food aid to needy countries from the time of initiating the request.

As paragraph 85 states, it will be necessary for all relevant bodies to cooperate in this exercise.

We endorse this report. We are particularly happy to learn from paragraph 90 that there is a will and a plan on the part of WFP to turn food aid to defining lasting solutions to the vexing problems of hunger. In this connection we wish to urge for greater emphasis to be placed on agricultural production, projects and programmes oriented towards food production. For it is only through achieving full security at all levels, coupled with fair and adequate distribution and marketing systems, that we can finally resolve the issue of hunger, be it on a temporary or permanent basis.

In concluding, I wonder if the Executive Director could shed more light on the suspension of negotiations for the Headquarters Agreement, lest I missed the point of his explanation.

We are also grateful to the Council for our election to the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes. We promise to do our best.

Finally, I wish on behalf of my delegation to record our gratitude to WFP for the assistance being given to Zambia.

Hasim OGUT (Turkey): My delegation would like to join previous speakers in complimenting Mr. Ingram and his staff on the overall policies and programmes implemented by the World Food Programme which are highlighted in the 13th Annual Report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes. It is encouraging to observe that WFP has managed to establish a sound partnership with the recipient governments in the implementation of the projects. This relationship is attributable to mutual understanding and coordination between the governments' representatives and the World Food Programme field staff. We highly value these coordination efforts and hope that they will be given continuing attention by the Programme.

We also observe with satisfaction the steady improvement that the World Food Programme is achieving in project planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation within the overall approach of the project cycle. In this connection we would like to stress the fact that success in this respect depends also on the coordination and cooperation with governments, other governmental and non-governmental organizations.

Let me now make some general remarks concerning some future policy and programme options which we consider as important. We are of the opinion that WFP should adjust appropriate policies to continue its activities in the middle-income countries which are not in need of its urgent and substantial food assistance. In our belief, WFP could effectively contribute to the further development in these countries through specific programmes addressing the current interest from the Organization other than direct food aids.

In the absence of such initiatives the programme may gradually become an institution of big donors and big recipients. We find such a trend undesirable in view of the universal nature of the Organization. Integrating middle-income countries into the main stream of the programmes will no doubt contribute to the success in the implementation of these programmes. First, middle-income countries have the ability to put at the disposal of the recipient countries their experience in utilising food aid for development purposes. They also share experiences on their successful efforts regarding food production, distribution and storage. More importantly, however, these countries can become more significant donors if encouraged to use some special initiatives and efforts. Let me now make some comments on the possible ways which WFP could consider with a view to increasing the participation of these countries in the Programme. First, triangular transactions should be expanded wherever and whenever possible. In our view, country representatives can play a significant role in advising the Programme on the food availabilities in required detail in the food exporting middle-income countries. It is therefore expected that the World Food Programme makes special efforts to purchase some of the excess food production for distribution in recipient countries located in the vicinity.

Secondly, I would like to stress the need for the efforts to facilitate the participation of these countries in the tenders related to ocean and in particular inland transport. WFP should try to establish new and practical approaches to encourage these countries to take part in such tenders. In this way, WFP will certainly contribute to the strengthening of infrastructure and increased facilities in developing countries in addition to the direct benefits which it is already providing.

May I now turn to my second general remark which concerns needs for policies and programmes in support of regional cooperation. We observe with satisfaction that the regional development concept of the United Nations is taking a good shape. Most of the countries are trying to find ways and means to establish the backbone of regional cooperation in varying forms. The third OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Development held recently in Pakistan gave a good example in this respect. In fact, the Conference decided to carry out a programme aiming at the establishment of regionally co-ordinated food security reserves if at least ten member countries decided to participate.

When one looks at it from the regional perspective one will not fail to realise that this is a regional initiative involving many members of the WFP to which it presently serves on an individual basis. We would therefore like to see that the World Food Programme comes up with effective support to this approach and becomes also a useful instrument in respect of guiding such important and valuable regional efforts.

David W. JOSLYN (United States of America): The United States joins with other delegations in commending the management and staff of the World Food Programme for its actions during 1987, the period covered by this report. As a Member of the CFA the United States has already commented on and approved the contents of this report. Therefore, our intervention will be brief. However, we would like to note some aspects of this report that not only reflect positive changes and improvements in the World Food Programme during the reporting period, but that identify also the challenges we feel the Programme will face in the future.

Firstly, during 1987, as the report notes, the World Food Programme played a critical role in developing emergency food aid to people in need through its trucking operation in Ethiopia, its overland transport operation to Southern Sudan and Malawi, and its coastal shipping service in Mozambique. In each case, for the operations to be a success, the World Food Programme collaborated extensively with UNHCR, non-governmental organizations, groups of donors, and recipient agencies and organizations. Relief operations such as these will always demand a high level of co-operation with other agencies. We encourage WFP to continue their collaborative relationships in the extremely important activities of emergency relief feeding programmes.

Secondly, we note with satisfaction that, during the reporting period, the World Food Programme increased its support for the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development. The high expenditure level, 37 percent Regular Development Programmes, for sub-Saharan Africa is very commendable, but we feel this may be difficult to maintain in the future without extraordinary efforts to find new efficient ways to provide food aid for development in Africa. We trust the new WFP Plan of Action for Africa, and the increasing collaboration with the World Bank will assure a steady flow of effective, efficient projects to that area.

Thirdly, we believe that the new WFP organizational structure and management system, adopted during the reporting period, is helping to streamline Headquarters operations, provide more support to field offices, and produce better projects. We also note that, besides these internal operational adjustments, the World Food Programme is strengthening its operation, as noted in the report, to provide regular inservice training to its field staff, to find new ways to provide targetted food aid, to support sustainable agricultural and rural development, and to increase participation of women in the benefits of development.

Finally, we believe that the problem of inadequate office accommodations for the World Food Programme must be solved. This was strongly endorsed by the last CFA, and we must urge all parties concerned to work together to finalize the headquarters agreement with expediency.

Ms Anna-Liisa KORHONEN (Finland): Finland welcomes the opportunity to comment on the 30th Annual Report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes, as presented in document CL 94/9. I also want to thank Mr. Ingram and Mr. Dutia for their informative introductory statements.

Finland's position as regards food aid is well established and well known. Nearly all the food aid given is channelled multilaterally through WFP and IEFR. Therefore, my delegation notes with satisfaction that the share of multilateral food aid has increased and is now about one-quarter of the total food aid. Finland regards food aid as an important resource for development and relief assistance. We support the developmental use of food aid and its integration with other forms of development assistance. Food aid is not, however, always an easy tool. Therefore, its potential adverse effects should be carefully examined. WFP's participation in the Joint Consultative Group on Policy with the other funding agencies should further enhance its possibilities in this regard. My country is satisfied with the WFP's continuing policy to concentrate the Programme's activities on low income food deficit countries with particular emphasis on sub-Saharan Africa. The poorest countries should be the main beneficiaries of food aid.

WFP's concern for Africa is further illustrated by its resource allocations to sub-Saharan Africa during the period of UNPAAERD, as is stated in paragraph 42 of the document before us. We also welcome WFP's active involvement in regional food security schemes and point out particularly the SADCC co-operation which we consider most relevant in this respect.

We further appreciate WFP's increased participation in trilateral transactions and local purchases which contribute to south-south trade and self-reliance in food production. We urge WFP to continue its effort in this regard and look forward to more detailed discussions on this issue at later sessions of the CFA.

The 25th Session of the CFA approved, on the initiative of the Nordic countries, a resolution concerning the implementations of the recommendations of the World Commission on Environment and Development within the sphere of activities of WFP. Consequently, the Executive Director of WFP will prepare a report on the Programme's contribution to environmental improvement through the 27th Session of the CFA to ECOSOC and to the General Assembly. This initiative reflects concern about environmental degradation also in the framework of food aid. WFP has already done a lot. Project Food Aid is used in many recipient countries to overcome environmental problems. Finland is confident that the Programme will further expand its activities in this field, and will continue to do so in close co-operation with the other UN agencies such as UNEP and FAO in particular.

The increasing number of man-made disasters has made refugees the largest beneficiary group of the WFP's emergency operations. This has also exhausted IEFR's resources to the extent that the actual demands centered by various emergency situations cannot be met. While we stress the nature of WFP as development organization, we also see a wider role played by WFP in emergency assistance. In light of the present difficulties there seems to be a need to strengthen the IEFR. Its functioning should be made more predictable and the Programme should be able to mobilise its resources smoothly. The growing refugee problem has brought WFP and UNHCR to work closely together. This co-operation is encouraging, and we hope that it will continue and be strengthened in the future.

Several examples of other recent emergency operations illustrate clearly the important and essential linkage between emergency assistance and long-term development efforts. Emergency schemes should

also envisage explicit measures to contribute to sustainable economic recovery and development. Efficient co-operation and co-ordination between the UN agencies is instrumental in this work. Finland would consider it most opportune if the CFA would consider this complex set of issues more thoroughly in its future meetings from the food-aid perspective.

Raúl LOPEZ-LIRA NAVA (Mexico): Antes que nada, permítame agradecer al Consejo la confianza que ha depositado en mi Delegación al habernos electo como Miembros del Comité de Políticas y Programas de Ayuda Alimentaria. Permítame asimismo aprovechar la oportunidad para saludar al Sr. Ingram y agradecerle su presentación del tema que nos ocupa. Asimismo agradecer al Sr. Dutia las palabras que nos ha dirigido.

Hemos revisado con atención el documento CL 94/9 el cual resume las principales tareas del PMA durante su 25º año de actividades. Respecto a la asistencia técnica al desarrollo, se observa que la previsión para 1988 se acerca a los 1.8 millones de toneladas igualando las cifras de 1986. Hubiéramos preferido que éstas se hubieran incrementado. Nos complace ver que el PMA está trabajando con varios países para resolver problemas de degradación del medio ambiente. Sus tareas se han centrado en la lucha contra la erosión, la ordenación de cuencas hidrológicas, repoblación forestal, rehabilitación de pastizales, entre otras.

En lo que se refiere a la Ayuda de Emergencia desplegada en 1987, se destaca que ésta no fue suficiente para satisfacer los requerimientos solicitados al PMA durante el año; inclusive, el Programa tuvo que tomar a préstamo recursos asignados para 1988 a fin de satisfacer las peticiones de asistencia más graves.

Solicitamos a los países donantes que incrementen sus aportaciones a fin de apoyar las labores de tan importante actividad. En términos de valor y tonelaje, más de dos tercios de la ayuda alimentaria de urgencia se destinaron a refugiados y personas desplazadas por disturbios civiles durante 1987. Esperamos que esta situación se supere pronto.

En cuanto a los recursos del Programa, el objetivo para las promesas de contribución ordinarias en el bienio 87/88 se fijó en 1.400 millones de dólares. Hasta el 31 de diciembre de 1987, 74 países habían prometido aportar 1.052 millones de dólares, cifra que representaba un 74 por ciento del objetivo. En base a la actividad anterior de los donantes, se prevé que las promesas deberán alcanzar como mínimo un 84 por ciento del objetivo, durante 1988, es decir, alrededor de 1.200 millones de dólares.

Exhortamos a esos países a dar su apoyo lo más pronto posible tomando en cuenta la gran necesidad existente. Respecto a los envíos de ayuda alimentaria hacia los países en desarrollo, éstos alcanzaron la cifra sin precedentes de 2.42 millones de toneladas, es decir un aumento del 10 por ciento en relación con el nivel récord registrado en 1986 de 2.25 millones de toneladas.

Como se sabe, a finales de 1986, se introdujeron en el Programa una nueva estructura organizativa y nuevos sistemas de gestión, que empezaron a aplicarse durante 1987. Las principales características de la reorganización han sido la reestructuración orgánica de la Sede para propiciar mayor apoyo a las operaciones a los países; el fortalecimiento de la administración del personal para superar las divisiones entre la Sede y las Oficinas en los países; un sistema de gestión revisado encaminado a maximizar las actividades y prácticas administrativas.

A este respecto, la Delegación Mexicana se permite señalar su preocupación por los problemas que enfrenta el PMA para contribuir a resolver las urgencias alimentarias de muchos países e insta a los Países Miembros, en especial a los países desarrollados, a que sigan colaborando con el Programa en los términos en que lo venían haciendo en años anteriores. A este nivel particular, preocupa especialmente el que el PMA, por la escasez de recursos, pueda participar tan sólo con un porcentaje menor al 50 por ciento del total de los recursos de los proyectos que instrumenta, cuando los países participantes en ellos son precisamente los que carecen de abundantes recursos.

No obstante lo anterior, la Delegación Mexicana desea manifestar el apoyo irrestricto del Gobierno de México a la labor del Programa por haber demostrado ser, hasta el momento, una instancia muy adecuada para hacer llegar a los países en desarrollo, importantes recursos en materia de ayuda alimentaria. Asimismo, solicita de los Gobiernos apoyo necesario para que el PMA siga llevando adelante la labor encomendada, a fin de contrarrestar la insuficiencia que en este rubro enfrentan muchos de nuestros países.

Mi Delegación se permite expresar el reconocimiento del Gobierno de México por la labor desarrollada por el PMA y solicita se fortalezca la cooperación entre la FAO y el PMA. Por último, Sr. Presidente, mi Delegación se permite proponer que la innovación tecnológica sin ser un elemento que deba caracterizar a los proyectos que lleva adelante el PMA, pueda ser contemplada si se coopera

cercanamente con organizaciones como la ONUDI misma, que podría favorecer la realización de determinados Proyectos del PMA por la experiencia que ha ido ganando al instrumentar sus propios Programas.

Li ZHENHUAN (China) (Original language Chinese): First of all, I should like to thank Mr. Ingram, the Executive Director for introducing the document and I should also like to thank the secretariat of WFP for Document CL 94/9 which is before us for consideration.

My delegation has noted with satisfaction that in 1987 WFP continued to use food aid to encourage agricultural production and rural development and also full development of human resources. In total, it supplied to the countries involved US\$ 621 million worth of assistance for development and the number of beneficiaries reached the figure of 20 million. The Programme gave priority to Africa in its food aid activities, particularly sub-Saharan Africa. It also developed an Action Programme to develop food and agricultural production thus making a great contribution to helping to diminish the food crisis in Africa and also it helped to promote African economic development.

Whilst pursuing the principle which consists of using food aid to promote development the Programme has helped low-income food-deficit countries to undertake food-for-work activities. Thanks to WFP's assistance, conditions for agricultural production in recipient countries in the areas of the project have improved and the development of food production and agriculture has been encouraged in these countries.

The Programme has continued to give great importance to the improvement of the environment in order to strengthen work in the field of production and renewal of natural agricultural resources. Furthermore, in the framework of emergency food aid, the programme has supplied assistance to 8.5 million refugees, that is to say more than half of the total number of refugees throughout the world and we should like to congratulate WFP on these results.

At the same time, I should like to take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to WFP for the aid which they have given our country and for the efforts they have made during the approval of projects which my country has requested in agriculture, silviculture and livestock. These projects have continued to promote the development of food and agriculture production and to improve the living conditions of farmers in certain poorer regions of our country. In addition, the Programme has made fresh progress in fields such as triangular transactions, in the purchase of food aid commodities in developing countries and in the use of developing country flags for transporting food aid products.

Finally, I would like to state again that my Government will continue its efforts to cooperate with WFP and will concentrate efforts on improving the identification, elaboration and implementation of projects so that the limited resources of food aid will be able to produce the best possible economic and social results and produce a lasting effect on food and agricultural production in the regions which will benefit at the end of the project.

Dang MEKOULA (Cameroun): La delegation du Cameroun a examiné avec tout l'intérêt mérité le deuxième rapport du Comité des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire soumis à notre Conseil. Nous nous félicitons de sa concision et nous avons apprécié à sa juste valeur la brillante présentation faite par M. Ingram, Directeur exécutif. Ce rapport comporte une série de données pertinentes qui permettent à tout un chacun de se faire une idée sur le dynamisme qui caractérise désormais les interventions du Programme alimentaire mondial et tout le soutien dont ce programme bénéficie tant de la part des gouvernements des pays donateurs que du côté des pays bénéficiaires.

Le volume impressionnant des ressources engagées par le PAM au cours des deux dernières années, au titre de l'exécution des projets de développement, à savoir 1,800 million de tonnes en 1986 et 1,550 million de tonnes en 1987, en est une brillante illustration.

Nous avons apprécié l'efficacité et la rigueur conférées à la gestion des ressources du Programme alimentaire mondial dont les dépenses administratives et le soutien technique sont restés limités, soit environ 6% du total des charges annuelles.

Nous avons noté que l'expansion remarquable que connaissent désormais les activités du PAM procède de l'appui apporté en priorité aux projets de développement dans les secteurs du développement rural

et de la valorisation des ressources humaines. C'est désormais pour cette raison que notre délégation appuie vivement la nouvelle orientation que prennent actuellement les interventions du Programme alimentaire mondial au profit des groupes vulnérables, orientation selon laquelle tout apport alimentaire à cette catégorie de bénéficiaires devrait absolument être lié aux activités de développement préalablement identifiées en faveur des groupes concernés.

Comme de nombreux orateurs le reconnaissent, l'attention spéciale dont les pays à faible revenu et à déficit vivrier font l'objet dans le cadre des interventions du Programme alimentaire dans les pays en développement doit être maintenue.

L'impact de l'assistance du PAN sur les activités menées pour lutter contre la dégradation de l'environnement a été largement souligné dans ce rapport. Il est tout aussi évident que ce secteur de l'environnement est appelé à connaître une expansion considérable dans beaucoup de pays comme le nôtre dès que les projets concrets seront initiés et exécutés dans le cadre du Plan d'action forestier tropical, qui a d'ailleurs fait l'objet de bien des débats au cours de nos précédentes séances.

Nous avons relevé au paragraphe 14 de ce rapport, que pour faciliter la mise en oeuvre des nouvelles procédures du cycle des projets adoptés en 1986 et aider le bureau du PAM dans les pays à remplir les nouvelles tâches qui leur incombent en matière de préparation des projets, un programme de formation axé sur la conception des projets a été étudié et mis en essai en 1987. Plusieurs stages de formation ont déjà eu lieu et d'autres sont prévus. Cette formation appropriée à dispenser au personnel du PAM dans les pays est d'une importance capitale en matière d'identification et de formulation de projets.

Dans cette lancée nous pensons que la nécessité d'appliquer dans ce processus les cadres nationaux enrôlés dans les activités du Programme alimentaire mondial dans les pays concernés s'impose, si on veut conférer toute l'efficacité voulue à la gestion de cette assistance que nous considérons désormais comme un investissement.

Nous ne pouvons que nous féliciter de tout l'intérêt que le PAM accorde à l'Afrique. Cette sollicitude est d'autant plus justifiée que l'Afrique, dans l'état actuel des choses, reste le continent où l'on dénombre le plus de pays les moins avancés, le plus de pays à déficit vivrier.

Comme on s'en doute, les interventions du PAM vont prendre une envergure considérable en Afrique grâce aux ressources adéquates dégagées pour soutenir ce plan d'action pour l'exécution des projets spécifiques dans les domaines prioritaires de la sécurité alimentaire, de l'environnement, des ressources humaines, des infrastructures, et j'en passe.

C'est dire en d'autres termes que, dans cette phase, le problème des charges de gestion, qui reste à certains égards un élément préoccupant dans le processus d'exécution du projet, va retenir notre attention.

Autrement dit, dans le contexte de l'élaboration des projets, toutes les dispositions doivent être prises pour aider les pays bénéficiaires n'étant pas en mesure de prendre intégralement en charge toutes les dépenses de gestion intérieure, dans le sens de faire assurer le financement de ces charges à partir de ressources préalablement dégagées dans les projets considérés, grâce au mécanisme de la monétisation partielle des ressources allouées.

S'agissant des aides d'urgence, nous avons relevé aussi que, du fait de l'ampleur des événements imprévus survenus l'année dernière - catastrophes, troubles internes - le volume des ressources allouées au titre de la réserve internationale alimentaire d'urgence s'est avéré bien en deçà des besoins des personnes nécessiteuses pour lesquelles une aide alimentaire d'urgence a été sollicitée. De ce fait, certaines demandes n'ont pu être satisfaites. Cette situation doit aussi retenir toute l'attention du Conseil.

Beaucoup d'entre nous se souviennent encore de la situation alimentaire préoccupante à laquelle des personnes frappées par les catastrophes naturelles, ou les réfugiés provenant des pays voisins, ont dû faire face ces dernières années au Cameroun.

N'eût été la réaction prompte de la communauté internationale qui a assisté matériellement le gouvernement pour renforcer ses moyens d'action, les problèmes alimentaires se seraient posés de façon dramatique pour ces personnes, surtout en cette période de crise économique.

Notre délégation saisit cette occasion pour renouveler aux généreux donateurs, au Directeur général de la FAO, au Directeur exécutif du Programme alimentaire mondiale, la gratitude du Gouvernement

camerounais pour la sollicitude dont ils ont fait preuve à notre endroit, en mettant à notre disposition en temps voulu les produits alimentaires requis qui ont permis de fournir aux personnes nécessiteuses l'essentiel de leurs besoins de base pendant ces moments difficiles.

Le Programme alimentaire mondiale a pris actuellement une dimension et un dynamisme incontestés. L'importance du volume des ressources affectées aux projets de développement et à la valorisation des ressources humaines, l'expansion des opérations triangulaires dans le sens sud-sud confirment l'idée que le Gouvernement camerounais se fait de ce Programme, selon laquelle l'aide alimentaire est considérée à tous égards comme un financement d'appoint spécifique lorsqu'elle est utilisée à des fins de développement et s'intègre rationnellement dans le contexte d'un plan national de développement en soutenant et stimulant les projets et programmes précis inscrits dans ce plan.

Satoshi WAKUNO (Japan): First of all, I would like to thank Mr. Ingram for his comprehensive introduction to this Agenda Item. On behalf of the Japanese delegation, I would like to express our full support for the Thirteenth Report of the CFA adopted at the 25th Session of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes.

The Japanese delegation highly appreciates the excellent activities undertaken by the WFP staff under the leadership of Mr. Ingram in food aid for development and nutritional improvement in recipient countries as well as emergency food aid. My country will continue to give its strong support to the WFP and to make its contribution to the WFP, including aid for the support programme for the repatriation of Afghanistan refugees.

Finally, we hope that the WFP will make the necessary effort to maintain the sound cash flow position and so guarantee its prompt reaction to emergency needs as in the past.

Mrs. Marasee SURAKUL (Thailand): My delegation has carefully studied document CL 94/9 and would like to suggest that developed nations and international agencies increasing their food aid to deserving needy countries give consideration to procuring their donations from developing countries with food surpluses on a tripartite arrangement. As Thailand has the capacity to produce cereals, coarse grains, pulses and tubers, we are willing to increase our production provided that we are offered a fair price.

For efficiency in food aid, we encourage CFA to monitor the effectiveness of food aid in eliminating problems of hunger through the use of food aid and prevalence and characteristics of world hunger.

As we are aware, the Third World debt is now worth \$ 1.2 trillion. This heavy debt would certainly be one of the obstacles to economic development in food-deficit countries. Therefore, we propose that the debtor countries and multilateral institutions like IMF help the debt-laden countries through cheaper aid loans and waive the debts of those poorest nations, mostly in sub-Saharan Africa, to revive the economies of those countries.

We are willing to enhance ECDC and TCDC to develop and expand our capabilities through south-south cooperation in the field of food and agriculture.

Finally, we fully support the activities of the World Food Programme and are looking forward to more concrete programmes to be immediately implemented for the poor needy countries around the world.

Zoltán KALMAN (Hungary): In view of the limited time available for discussion, I will be very brief. First of all, I would like to congratulate the WFP Secretariat and Mr. Ingram for the preparation and presentation of this document. The Thirteenth Annual Report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes gives a good overview of the activities and new developments in the work of this important Committee and that of the WFP which completed 25 years of successful operations last year. Amongst its various spheres of activities, the Programme's development assistance is becoming more and more important. In this respect, special attention should be paid, in our opinion, to the following two fields: firstly, concerted efforts in Asia made by WFP to move away from relief feeding of vulnerable groups to development projects with longer lasting effects can be considered as one of the most significant steps in the right direction. Projects of this type in Bangladesh and India will hopefully prove to be successful ones, thus making not only possible but also necessary the expansion of the Programme's activities in this direction.

Secondly, we noted with satisfaction that environmental improvement continues to be a high priority to WFP. In addition to its increasing role in assisting projects for erosion control, reforestation, rehabilitation of grazing lands, etc., WFP's efforts to have better coordination with other agencies - notably UNEP and FAO - in fighting against environmental degradation is very much appreciated.

As far as the management review of WFP undertaken in 1986 is concerned, we are impressed by the exemplary speed and effectiveness of the introduction and implementation of the new organizational structure and management system. We think that at least partly as a consequence of these measures, WFP's administrative expenses - including technical and programme support costs - have been kept to about 6% of annual disbursements, one of the lowest of any development assistance agencies as stated in paragraph 16 of this document.

Finally, I wish to refer to the new schedule of sessions of the CFA. As we have already expressed our views during the discussion on this issue, we are convinced that as a result of the new order to meetings in addition to its money-saving efforts, which cannot be neglected, the efficiency of the CFA will improve significantly.

Hans-J. HERMENS (Canada): I would first like to join those delegations who have already spoken in thanking WFP's Executive Director, Mr. James Ingram, for providing this Council with a very lucid and complete introduction to this Agenda Item. As a member of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes, WFP's governing body, Canada has already had the opportunity to discuss this Report and to give its approval to it in that forum. We have before us in document CL 94/9 a thoroughly impressive compendium of WFP's accomplishments and activities for the reporting period 1987. The WFP can point with satisfaction to the overall increase in shipments of food aid, to the increase in the shipment of commodities to development projects and to its growing role in, and contribution to, emergency and refugee situations.

In this connection, we would like to highlight the WFP's continuing and outstanding contribution to addressing the food crisis in Africa. Over the past two years, and in direct response to the management review initiated by the Executive Director and undertaken in 1986, the WFP has taken major steps to lay the groundwork for a more effective programme. At the same time, the WFP has continued both to manage a growing programme and respond to an increased number of emergencies. Food aid is an investment in future development, and only steady improvement in development effectiveness can make the case for expanded food aid programmes. The World Food Council among others is tackling this problem at this very moment.

I will now outline some of the great challenges that in our opinion face the WFP in the immediate future. Specifically, Canada will be looking to the WFP for better projects, for concentration on the low-income food-deficit countries, for leadership in developing innovative approaches to targeted food aid, for increased emphasis on projects in support of sustainable development - that is projects with an increased emphasis on environmental considerations - for increased and serious attention to the role of women in development including an increase in the number of qualified women particularly at the senior management level within the WFP. Finally, Canada will look to the WFP to continue to place the highest emphasis on the effective use of limited development assistance resources.

As I have just indicated, Canada is looking for better projects from the WFP, specifically better development projects. At recent sessions of WFP's governing body, the CFA, and the appropriate body for discussion of this issue, Canada has expressed its concern over the fact that WFP's new project cycle has been much too long in its development and in its implementation. As a result of this delay, we have yet to see any really significant improvements in the overall quality of the projects submitted for CFA approval. It is also our view that within the framework of the new project cycle, WFP's evaluation functions appear somewhat downgraded. We have concluded that overall progress in implementing the new monitoring and evaluation systems has been slow. These are all things that members of the CFA and the WFP Secretariat have been working on in a spirit of constructive dialogue. I would like to reaffirm Canada's continuing support for the WFP's ongoing efforts to seek improvement in the management of its projects and in the formulation of better development projects. These then, in our opinion, constitute some of the challenges facing the WFP in the short term.

Mr Chairman, let me leave no doubt that Canada continues to hold the WFP in very high regard. This is clearly evidenced by the historically substantial level of resources that this country has programmed to the WFP. Currently, this represents roughly 40% of Canada's food aid programme. In this regard, I might reiterate the recent announcement by our Minister for External Relations and

International Development on World Food Day on October 16 of a Canadian pledge to WFP's Regular Programme of C\$ 310 million for the biennium 1989-90. Furthermore, to serve the increasing need for resources to help deal with emergencies, especially refugees, Canada has increased its contribution to the IEFR from C\$ 15 million to C\$ 25 million during the current fiscal year ending 31 March 1989.

In conclusion, I would like to take note of Mr. Ingram's reference in his statement to the ongoing discussions regarding a Headquarters agreement for the WFP. Those of us who have dealt with the WFP over the years could not help but be impressed by the growing inadequacy of the WFP's accommodation. We believe that this has exerted a negative influence on both the morale and productivity of WFP's staff. I should stress that the WFP's governing body at its last session "underlined the need for adequate Headquarters accommodation for the WFP's secretariat to ensure efficient operations."

We therefore greatly appreciate the efforts made by the Government of Italy to find a solution to this problem. It is our hope that all parties involved in this matter will be able to move speedily and finalize arrangements that will be conducive to the good operation of this Programme.

Taghi SHAMEKHI (Iran, République islamique d'): Au nom de Dieu je vous remercie M. le Président.

La description du document CL 94/9, comme l'a faite très clairement M. Ingram, montre l'augmentation des activités du PAM. Cette documentation a d'une part un aspect positif, mais d'un autre côté elle montre la situation critique qui règne dans beaucoup de régions du monde, en raison des guerres et des catastrophes naturelles qui, dans beaucoup de cas, sont le résultat de la destruction de l'environnement naturel par l'homme.

Dans une telle situation il faut jeter un cri d'alarme et le PAM, parmi ses activités, devrait mettre plus l'accent sur cet aspect.

Il est d'ailleurs nécessaire d'étudier et de prendre une décision concrète à propos des propositions du Directeur général pour la constitution des aides alimentaires urgentes.

On peut remarquer entr'autres que le PAM, en 1988, bien qu'ayant 25 millions de dollars de plus qu'en 1987, a reçu moins d'aide alimentaire pour les déshérités.

En ce qui concerne la République islamique d'Iran, cela fait à peu près un an que le PAM a débuté ses activités d'aide alimentaire aux réfugiés des différentes guerres qui se trouvent maintenant dans la République islamique d'Iran. Nous espérons que le PAM accroîtra son aide et surtout qu'il fera des programmes d'investissement, de développement régional pour permettre à ces réfugiés de retourner dans leurs propres pays. Nous souhaitons au PAM tout le succès voulu pour cette grande entreprise.

Stanley Munkindia GUANTAI (Kenya): I should like to thank Mr. Ingram and Mr. Dutia for their very explicit presentation of the activities of the WFP and the food aid situation. The Programme, which started as an experiment, has turned out to be a major contingent of food aid organization which has become increasingly involved with development activities in food production, conservation activities, human resource development and most rural sector development programmes.

We commend the Organization for the trucking and shipment operations which have responded to the difficulties faced by the recipient countries in receiving food assistance and distribution. While we welcome the large shipments which have been found necessary, we hope that action will be taken to eradicate the root causes of many of the factors leading to the necessity to receive food aid, namely, low food productivity and poverty. We believe that this would be in support of the Cyprus Initiative which was adopted by the World Food Council earlier this year.

Food aid resources could be increasingly linked to the efforts to alleviate the means for increasing food assistance. In addition to the present programme focused on development activities, and in particular environmental concerns, my delegation believes research and technology development should also be given great attention if further inroads to improved food productivity are to be achieved.

My delegation appreciates the increased triangular transaction operations and food aid commodity purchases from the developing countries. We wish to encourage WFP to continue expanding these activities in a bid to encourage South-South cooperation. We have already expressed that in a

number of developing countries food distribution problems are caused by lack of storage and infrastructural facilities. We urge the Programme and donor communities to address this issue further with a view to assisting in the development of storage facilities for strategic national supplies, farm level storage and distribution in the food deficit areas.

We wish to lend our voice to the appeal for increased resources to be provided to WFP, and in particular the replenishment of the IEFER reserves which have been depleted due to the major emergencies which have taken place globally. We believe that the increased cash component element would help the programme and the recipient countries to meet operational costs that have tended to increase over time. My delegation wishes to draw the attention of this Council to paragraph 83 and its contents. We appeal for urgent action to be taken by all concerned to protect the convoys, particularly as many of them are private contractors.

My delegation agrees that there is a very urgent need to assist WFP with housing facilities and we hope that the host government will continue to demonstrate its everlasting generosity and conclude ongoing negotiations.

We commend the Organization for the improvement of the organizational structure and management process and in the adoption of INTERFAIS including steps to improve project formulation and project approval processes. My country welcomes continued attention to the food crisis in Africa and in this regard welcomes the developments mentioned in paragraph 89. We also welcome the training activities mentioned in paragraph 92. In conclusion, my delegation would wish to convey its gratitude to the WFP for the continuing support and cooperation with my country.

James AITKEN (United Kingdom): As the United Kingdom is a member of the CFA my intervention will be brief. We would like to thank Mr. Ingram and Mr. Dutia for their introduction to this item. My Government continues to support WFP and we congratulate the Programme on sending record shipments to developing countries of over 2.4 million tons in 1987. We recognize that WFP plays an important role in coordinating deliveries of food aid to certain countries with particular problems, for example, Ethiopia. This is a very valuable service to donors and recipients alike.

Looking at the documents before us, however, we were concerned at the slight drop in the proportion of new commitments made to low income food deficit countries. We hope that this trend can be reversed in future years. We are pleased to note that the structural reorganization following management's review implemented in 1987 continues. I should like to stress the importance we attach to the improvements in procedure agreed for CFA also being implemented this year.

We were pleased to hear the Executive-Director's comments on sustainable development. We were delighted that WFP is putting increasing stress on the conservation of natural resources. We share the views of the Brundtland Report concerning the interrelationship between poverty and the environment. There should be an increased emphasis on WFP projects on helping to reduce pressures in the environment that stem from the immediate needs of the poorer sectors of the community.

We look forward to receiving the report of the 27th CFA in 1989 on the contribution of WFP to the implementation of the General Assembly resolutions on the Brundtland Report. I should like to confirm our support for WFP's policy on the advancement of women throughout the WFP Programme. We believe it is important to avoid any action which tends to separate women's interests from the existence that is an integral part of the WFP Programme.

We support the principle of triangular transactions and we are glad to note the prominence given to these in the Programme. We also welcome the role of WFP in support of structural adjustment programmes. As the distinguished delegate of Canada, we are concerned that there should be adequate evaluation of WFP programmes and we will watch the implementation of the project cycle with interest.

Finally, I should like to add my delegation's support to those delegations which have expressed a hope that there will be rapid progress on the arrangements for new accommodation for WFP.

Roberto E.E. DALTON (Argentina): Mi país miembro saliente del CPA quiere hacer llegar su felicitación a los colegas que acabamos de elegir para ocupar esas importantes funciones.

Mi delegación, Sr. Presidente, participó de los trabajos del 25° período de sesiones del Comité, a cuyo 13° Informe Anual al ECOSOC, a este Consejo y al Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación, contenido en el documento CL 94/9, reiteramos nuestro apoyo.

Queremos agradecer la concisa y clara introducción del tema que ha hecho el Dr. Ingram, y también agradecemos los comentarios que nos ha hecho llegar el Director General de la FAO, que hemos escuchado con sumo interés.

Tal como lo hicimos durante el último período de sesiones del CPA, mi delegación quiere destacar la colaboración que recibimos del PMA, mediante operaciones triangulares, que le dan un alto grado de efectividad a nuestra propia ayuda alimentaria, ya que permite que las donaciones argentinas lleguen rápida y oportunamente a los países receptores.

Para terminar, Sr. Presidente, la delegación argentina quiere agradecer, una vez más, al Gobierno de la República Italiana por su decidido apoyo y generosas contribuciones a los organismos alimentarios con sede en Roma.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): En nombre del Gobierno de Colombia felicitamos a los cinco miembros recién elegidos del CPA y expresamos nuestro agradecimiento a la colaboración ofrecida por aquellos miembros salientes.

Este Informe que abarca los dos períodos de sesiones celebrados en 1987, confirma una vez más que el PMA alcanzó un nivel sin precedentes en la cantidad de alimentos enviados a los países beneficiarios, como lo señaló el colega de Francia. El Gobierno de Colombia ha atribuido siempre gran importancia a las asignaciones para proyectos de desarrollo porque así podrá ir desapareciendo el aspecto "caridad", que no debe caracterizar la acción del PMA. Apoyamos los conceptos expresados por la distinguida Representante de Finlandia sobre la mejor y más eficaz forma de utilizar los recursos.

Lamentamos que se haya detenido la tendencia, que antes era afortunadamente ascendente, dirigida a aumentar los recursos para proyectos de desarrollo que en 1987 bajaron a 1.5 millones de toneladas, frente al 1.8 de 1985 y 1986. Ojalá que se cumplan y aún se incremente ese mismo porcentaje previsto para 1988, como lo han dicho los colegas de México y Hungría.

Convendrá que en el Informe destaquemos el acierto del PMA al haber venido intensificando las compras de alimentos a países en desarrollo. En 1987, esas compras alcanzaron un volumen sin precedentes y las tres cuartas partes correspondieron a países en desarrollo. Hay que incrementar aún más esa proporción.

A los Representantes de Colombia nos complace registrar positivamente la asistencia del PMA al África, y esperamos que ésta se adelante en cooperación con todas las organizaciones competentes, particularmente con la FAO. La plena cooperación FAO/PMA debe ser integral en todas las comunes actividades de las dos organizaciones.

Es admirable que durante 1987 el PMA haya beneficiado a más de 20 millones de personas, con gastos administrativos mínimos, los más bajos de todos los organismos de ayuda para el desarrollo, según se afirma en el párrafo 17.

En cuanto a la distribución de ayuda del PMA por regiones, la difícil situación del África Subsahariana continúa justificando la alta prioridad a esa región, que obtuvo el 37% de los recursos. Para Asia y el Pacífico, la asistencia subió del 26 al 33%, mientras que en América Latina y el Caribe esa asistencia se mantuvo estable. Una vez más insistimos en que, aún dentro de las prioridades vigentes será necesario conceder ayuda alimentaria a aquellos países de América Latina y el Caribe que la soliciten, pues si bien algunos de esos países han alcanzado cierto grado de desarrollo, todavía requieren asistencia alimentaria para atender a su propia situación interna y generalmente a bolsones de pobreza que subsisten.

El párrafo 60 se refiere a los recursos para la RAIE. Creemos que después de más de 14 años de haberse fijado el objetivo anual de la RAIE, ya no debe hablarse de esa cifra; ojalá no se deba hablar de ese término de 500.000 toneladas de cereales, ni decir que se rebasó ese objetivo, porque así se desalienta a los donantes quienes piensan que ya han superando esa cifra, que en verdad resulta obsoleta después de 14 años. Pensamos que bastaría simplemente registrar el aumento de los recursos para la RAIE, señalando que, no obstante, aún esos recursos no son suficientes y demandando mayores contribuciones, como lo ha dicho el Embajador Ahmed del Bangladesh.

Es importante destacar como muestra de confianza en el Programa, el hecho de que las aportaciones totales a la RAIE en 1987, la casi totalidad, un 96%, se canalizó multilateralmente a través del PMA. Igualmente, el Consejo deberá señalar con encomio y como ejemplo a seguir las contribuciones a la RAIE de tres países africanos: Angola, Congo y Lesotho.

Magnífico que se hayan intensificado las transacciones triangulares, vinculadas a las compras de alimentos en los países en desarrollo, transacciones triangulares que tienen múltiples ventajas, y sobre las cuales no vamos a insistir porque ya lo han dicho muy bien los colegas de la República Federal de Alemania y Kenya particularmente. Agradecemos los anuncios de la República Federal de Alemania y del Canadá, países que son valiosos contribuyentes al Programa.

En todos este Informe, hay un solo aspecto negativo, y está en el párrafo 78. La utilización de buques con pabellón de países en desarrollo ha disminuido considerablemente; y ello nos preocupa. En volumen del récord del 27% en 1986, se volvió al sólo 21.4% en 1987. Es ficticia y un poco desorientadora la referencia al número de buques utilizados, porque si aceptáramos ese argumento para 1988 podría el Programa decirnos que volvió a descender la participación de los países en desarrollo en volumen y valor de los fletes, pero que aumentó considerablemente el número de chalupas, canoas, botes y maderas de los países en desarrollo.

Preguntamos al Director Ejecutivo de manera cordial y respetuosa si está tomando medidas para corregir esa situación.

Queremos, Sr. Presidente, sumar nuestro apoyo a lo que han dicho los colegas de Estados Unidos, Canadá, Kenya, Reino Unido y otros, en el sentido de que ha llegado el momento de que se dote al PMA de una sede adecuada, y con mucho respeto quisiéramos preguntar al Embajador de Italia, si subsiste el generoso ofrecimiento del Gobierno de este país tan altruista y si fuere así, Sr. Presidente, el Consejo debe expresar su deseo de que se superen las dificultades que puedan subsistir para que en pleno entendimiento, con toda comprensión y buena voluntad se logre dotar al PMA de su propia sede.

Sobre la sección seis, Administración, hemos seguido con atención la implementación de las medidas sugeridas por los célebres consultores McKenzies, sobre la nueva estructura del PMA. Tenemos la impresión de que todo se está cumpliendo regular y satisfactoriamente. Recientemente se ascendieron algunos profesionales juniors, entre éstos unos pocos latinoamericanos, de manera que se tiende así a corregir aunque todavía no con la intensidad deseada, el desequilibrio geográfico que hemos anotado en el personal del PMA y, en cierta medida, se está volviendo a dar forma triangular a la pirámide que se había vuelto excesivamente cuadrada y a dotar de buenos y eficientes soldados P3 y P4 y a los generales D2 y D1.

Todo ello contribuirá a estimular a los funcionarios del PMA a todos los niveles y revela, lo declaramos con satisfacción, que se ha puesto en práctica en el Programa una adecuada dinámica y positiva política de personal. Sr. Ingram, en nombre del Gobierno de Colombia hago propicia esta oportunidad para reiterar a Ud. nuestro más pleno apoyo. Estamos seguros de que bajo su dirección como administrador serio, ordenado, correcto y eficaz, el PMA continuará su valiosa labor de asistencia a los países en desarrollo.

Stet Muhammad Saleem KHAN (Pakistan): My delegation also welcomes the Thirteenth Annual Report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes and notes with satisfaction that, as always, this Report also is a reflection of the commitment of the World Food Programme, its Executive Director and the members of its staff, towards its challenging task of alleviating poverty, hunger and misery among millions of suffering inhabitants of the world.

We would specifically like to compliment the Programme on its record all-time-high levels of food shipments during 1987 - particularly those for WFP's development projects. However, we do hope for an upsurge in commitments, during 1988, for development projects, which have fallen below 1986 levels. In this context, I would make a particular mention of commitments for projects relating to environmental improvement and human resource development.

Another aspect of satisfaction has been the increase in WFP commitments for non-food items. Here we would do well to remind ourselves that WFP projects in developing countries often suffer from the inability of many of these countries to raise sufficient counterpart resources, to meet the expenditure on account of such items and other project-related costs of government responsibility. Increased participation of WFP in such costs would not only provide the much needed relief to their hard-pressed economies, but would also facilitate timely completion of the projects with their attendant benefits. Where direct indulgence of WFP in these costs may not be possible, we would recommend WFP's involvement in assisting the beneficiary country in obtaining the same from some external bilateral or multilateral source. In other words, we feel the co-financing aspect should be built into the project at the time of project preparation.

Moving to the subject of emergency aid situations, we are impressed with the speed and alacrity with which WFP has been responding to such contingencies all over the world; whether it has been the food crises in Africa, the floods in Bangladesh or the Afghan refugees in Pakistan.

I take this opportunity to thank the WFP and the donor countries who have come to our assistance in the humanitarian cause of supporting the 3 million Afghan refugees based on our soil. We hope that this assistance will continue until such time that these refugees can return in peace and honour to their homeland in terms of the Geneva Agreement.

While the WFP has been performing its onerous tasks resolutely we note that its emergency resources, both in case of the IEFER and its regular resources, fell short of demand during 1987. The shortfall on the regular resources of the Programme is anticipated to be of the magnitude of 0.2 billion U.S. dollars towards the end of 1988. We would like to record our special appreciation to the donor countries for supporting OTP by their generous pledging of resources. However, we sincerely hope that this generosity would further extend to cover the deficits of the Programme. As mentioned by our colleague from Colombia, a special note of recognition needs also to be recorded for the donations to the IEFER, by Angola, Congo and Lesotho, despite their own economic problems.

We are happy to note the increase in triangular transactions and in local purchases in the developing countries as well as the effort to increase use of flag vessels of developing countries. We would like these trends to continue and expand further.

It is also gratifying to note that the management changes and the streamlining of procedures initiated earlier have been maintained as a continuing process and are having a healthy impact on the performance and the services being rendered by the Programme. I would like to refer to paragraph 92 of document CL 94/9 and the new training approach. While commending this, my delegation would like to suggest extending the benefits of this training programme to key coordinators of WFP projects in various developing countries, in addition to WFP staff, enabling them to have better perceptions of WFP methods and requirements. This would lead to better identification, preparation and implementation of projects. Before I end, my delegation would also like to associate itself with the proposal of the delegate from Zambia for WFP's effective support and guidance to valuable regional efforts, like the recently resolved regional food reserve question recently resolved by the Third OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development held at Islamabad.

I conclude by endorsing the document and assuring WFP of the full support of my government.

Premanandu TRIPATHY (India): The Indian delegation welcomes the new members elected to the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes. We note that document CL 94/9 is a nice compendium of WFP operations in 1987 and analyzes the main trends on programmes for agricultural development and assistance for nutritional feeding and emergency programmes.

We congratulate the WFP on its completion of 25 years of satisfactory service to the world community.

India has always supported adequate aid for emergency programmes and aid for programmes designed to ensure higher food production and self-sufficiency. We are extremely happy that WFP increased its support for the UN/PAAERD, the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, in 1987.

It is also gratifying that WFP purchased three-quarters of food from the developing countries and that food, nutrition and environmental aspects continue to be of major relevance in WFP programmes. We notice, however, that the reserve position of IEFER is serious, and needs supplementation. This we feel should receive our attention. The extent to which contributions to food aid reserve by several countries can be kept at some realistic agreed level by understanding or convention, to be revised upwards at intervals, may have to be explored in this background.

The effort to promote south-south co-operation through WFP programmes is heartening indeed. The proposed thrust to tap the exportable food surplus of developing countries by purchase, through triangular transactions to meet the food aid needs is also a very laudable approach and has the full support of India.

Here I would mention a brief point which has also already been referred to by my esteemed colleague from Colombia. This relates to the matter mentioned in paragraphs 77 and 78 of this document. It indicates that the developing countries' share of participation in the shipping of WFP commodities has declined in 1987 and also that expenditure on transport has increased by about 16%. We feel that this item may need some attention from WFP.

Finally, we do hope that the present emphasis on earmarking the bulk of food aid of WFP to the low-income, food-deficient and least developing countries would continue, and that FAO and WFP would work hand-in-hand and smoothly in this very important sphere to alleviate poverty, malnutrition and hunger.

Danilo VALLE (Nicaragua): Mi Delegación agradece al Sr. Ingram su excelente y clara presentación del Informe así como los comentarios hechos por el Sr. Dutia. También saludamos la elección de los nuevos cinco miembros del CPA y agradecemos el trabajo realizado por los cinco miembros salientes.

Permítame limitar mi intervención a la asistencia del PMA en mi país, Nicaragua. Desde el mes de abril de 1972 hasta la fecha, el PMA ha comprometido una ayuda al país de 132.000 toneladas métricas de alimentos que viene a representar por persona alrededor de cuatro kilos. Si consideramos la población estimada en un 3.3 millones de personas, o sea uno de los más altos per capita en el continente latinoamericano. Este trabajo ha sido proporcionado a través de proyectos de desarrollo y de operaciones de emergencia. El volumen de la asistencia podemos resumirlo así el total de proyectos completados, en operaciones de desarrollo y próximos a iniciarse así como el total de operaciones urgentes y en desarrollo arroja un número de 34; el total de toneladas métricas de alimentos entregadas arroja una cifra de 132.040 toneladas métricas; en dólares nos arroja un total de 104.5 millones de dólares.

La asistencia del PMA se ha orientado a los distintos sectores económicos y sociales del país hacia proyectos de producción, de reforestación, campañas de alfabetización, y atención a desplazados y refugiados de conflictos bélicos así como para enfrentar desastres naturales. El número de habitantes que ha sido beneficiado por estos proyectos sobrepasa las 500.000 personas, habiendo habido una asistencia sostenida desde 1983, de un alto porcentaje de desplazados de guerra que anda por alrededor de 155.000 personas, incluyendo niños y ancianos.

También ha habido apoyo y asistencia para cerca de 2.000 refugiados salvadoreños y guatemaltecos a quienes se les ha atendido por cerca de tres años y se les ha facilitado su integración a proyectos productivos del país.

Nuestra delegación considera que el PMA ha respondido en forma bastante satisfactoria a nuestras solicitudes de proyectos. Por ejemplo, remitiéndonos a un caso específico, tenemos que en el Proyecto PMA-Nicaragua 25/93, Fomento al Desarrollo Lechero, aun estando en plena ejecución, cuando hemos requerido de una ampliación de presupuesto, ésta ha sido atendida en forma ágil y rápida, habiendo demorado no más de 60 días todo el trámite hasta la propia recepción del producto. Siguiendo con el ejemplo de este mismo proyecto, en mayo de este año en su última sesión, el CPA aprobó una segunda fase del mismo por cinco años de duración, estando actualmente en los pasos previos para la firma del Plan de operaciones correspondiente; ya la sede del PMA ha iniciado las acciones correspondientes para el envío de la primera remesa de productos con el propósito de que ésta se reciba antes de que se finalice la actual fase y evitar así una interrupción de sus actividades.

En algunas operaciones de emergencia, también el PMA ha cumplido con eficiencia, tal es el caso del EMOP-13 y 3- Asistencia a Víctimas de la Sequía, la cual fue aprobada en menos de 20 días y los alimentos llegaron pocos días después. Es casi normal que los productos solicitados para cada proyecto se reciban dentro de un plazo de cinco a seis meses, luego de ser solicitados. Sin embargo, el PMA en varias acciones ha hecho oportuna entrega de los productos que ha comprometido.

Nos referimos por ejemplo al envío de barcos fletados denominados "charters" con muy buenos resultados. En 1986, el PMA contrató dos barcos, el "Glory Ocean" y el "Mercury Bay" los que trajeron a Nicaragua más de 13.000 toneladas métricas de diversos productos. En 1988, contrató tres buques, el "Sun Star", el "Lamas" y el "Whitley Bay" los cuales transportaron alrededor de 12.200 toneladas métricas de frijol, aceite vegetal, harina de trigo, maíz, etc.. En este último caso, fueron incluidas donaciones bilaterales de frijol que los Gobiernos de Italia y Canadá hicieron a Nicaragua. Al utilizarse los servicios del PMA para este efecto, esto se va convirtiendo en una oportuna modalidad de labor del PMA en beneficio de donantes y receptores.

Tomando en consideración que las Naciones Unidas otorgó a Nicaragua un trato preferencial, nuestro Gobierno viene recibiendo del PMA un subsidio para los gastos de transporte interno, almacenamiento y manejo de los productos que esta Organización le entrega.

Para concluir, Sr. Presidente, sólo rae resta decir que la ayuda del PMA para Nicaragua ha sido extensa y altamente provechosa; que el PMA ha realizado en varias ocasiones esfuerzos encomiables para socorrer a nuestro país en situaciones difíciles, y en algunos casos, hemos recibido ayuda alimentaria por adelantado.

Queremos expresar asimismo que también en algunas ocasiones hemos sufrido atrasos en la entrega de la ayuda por diversas causas, pero que esta situación no sólo se ha manifestado a través del PMA sino también a través de otras instituciones de las Naciones Unidas.

Y para terminar, consideramos nosotros que se deben mejorar quizás estos mecanismos a fin de que el apoyo y la ayuda lleguen a tiempo a los países que la requieran. Y dentro de ese orden, recomendaríamos nosotros constituir reservas de alimentos en distintos países del mundo para hacerle frente a las situaciones de desastres naturales que se presenten como terremotos, inundaciones, plagas de langosta, etc. pudiéndose dar de esta manera una respuesta más oportuna para el país afectado. En esta línea, el Gobierno de Nicaragua se ofrece como Sede para estas reservas en el área Centroamericana.

Angus MACDONALD (Australia): Because of the overall satisfaction with which Australia holds the World Food Programme and comments on the Annual Report made in the Committee on Food Aid, my intervention can be brief. We commend the Programme for its record-setting achievements in 1987, while deploring the necessity to devote a continuing high proportion of scarce resources to emergency situations. Australia will continue to provide resources for the Programme to the best of our ability, and consistent with our own economic progress. We agree that food aid can, and generally is, used as an effective development tool, and we recognize the primary role that the World Food Programme has played over 25 years in developing and ensuring the effectiveness of food aid.

We encourage WFP efforts in promoting south-south trade through triangular transactions and appreciate their assistance in facilitating triangular food swap arrangements.

All those countries which work closely with the World Food Programme, both donors and recipients, are presently experiencing the benefits of the new WFP management structure, and its food aid information system. We trust that the Organization will soon be able to proceed with progress on a new permanent headquarters commensurate with its important global role.

Juan NUIRY SANCHEZ (Cuba): La Delegación de Cuba quiere expresar la más cordial bienvenida al Sr. Ingram a esta sesión, así como también queremos resaltar la excelente información brindada por él. También queremos agradecer al Sr. Dutia la presentación del documento CL 94/9. Señor Presidente, en nombre de nuestra Delegación, queremos resaltar la importancia de las actividades del PMA, en su noble propósito de asistir a los afectados por el hambre, fundamentalmente en situaciones de emergencia, y resaltar que esta asistencia se ha realizado con la prontitud requerida y necesaria.

El Gobierno de Cuba ha tenido situaciones de emergencia. Además del bloqueo eterno a que se nos tiene sometidos, que no ha dejado de cesar, y las agresiones de todo tipo, se han sumado también desastres naturales, y hemos podido constatar la eficiencia del Programa.

Mi Delegación quiere también referirse a otro aspecto de las labores del PMA, aquellas que significan la asistencia para erradicar el hambre a través de los programas para el desarrollo. Nuestro país tiene en ejecución un proyecto para el desarrollo ganadero, con muy buenos resultados. No queremos repetir, pero no podemos pasar por alto lo que esta ayuda a los países en desarrollo representa en necesidad momentánea, como en su proyección agropecuaria. Erradicar el hambre, creo, debe ser el primer paso para erradicar el subdesarrollo. De ahí la importancia de los organismos especializados, no sólo instrumentando y analizando los efectos y graves problemas que gravitan en el mundo, sino materializándolos, ayudándolos, ya sea de inmediato, ante una necesidad de emergencia, como prestando su asistencia. No basta comer un día, sino comer todos los días, oí una vez y hoy repito. Bajo esa premisa es el respaldo, la fuerza que nosotros brindamos desde esta sala de conferencias, para que el PMA pueda continuar con el mismo auge y dinamismo, tan destacado en la mañana de hoy por todos los distinguidos colegas que me han precedido en el uso de la palabra. El PMA ha dado prueba de su capacidad asistencial en todos los sitios del planeta, y en particular ha sido esencial en la región africana, que desde hace años viene padeciendo escasez de alimentos por fenómenos naturales.

También queremos en este momento destacar la rapidez en la respuesta recibida ante la problemática por el azote ciclónico que tan graves efectos ocasionó recientemente a países de nuestra área, como Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panamá y El Salvador. Saludamos la puesta en práctica de principios normativos aprobados por el 23 CFAPR, que aseguró la participación de la mujer en los proyectos del PMA. Finalmente queremos, en nombre de la Delegación de Cuba, felicitar a los nuevos miembros que han sido elegidos para formar parte del CPA en la mañana de hoy.

Gian Luigi VALENZA (Italie): Je voudrais me limiter ici à répondre sans trop tarder à la requête faite par le Représentant de la Colombie et d'autres orateurs.

Le Gouvernement italien avait prévu la conclusion d'un accord avec le Programme alimentaire mondial, avant la fin de cette année et la recherche successive d'un siège définitif. Nous attendons maintenant de savoir si l'accord déjà prévu pourra en effet être signé dans des délais raisonnables. Mais, évidemment, nous ne pouvons pas influencer directement une telle décision qui doit être prise exclusivement au sein de la famille des Nations Unies.

Ce qui reste, par contre, très clair et très sûr, c'est le fait que le Gouvernement italien continue depuis quelques années à payer - et continuera vraisemblablement à le faire - l'essentiel du loyer relatif aux locaux que le Programme alimentaire mondial occupe actuellement à Rome.

Yousef Ali MAHMOUD HAMDY (Egypt) (Original language Arabic): We would like to thank Mr. Ingram, the Executive Director of the WFP for his excellent review of the report under consideration. We would like also to thank Mr. Dutia for his comment in which he referred to the close cooperation between FAO and the WFP, a matter which we are happy to hear. Allow me to endorse the report of the Committee and to congratulate the Executive Director and his collaborators for the efforts they deployed in managing the Programme and its operations in the service of a huge portion of humanity, either through responding to emergency situations or relief operations for refugees, agricultural and rural development and the development of human resources.

We would like to recall in this respect the following points: we do agree with the policy pursued by the Programme, namely that Africa will remain the main focus of the Programme's operations. We support the activities of the Programme in the field of women and development and take into consideration the role of women during project design, review and evaluation. We congratulate the Programme on the establishment of a network on the information on food aid which links all organizations and relative organs related to food aid statistics and information. No doubt this system will have a positive impact on the operations of the Programme and its achievement and as is referred to in the document, this would require full cooperation between donor countries and recipients and the various bodies and organizations and this is something we look forward to and we would like to stress.

Raúl LOPEZ-LIRA NAVA (México): Discúlpeme que **vuelva** a hacer uso de la palabra. Simplemente quisiera manifestar una preocupación que tiene mi Delegación y que se refiere a que en muchos casos la ayuda no es tan efectiva, ya que se carece de conocimientos y de facilidades para manejar esta ayuda dentro de los propios países- Mi intervención será en el sentido de hacer una solicitud a la FAO o al órgano competente, si fuera posible, ya que el distribuir alimentos tiene una tecnología e implica no sólo el almacenamiento y transporte, sino también educar a los consumidores. Este punto no ha sido debidamente discutido, y quisiéramos preguntar a la FAO si no podría dar un servicio de asistencia técnica en este sentido de apoyar un consumo más racional de esta ayuda. Eso es todo.

Gian Paolo PAPA (CEE): C'est avec intérêt que nous avons lu le treizième rapport du CPA portant sur 1987, année du 25ème anniversaire du Programme alimentaire mondial.

Il est intéressant de noter qu'en 1987 le Programme a permis pour la deuxième année consécutive de mettre en oeuvre une quantité sans précédent de produits, soit au total 2,4 millions de tonnes. Les livraisons aux pays en développement ont atteint le niveau record de 1,50 million de tonnes, mais il est inquiétant que la nécessité de faire face à des calamités diverses ait également fait de 1987 une année record en ce qui concerne la fourniture d'aides d'urgence dans le cadre des dits programmes, soit quelques 838 mille tonnes.

Le Programme joue un rôle précieux en matière de coordination des réactions des fournisseurs d'aides alimentaires aux situations d'urgence. Il convient de reconnaître le succès qu'il a permis d'obtenir en faisant acheminer des denrées alimentaires par camions ou par d'autres moyens de transport vers l'Ethiopie, le Sud du Soudan, le Malawi ou le Mozambique.

Pour être en mesure de maintenir l'aide au niveau requis, il faut que le programme soit doté des ressources nécessaires. Au paragraphe 59 du Rapport il est indiqué que l'objectif visé pour les deux années 1987 et 1988, en fonction des engagements souscrits par les autres donateurs, avait été réalisé à 75 pour cent seulement à la fin de 1987, et qu'on espérait porter le taux de réalisation à 84 pour cent à la fin de 1988.

Il serait pourtant intéressant de connaître: premièrement le niveau réel des engagements souscrits à ce jour, deuxièmement le maximum qu'on espère pouvoir atteindre en fin de compte.

Qu'il me soit permis de saluer la pratique adoptée par le CPA depuis quelques années qui consiste à soumettre au Comité, à chacune de ses sessions, une étude des politiques et des programmes d'aide alimentaire concernant soit un pays donneur, soit un pays receveur.

Lors de la 24ème session tenue en octobre 1987 la Communauté européenne focalisait l'attention. A cette fin, le Secrétariat a produit un important document établi en étroite collaboration avec les fonctionnaires concernés de la Commission. L'étude de ce document a été précédée d'une déclaration liminaire de M. Frisch, Directeur général du développement. La déclaration et l'étude établies par le Secrétariat ont été toutes les deux accueillies par le Comité qui a reconnu l'importance du rôle joué par la Communauté en matière d'aide alimentaire, et souligné son adhésion à la priorité qu'elle accorde au soutien des projets et des programmes ayant pour effet de stimuler la production alimentaire dans les pays receveurs.

Nous nous réjouissons du fait que la Communauté et ses Etats Membres soient les premiers donneurs du Programme alimentaire mondial.

Il y a lieu aussi de souligner qu'en 1988 la Communauté a dépassé aussi, en termes quantitatifs, sa contribution de 1987 au PAM. Et malgré la pénurie mondiale de lait et les augmentations correspondantes de prix, la CEE a maintenu, voire augmenté, ses engagements.

Pour conclure de façon plus générale, qu'il me soit permis de rappeler que pour l'année 1988 des crédits de plus de 550 millions d'écus ont été prévus en matière d'aide alimentaire, ce qui donne à la Communauté en tant que telle la place de 2ème donneur mondial.

A ce chiffre d'environ 630 millions de dollars USA, il y a lieu d'ajouter les importantes aides bilatérales des Etats Membres de la CEE.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous arrivons ainsi à la fin du débat et je donne la parole à M. Ingram.

James INGRAM (Executive Director, WFP): I think before I begin I should join in the congratulations to those delegations that have been elected to the CFA, or re-elected as in some cases is the situation. We welcome back all and extend a particularly warm welcome to those who are either just returning after an absence or are elected for the first time. I look forward very much to working closely with those five delegations.

I would also like to thank the Committee for the very many constructive comments that were made this morning. I think it has been the practice since I have been here, I think this is now the seventh experience I have had of this annual discussion of the CFA's Annual Report and I think without exception, during those seven years, the remarks made in the Council have been encouraging to the Programme. We depend on your enthusiastic support, donors or recipients. I think we are lucky in fact, that while there are something in excess of 90 recipients, there are approximately the same number of donors and in fact the contributions from the developing countries are just as valued as are those of the large developed countries.

Not only do these in some cases fairly substantial contributions make a real increase in our resources, they add commodities that we otherwise would not be able to obtain or at least we would have to buy. Of course, they are an encouragement to the governments of the main donor countries that this is indeed a mutual programme in which virtually all developed and developing countries participate not only as in the case of developing countries as recipients but also as donors. Therefore, these remarks are always encouraging.

Equally, we find great value in the observations - critical though some may be - and the questions that may be asked, and so on. I am going to say a little bit about what seemed to me to be not necessarily the most important observations but some which I think might help you to have a better understanding of our work. These comments I suppose basically come under three headings in relation to our development projects, in relation to our support for disasters, and our work in shipping and transport.

I will take up first the development projects. I suppose our task as we see it in the Secretariat is one of continuous improvement. That was the reason for introducing a new project cycle which I am pleased to say is effectively introduced now. It is the consensus of almost all that it has led to substantial improvements. It has led to substantial improvements essentially in that it has

provided the intellectual framework under which food aid can be effectively used for development. Food aid is only in part a nutritional resource. It often represents an income transfer to the beneficiary. We need to be clear about the objectives that are being served. We need to be clear about the function of food aid in relation to a particular project. We need also to be very clear in our minds about who actually benefits because again over time the programme has made the focus of its attention the poorest people. Therefore, it is very important to understand, if we are going to alleviate poverty and we are going to use food aid in the alleviation of poverty that we are going to do it so that we do not create dependence. It is very important to have clear objectives, both short and long term; it is very important to have an understanding of the function of food aid and very important to know who is going to benefit.

We feel that our approach to project design has greatly clarified all of those factors. I also have to say that in the new approach there has not, in fact, been any less reliance upon our esteemed evaluation service. On the contrary, the involvement of the findings of the evaluators is more effective within the current framework than it was before. It is great to have an evaluation. It is great to see what the weaknesses are as well as the strengths of projects, but if you cannot integrate the lessons into the design of future projects you are only getting half the benefit of an evaluation service. That indeed is what we are trying to do in the project cycle, to the improved project cycle, to ensure better use of the findings of our evaluation.

The same goes in relation to the design of these monitoring and evaluation systems which are intended to facilitate an assessment of progress made in relation to projects. In the design of these components we have sought to keep them low cost. We are seeking wherever possible to use the institutions of developing countries for the design of these components of projects. That means we are now spending more, if you like, in terms of encouraging the institutes of developing countries to become involved in work relating to the use of food aid. This is, however, a slow process. I admit it is a slow process, but we believe we are making very steady progress. Let us face it, in the use of food aid, as WFP uses it, there really is no other global organization which has this kind of experience. We are the pioneers in the food aid business. What we are undertaking to do is sui generis. It is recognized that if you are to be a path-finder you have to proceed with a degree of modest caution.

I say all that because I welcome the comments made about project performance. We fully agree that that is the aim, to improve our project work, but I would submit that the balance of opinion is that we are making very considerable progress.

This brings me to a perhaps more specific point that was raised in relation to our projects, and that is in relation to the management of the funds generated by the sale of commodities. This is indeed a vexed question. I would have to say, however, that it is not something that the Programme has just suddenly discovered. On the contrary, in 1986 we made a thorough review by sending questionnaires and analysing them from all our field posts with a view to establishing precisely what the weaknesses are in regard to the management of generated funds. It was as a result of that analysis that we drew up guidelines for the future management of generated funds. These were submitted to CFA 23, were endorsed by CFA 23. They have been introduced into our manual, and they are now an integral part of the Programme's work in the management of food aid in relation to these projects. Indeed, I think it was acknowledged during the discussion of the guidelines in CFA 23 that these particular guidelines could well serve as a model for bilateral donors in the management of funds from their own projects. I would like to say that this whole issue has indeed been made much more difficult by the current economic circumstances of so many developing countries. In his report the External Auditor, while he drew attention to problems in the use of the generated funds, also noted that in nine of the 11 projects examined the failure was as much due to the inability of governments - and I am reading now - to provide such non-food inputs as staff, raw materials, equipment and logistical support. In other words, WFP like every development agency at the present time is up against a very serious problem: the dearth of resources for most developing countries, the pressures on their economies as a result of the debt issue, as a result of the structural adjustment programmes they are having to undertake. We quite frequently have found in relation to these projects which involve generated funds that the foreign exchange simply is not available not only of course from the government affected but from other bilateral donor or any other international agency. If you take, for example, dairy development which is one of the areas where we are quite often involved in the use of generated funds, the success of these projects may well require significant investment in new machinery. Unless the funds for that are forthcoming, it is going to be very hard indeed to reach the target set in the project for the use of the counterpart funds. It is a complicated issue made much worse by the current circumstances of governments.

I would also have to say, picking up a point made by an important donor delegation, that it is very difficult today in Africa, for example, especially, not only in Africa but especially in Africa, to develop new projects to the extent that we would like. The biggest constraint on this is the lack of resources that these governments have. They simply do not have the resources to enable us to develop and implement these projects. They are not getting the resources from other donors. It

is a tremendous problem. There are in practice limits set on the ability of WFP to use food aid in support of development by these very constrained circumstances that governments, especially in southern Africa, find themselves in.

The next subject I might say a few words about is in relation to disasters. I do not really have a lot to say on this issue. I have noted with interest the remarks that have been made. I should hasten to add that when we say that the resources of the IFER are not adequate, and they will not be adequate this year but we shall be borrowing against pledges next year, I expect in practice that no one we seek to reach will go without assistance at all, I think we have to put it all a little in perspective. We do find that donors during the course of the year - and we had one or two announcements of that practice this morning - are willing to make additional contributions. I do not want you to have the impression that somehow there is an indifference on the part of donors to the problems we face. There is not. We are managing somehow. We are scraping through. Let us also not forget that in relation to many disaster situations there are many other donors as well as the WFP. The main crop failure situations are supported more heavily by other donors, so let us keep it in perspective. But the IFER, which the General Assembly placed at the disposal of the WFP for management by WFP, is inordinately difficult to manage. I have my own ideas about how it should be improved, and I expect that in due course I will present them to you, but I do not want you to be left with any impression that somehow people are starving to death because there are not enough resources in the IFER. That is not really the situation. The problem is that we are somehow managing, not as well as we would like to but somehow we are getting there.

On the issue of transport, not too much was said about that today although perhaps I should get on to it since I recollect that in the context of saying something about transport one delegate mentioned regional cooperation. This was an aspect also of emergency management. Reference was made to the recent conclusions of the Islamic Conference, and certainly I would like to say that the WFP is always ready to examine constructively proposals which relate to stocks, which I think is the situation here. We do have within our rather large portfolio of projects some which relate to national stocks. Our own view is that these have a very important place in the management of disasters and certainly there may be a very good case for regional stocks.

The Programme will be happy to cooperate with all in looking at this kind of matter. As so many delegates spoke about the importance of regional cooperation, it has led my mind to think of cooperation generally. A number of delegates spoke about the importance of cooperation with sister agencies in the UN system. I should like to reiterate that our record in this regard is second to none. Certainly, we have excellent relations with UNIDO, as was mentioned. We are willing to utilize the services of UNIDO as we utilize the services of ILO, WHO or Unesco, and, of course, FAO which is our main source of technical advice in relation to agricultural projects. Our projects encompass virtually every discipline. It is for this reason that we also purchase the technical services of other agencies or work very closely with them, for example UNEP.

In relation to the transport, I would like to assure those delegates who raised the issue that, of course, the Programme seeks shipping services from all countries. The system is one of open bidding and is a rather complex system. We are completely committed to increasing the share of the developing countries, but the exigencies of particular situations and circumstances inevitably mean some fluctuations from year to year. I would not quite agree with the delegate who felt that just because we were using more ships from developing countries that this was not necessarily of great importance. I think it is of great importance to the countries whose ships are used. We are great users of liner services and keeping liner services going depends upon getting lots of contracts over time. It is important to all that we were able to increase the use of developing countries shipping services in this regard. Equally in relation to internal transport - depending, of course, on the circumstances - we utilized the services of the developing countries.

There is another important point which should be mentioned, namely, one delegation hoped that there would be an upsurge in project commitments in 1988/89. I should have to say, as you recall, I mentioned in my address, that while we have spent US\$25 million more already this year on purchases from developing countries, we are getting less food. This is because prices have risen. Commitment to our projects is expressed in food tonnages. The programme faces something of a problem in the sense that with the rise in commodity prices we may well have available to us next year (and in future years) a diminished quantity of food. This would necessarily mean a reduction in commitments. Unfortunately - or perhaps fortunately in some senses - the donor governments treat food aid in precisely the same way as any other form of development assistance, that is it has to compete within the budgets against technical assistance, financial aid or whatever it might be. This means, if you get a certain amount, a decision is made in each government to provide a certain amount as food aid in terms of cash. Obviously, if prices rise there is less food aid available. The only way that this problem could be overcome would be for governments to provide more development assistance in total which, of course, is something I urge warmly upon all of them. We all know that, in fact, the levels of official development aid have basically stagnated. Some of the problems I described in relation to Africa are due to that stagnation. However, I have to say that we could face a reduction in commitments as a result of this situation.

Finally, I must say a word about the headquarters requirements issue for the Programme. I was very pleased that the Italian Government representative did speak. It was clear that ray remarks were not fully understood by some representatives. I tried to be as tactful as I possibly could, but perhaps in being tactful what I said was a little ambiguous and so I apologise to the distinguished representative of Italy as I did say we thanked them very much for their patience and their goodwill. Headquarters are important not only for morale, and meeting the rent, but also with an official headquarters the Programme receives a certain amount of capital equipment renewed periodically which currently has to be funded out of our budget. In these days of straitened resources, it is very important that this Programme be able to draw upon all available resources of funds. This is an issue of enormous importance. As I mentioned the negotiations were suspended four months ago and I have not been able to learn as and when they will be resumed, but perhaps Mr. Dutia, or someone would be able to say something on that issue.

B-P- DOTIA (Director, Commodities and Trade Division): With your permission I will touch on three points and then would request you to give the floor to Mr. Moore to say a few words regarding the last point mentioned by Mr. Ingram. On behalf of the Director-General I should like to congratulate the five new members who have been elected to the CFA.

I am trying to be brief because of the late hour. Secondly, as regards the IEFER, I have listened to the debate very carefully and I would like to make one point clear. It is not because of the lack of generosity on behalf of the donors that there is now the need to draw on the resources of the next year in order to meet the emergencies of this year. That is not the case, in fact the target for the IEFER has been exceeded in the past so many years and still there is the question of the hand-to-mouth existence of the IEFER. This only reflects the situation that the emergency needs have been unfortunately rising.

In these circumstances the Director-General is of the view that the question of making the IEFER more effective needs to be considered in the appropriate fora. That was the intention of what I said during my introductory remarks.

Thirdly, in reply to the question raised by the distinguished delegate of Mexico, I should like to mention that so far as concerns the WFC and food aid projects, FAO is providing technical expertise as required - as was pointed out by Mr. Ingram - in order to make the food aid provided to the World Food Programme most effective in meeting the objectives of the recipient countries. As regards the other aspects of food aid, that is, those provided not by WFP but by bilateral donors, there are problems in using this food aid with a view to making its impact on the development process more effective. Here, certainly FAO with its expertise and experience on development issues could be of assistance to the countries if so requested within the resources available to us. There are also aspects such as environment, consumer preferences, and consumer education (if required) even in these areas. FAO would be in a position to provide assistance if necessary and if required to do so, of course, within the resources available.

LEGAL COUNSEL: The question of the negotiation of a Headquarters Agreement for WFP has been raised by a number of distinguished delegates and further information requested on the progress of those talks. A first draft of a Headquarters Agreement for WFP has been prepared, based largely on the IFAD model. The first round of negotiations was held with the Italian Government in July of this year. During these negotiations a number of changes to the draft were proposed by the Italian authorities, some of which have caused concern and raised the need for further reflection on the substance of the proposed modifications.

Some of these concerns I have discussed with the UN Legal Counsel in New York last month. Meanwhile, we have noticed that some at least, of the original reasons for the urgency in concluding a separate WFP Headquarters Agreement on the part of the Italian Government have somewhat decreased. I understand such an Agreement is no longer, for example, required to facilitate paying of rent for the existing WFP Headquarters accommodation.

I should like to add a few words regarding the proposed WFP Headquarters Agreement. The negotiation of a Headquarters Agreement is an important undertaking. The Headquarters Agreement is a document which governs the relationship between the organization concerned and the Host Government and all the questions relating to privileges, immunities and facilities offered to the Organization. Up until now, WFP has been operating smoothly under the FAO Headquarters Agreement. Nevertheless, the Director-General was approached by the Executive Director of WFP last year with a view to negotiating a separate Headquarters Agreement for WFP, and has responded positively to that request.

As you know the matter was reported to the 92nd Session of this Council last November. As I mentioned before, some problems have arisen during the course of the negotiation. We are considering these problems in consultation with the Legal Counsel of the UN and hope to resolve them in due course. While we appreciate the concern expressed by some Council Members for speedy progress in concluding an Agreement, we would submit that the negotiation of a Headquarters Agreement is an important matter and it is necessary to resolve all the problems satisfactorily before entering into a binding agreement.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous arrivons à la fin du débat et l'heure est tardive, mais ce débat a été très important et très utile. Je voudrais m'associer aux félicitations qui ont été adressées par un très grand nombre d'Etats Membres au PAM pour l'impact positif et l'ampleur de son action puisqu'il a aidé pas loin de 20 millions de personnes, soit dans le cadre du programme ordinaire de l'aide au développement, de la conservation de l'environnement, de la lutte contre l'érosion et de la reforestation, soit dans le cadre de programmes d'urgence pour faire face aux calamités et aux catastrophes naturelles qui malheureusement, cette année, ont pris une importance exceptionnelle.

Le Conseil a souligné l'intérêt qu'il attachait à ce que l'on continue à privilégier l'aide au PAM et aux pays à faible revenu. Il a noté avec satisfaction le développement des transactions triangulaires qui permettent de développer les flux commerciaux interrégionaux et la coopération Sud-Sud et il a souligné, en outre, l'importance qu'il attachait à encourager et développer de telles transactions.

On peut également signaler que le Conseil a marqué son intérêt pour l'étude entreprise par le PAM en relation avec la Banque mondiale afin d'accroître l'efficacité de l'aide alimentaire en Afrique.

Enfin, un grand nombre d'Etats Membres ont noté la pression importante exercée sur les stocks existants de produits alimentaires et font appel à la générosité et à la compréhension des pays donateurs pour qu'un effort particulier soit réalisé en vue de reconstituer aussitôt que possible la RAIU.

Cela étant, je vais lever la séance après avoir remercié tous les Etats Membres de l'intérêt qu'ils ont manifesté à l'égard de cette question importante.

The meeting rose at 13.00 hours.

La séance est levée à 13 heures.

Se levanta la sesión a las 13.00 horas.

council

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

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

consejo

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 94/PV/12

Ninety-fourth Session

Quatre-vingt-quatorzième session

94º período de sesiones

TWELFTH PLENARY MEETING DOUZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE 12ª SESION PLENARIA

(22 November 1988)

The Twelfth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours,

Lassaad Ben Osman, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La douzième seance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 45,

sous la présidence de M. Lassaad Ben Osman, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la 12ª sesión plenaria a las 14.45 horas,

bajo la presidencia de Lassaad Ben Osman, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

IV. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

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

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

14. Reports of the Sixty-second and Sixty-third Sessions of the Finance Committee

14. Rapports des soixante-deuxième et soixante-troisième sessions du Comité financier

14 Informes de períodos de sesiones 62 y 63 del Comité de Finanzas

LE PRESIDENT: Honorables délégués et observateurs, nous reprenons le cours de nos travaux et nous allons examiner le Point 14: Rapport des 62ème et 63ème Sessions du Comité financier (CL 94/3 et CL 94/4).

Auparavant, je voudrais annoncer aux honorables délégués que le groupe de contact constitué hier a terminé la rédaction de la résolution par consensus. Cette résolution a été transmise au Secrétariat qui l'a lui-même transmise au Comité de rédaction pour qu'elle puisse figurer dans le rapport du Comité de rédaction. Elle sera analysée avec l'ensemble du rapport du Comité de rédaction.

Je vais demander à M. Bukhari, Président du Comité financier, de bien vouloir introduire le Point 14.

Atif Y. BUKHARI (Chairman, Finance Committee)(Original language Arabic): In the name of God, the most gracious, the most merciful. At the outset, Sir, I would like very briefly to refer to the joint Programme and Finance Committee Meeting which was held in September 1988. This joint meeting is in fact held during the regular session of these two committees. The Finance Committee met jointly with the Programme Committee on 21 September 1988, prior to the regular session of the Finance Committee - that is, the Sixty-third Session.

The joint Session reviewed a progress report on the Financial Situation and its effect on the implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget for 1988-89. The relevant report of the discussions is to be found in Documents CL 94/3 and CL 94/4. The Council will be aware that it discussed an up-date of the same report on Tuesday and Wednesday 15 and 16 November, under item 12 of the Agenda. It may not therefore be necessary for the Council to discuss further this particular item, but just note that the subject of the difficult financial situation of the Organization is constantly being kept under review by the Finance and Programme Committees through regular up-dates and progress reports.

The Finance Committee met twice in 1988 since the last Session of the Council. It first met in May 1988 for its 62nd Session, then jointly, as I said, with the Programme Committee and continued with its 63rd Session from 26 to 30 September 1988. Both Sessions, although heavily loaded with work, were conducted efficiently and 18 and 20 Agenda items respectively were dealt with by the Committee.

The Membership of the Committee changed at the 63rd Session when His Excellency Ambassador Eckert, representative of the United States of America, joined the Committee as the replacement for Mr. Jurecky from the same country.

During the 62nd Session under Budgetary Matters, the Committee reviewed the Director-General's Twenty-first Annual Report on Budgetary Performance which related to the out-turn of the Regular Programme for 1986-87. It particularly noted the information regarding the savings of \$25 million effected during that biennium and also approved the programme and budgetary transfers made in accordance with Financial Regulation 4.5(c)(i). Since then the 1986-87 accounts have been audited and the corresponding report is provided, together with the Report of the 63rd Session of the Committee.

Under Financial Matters the Committee had to consider various subjects which were again dealt with at the following Session since, unfortunately, the problems concerned had not been solved by then. These were related to the status of contributions, status of cash flow and other financial information, the possible measures to ensure implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget for 1988-89 and the arrangement for credit facilities. The latter subject was also discussed in the Department during a joint Session with the Programme Committee. I shall not expand on those since they are dealt with in a more up-to-date form under our subsequent Report.

I would like, however, to draw the attention of the Council to the Technical Co-operation Programmes mentioned in other items: firstly, the Special Italian contribution for the paragraphs 3.46 to 3.50 which constitute a significant contribution to a major programme of the Organization and at the same

time, provides a welcome financial relief at a time when the Regular Programme is suffering from the lack of payment of assessed contributions from other Member Nations.

The Committee considered the Report on Support Costs from UNDP and 'the Trust Fund Programme (para. 3.66 to 3.76) and approved the actions taken by the Director-General with a view to temporarily obtaining additional reimbursement from UNDP, and to increase the rate of Trust Fund servicing cost reimbursement for new projects on a negotiated basis with funding sources.

Regarding Miscellaneous Income, referred to in paragraphs 3.77 to 3.88, the Committee approved the Director-General's proposal that, as soon as a cash surplus materializes at the end of a future biennium, the practice of deducting estimated miscellaneous income from budgetary appropriations be discontinued; this would lead to distributing the actual miscellaneous income earned, mainly interest, at the end of the biennium rather than deduct it in advance on an estimated basis at the beginning of the biennium, before it is actually earned. The Committee, with the exception of one Member, recommended that the Council endorse such proposal. If the Council decides to follow the Committee's recommendation, the Committee shall prepare a draft Resolution for amendment of Financial Regulation 5.2(e) which shall be submitted to the next Session of the Council, after review by the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters for approval and submission to the General Conference for adoption.

Finally, the Committee agreed with the charging against Miscellaneous Income, of direct Treasury costs for investment activity; these charges represent staff and travel costs such as the cost of the Investment Officer and the FAO Advisory Committee on Investments' travel, which are needed to generate the interest income.

Under Personnel Matters the Committee considered the reports of the International Civil Service Commission and of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board to the General Assembly and noted the decision therein. The Committee also reviewed the changes in salary scales and allowances and it noted with concern the continuing deterioration in salaries of staff in the Professional and higher categories.

Among Other Matters the Committee discussed the problem of interpretation of Rule XXVII.8 of the General Rules of the Organization, regarding the call for holding sessions of the Finance Committee; the Committee was of the general view that a new provision in the Rules of Procedure of the Committee would be the most practical solution. The matter was referred to the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters for consideration.

I shall now turn to the Report on the 63rd Session of the Finance Committee. Under Budgetary Matters, the Committee reviewed the Report on Duty Travel in the 1986-87 biennium and that regarding the use of Consultants in the same period.

With regard to Duty Travel, the Committee obtained full and detailed explanations on the new travel arrangements aimed at contributing to the economy measures required by the financial difficulties. It was generally satisfied with the progress made and will continue to monitor the situation with the objective of ensuring the most efficient use of travel funds without jeopardizing the implementation of the programme.

The same financial constraint exercised by the Director-General was noted in the use of consultants. In this respect it was also noted that there was a certain concentration of consultants from certain countries and the Committee asked the Organization to improve the geographical distribution while maintaining criteria of high competence in the selection.

Under Financial Matters the Committee first dealt with the status of contributions to the General Fund mentioned in paragraphs 4.12 to 4.21, as well as the status of contributions to the Special Reserve Account and the Working Capital Fund, and in particular with the status and prospects regarding payments by the largest contributor. More current information is available to the Council in CL 94/LIM/1, which reflects the Status of Contributions through last 11 November 1988. As you will realize the financial situation has not improved and still causes reasons for grave concern. The Committee therefore strongly urged Member Nations to make the utmost effort to respond to their 'statutory financial obligations and pay fully their arrears and current assessed contributions. This analysis of the contributions situation was followed by a detailed review of the cash flow forecast for the current year and of the implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium, mentioned in paragraphs 4.22 to 4.33. I should stress that this review was also conducted jointly with the Programme Committee. The Committee noted with deep concern that the Organization may very likely end the year, that is 1988, with contributions due in the amount of \$142 million, or an equivalent of 58 percent of the yearly level of the Programme of Work and Budget. Such a situation as you are well aware is alarming. We were informed that in such circumstances the Director-General took the necessary action to slow-down the rate of expenditure with a view to saving some \$20 million over the biennium. We were also informed of the wise decision taken by the Director-General

to enter into forward contracts for the purchase of Lire requirement for 1988. Such action has permitted securing a stable rate of exchange in all cases favourable to the budget rate. Notwithstanding all possible measures taken by Management, it appeared clear to the Committee that the Organization may soon be faced with a cash crisis and unable to fully implement its Programme unless contributions were forthcoming or that it made use of its recourse to credit facilities.

In this regard, the Committee was informed of the prospective contacts made with banks and noted that while it is expected that no external credit arrangements would be required in 1988, internal borrowing may be necessary by the end of 1988 or early in 1989, depending on the receipt of contribution payments. Once again the Committee urged Member Nations to pay their contributions on time and, if possible, also contact the largest contributor to encourage immediate payment of its assessed contributions.

The Committee reviewed the Director-General's proposals for the extension of the Terminal Payment Fund coverage and approved that it be used to provide for the repatriation grant payments arising from the Trust Fund Support Cost Programme. This is reflected in paragraphs 4.34 to 4.38.

The Committee also reviewed, as mandated by the Council, a Resolution concerning the adoption of the following audited accounts:

Regular Programme 1986-87 document C 89/5;

United Nations Development Programme 1986-87 document C 89/6; and World Food Programme in document C 89/7.

The Audit reports, the Committee's comments thereon and the Resolution for acceptance of these reports is for the Council's consideration and decision.

The Committee also reviewed the practice concerning the crediting of interest to Trust Funds and while noting recent improvements in the determination of each programme's share of interest earnings, approved the continuation of the current methodology for the time being.

Under Personnel Matters, the Committee considered the report on the International Civil Service Commission and matters relating to the Pension Fund. These included information on changes in salary scales and allowances, other personnel statistics on posts, and information on developments in pension matters.

Under Organizational Matters, mentioned in paragraphs 4.84-to 4.95, the Committee considered, among other subjects, the question of Headquarters Accommodation, including recent developments in the status of restructuring and expansion of the Caracalla complex.

I hope the Council Members will forgive me for such a long expose of the discussions that took place during the two sessions of the Finance Committee in 1988, and of the recommendations and decisions made, but I am quite sure they will appreciate the seriousness and dedication of our Committee Members at this time of grave financial difficulties experienced by our Organization. In their name I would like to express the gratitude of the Members of my Committee for the honour that was conveyed on us to undertake such a task and I stand ready to provide any further explanations that would be required regarding our Reports. As you know, there are certain Conference Resolutions that are presented to the Council for its consideration. These Resolutions are for Council decision.

José Ramón LOPEZ PORTILLO ROMANO (México): Sí, Sr. Presidente, me permito hacer una moción aclaratoria porque la delegación de México está un poco confundida con los temas y seguramente hay otras delegaciones que están en esa situación; es decir, el conjunto de temas que se nos están planteando, muy clara, amplia y profundamente que nos ha planteado el Presidente del Comité de Finanzas, han sido tratados ya en parte en las deliberaciones relativas al tema 12.1 y tema 12.2.

Desearíamos saber, qué aspectos se van a tratar ahora en vista de que muchos de ellos ya fueron tratados entonces y si se debe hacer referencia otra vez a todo ese conjunto de cuestiones, esto en primer lugar.

En segundo lugar, también observamos que hay cuestiones relativas al punto número 13, que están ya vinculadas en lo que el Sr. Presidente del Comité de Finanzas nos ha dicho, y queremos saber, si esas debemos tratarlas también ahora en el punto 14 o en el punto 13 y si la Presidencia ha considerado la posibilidad de que los delegados hagamos un planteamiento global de los temas 14 y 13. Esto lo consideramos oportuno porque muchos de esto ya lo hemos dicho.

Le ruego que nos aclare, Sr. Presidente.

Atif Y. BUKHARI (Chairman, Finance Committee) (original Language Arabic): What I figured in the report I submitted to you was the Report for the Finance Committee for the two previous sessions, that is to say the 62nd and the 63rd Sessions of the Finance Committee, that is to say the Reports and Documents CL 94/3 and CL 94/4 and I believe therefore, that many points in this Report could be for information but others could be for discussion. Nevertheless, there are certain decisions and recommendations that have to be taken up by the Council to be examined and approved and therefore be forwarded to the Conference for approval.

LE PRESIDENT: C'est une question pertinente parce qu'il faut que l'on sache quelles sont les questions qui vont nécessiter des décisions et celles qui sont pour information.

V. J. SHAH (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme Budget and Evaluation): I appreciate this opportunity to explain and I must apologize that I missed a few words of explanation of the Chairman of the Finance Committee just now because of our own consultations but may I submit to the Council through you the following: I believe the Chairman of the Finance Committee has made it very clear that the subject of consequences of the financial situation and possible measures to ensure implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget was a subject which was considered by the Finance and by the Programme Committee together and it has already been discussed by the Council. So although he referred to the subject as it is in the document before you, the Council in fact has dealt with the matter and there is no need for further discussion of that.

In the Report of the Finance Committee, and particularly in the Report of its 63rd Session from September, which is in Document CL 94/4, there are the audited accounts of the Regular Programme, UNDP and the World Food Programme. This also was touched upon by the Chairman of the Finance Committee but as you will recall these audited accounts come under Item 15 of the agenda the Council has adopted and which you will consider separately on that occasion and under that item.

This leaves for your consideration today the points which are strictly of the province of the Finance Committee on which both Reports are submitted to you and if I may just draw attention, from the 62nd Session of the Finance Committee, there are budgetary matters, the Annual Report on Budgetary Performance, the subject on support costs, miscellaneous income, personnel matters and organizational matters and these are covered under the Report in Document CL 94/3.

Similarly in the Report from the 63rd Session of the Finance Committee, there are some budgetary matters and some matters relating to trust funds and the crediting of interest to trust funds and the cost measurement system. The menu is a big one but I believe that the report of the Finance Committee on these matters is fairly self-contained and clear. Together with my colleagues we will, of course, assist you if any further assistance is required.

Fred J. ECKERT (United States of America): The United States of America would recommend that the audited accounts for the Regular Programme of FAO, for UNDP and for the World Food Programme for the 1986-87 biennium be submitted to the Conference for approval and adoption.

On the subject of finance, since we are so often talked about, we would also just briefly make a couple of points which might be important for clarification of the record as an indication of the United States' intentions. Since January 1988 the United States of America has paid US\$ 25 million in arrears and has pledged that within the next couple of weeks we will bring that total to payment of US\$ 50 million in arrears in this calendar year.

The other day in discussing these points we made some points which I think may have been lost in the opening session and in the discussions going on, and that is that there appears to have been some question in recent weeks about the intent of the United States to release an additional US\$ 25 million before the end of this calendar year. As you may recall, at the meeting of the Finance Committee when I was trying to explain the workings of the Congress of the United States, which are often difficult to explain, I came back after, we had adopted the budget, and not by what we in the United States call a continuing resolution, and explained that it was possible, given the way that things had gone that US\$ 25 million would be released in a fairly short period of time. I want to make it very clear that the US\$ 25 million that we are talking about is not the US\$ 25 million we were talking about last spring. There are two US\$ 25 millions. The total is US\$ 50 million. Of that, US\$ 25 million has been paid; the second US\$ 25 million, bringing it to US\$ 50 million, will be paid very soon. That is a commitment of the United States Government. That is a commitment that will be honoured, and it will be honoured in a speedy fashion.

I also want to make clear for the record the views of the United States Government that were expressed by the President of the United States. I know it is hard for non-Americans to follow because most Americans do not follow it well, but the budget on which the incoming President of the United States operates in his first year in office is a budget prepared by the outgoing President. Therefore, the budget request initiated in January will be a budget request by President Ronald Reagan and President George Bush and the Congress will deal with it and either approve or disapprove it. On September 13th President Ronald Reagan publicly announced that he would, in his final budget request submitted to the Congress of the United States, include a request for full funding of the FAO. I want to make that very clear because I believe that there is some misunderstanding and misinterpretation of that in some quarters. The budget by President Ronald Reagan will contain that request for full funding of FAO and other specialized agencies of the United Nations and for the UN in New York.

I also think it should be stated on the record that the President issued some instructions and that is that the Department of State who report to the President are to prepare for submission to the President a plan on the feasibility and desirability of paying the USA arrears. I will readily admit that when one hears words like "feasibility" and "desirability" one can drive a truck through them. But the important matter is the judgement of the President of the United States. The President in his judgement, in his public communications, in his statements, in his clarifications to the Press, and in all instances since issuing that statement, has made it rather clear that he sees this as feasible and desirable. Therefore, the instructions handed down by the President, unless changed by President George Bush - which is a highly unlikely event - would be that the US Government will pursue an attempt to develop a concrete plan for paying up arrears - not instantly, obviously that is not feasible. It may be desirable in some quarters but it is not feasible. That would be the policy of the United States unless changed by the incoming President or by the Congress of the United States. That should be made clear on the record.

Obviously we understand difficulties in cash flow. We appreciate that. We understand that it does require belt-tightening. We do think that you have to be realistic in setting programmes and budgets realistically against what is likely to come. However, in making those evaluations intent is a very important consideration. I understand that.

In addition to that, I want to make sure that all the points that in my judgement require some clarification are covered, one of which is the issue of borrowing. I understand, as someone who has run a business, the importance of cash flow to effective management or to running any kind of operation, large or small, is particularly difficult in a large one. It is our hope that together we can work out a system that will avoid the need to go into borrowing. I must tell you for the record that United States' law or statutes forbid us to make payments for interest on loans by international organizations. I can well anticipate that someone can say, "Well, if you didn't pay them and we went into borrowing, that's a kind of the dog chasing the tail situation", but that is the statute of the United States. We have to live with that. I know it is not necessarily a satisfactory explanation but you should be aware of that and the reason for our repeated expressions of concern on that point is because we must, as you must in your countries, abide by our statutes. That is the reason why we mention that repeatedly, not that we are blind to the realities of running a business and the cash flow concerns.

I wanted to place those points on the record. Perhaps I got a little bit off the point here, but it has been my observation during this Council meeting that when I speak with people privately and when I hear some of the public discussion that there is perhaps somewhat of a misimpression of the United States' position and I want to state it very clearly. The United States paid US\$ 25 million in the Spring of this year as we pledged to do. The United States' President has ordered the speedy payment of the moneys released under the budget approved by the Congress and into law by President Ronald Reagan. That speedy payment will be made and our President has instructed a long-range plan. When the President leaves office on January 20 I am sure that President George Bush will follow through on that part of the Administration to which he has been attached for some eight years.

Datuk Puvanarajah THIAGARAJAH (Malaysia): On behalf of my delegation, may I express our appreciation to Ambassador Bukhari, Chairman of the Finance Committee, for his introduction of the Reports of the two meetings of the Finance Committee. Malaysia, being a member of the Committee, does not wish to elaborate at any length on the contents of this Report but merely to reiterate our support for the proposals made by the Committee at both its sessions. Nonetheless, let me touch briefly on two points. Firstly, I should like to urge FAO to pay special attention to what is stated in paragraphs 4.8 to 4.11 of document CL 94/4 on the subject of consultants, particularly with respect to the need for consultants to be recruited not merely from a few countries but on a more global basis especially from the developing countries, but without compromising on the quality and competence of the experts.

Secondly, with reference to paragraph 2.6 of the same document regarding the proposal of the Director-General for a slow-down of expenditure by US\$ 20 million in 1988 on account of the financial situation obtaining then and anticipated earlier this year, I trust that with the assurance of member countries to make good on their arrears and action taken by yet others to complete payment of their contributions for 1988 without further delay, it may not be necessary to go the whole way but that it would be possible to implement the more important of the approved programmes that have been hitherto set aside.

Paul R. BRYDEN (Australia): My delegation welcomes the Reports and endorses them as a good reflection of the discussion that took place in the Finance Committee meetings. We also thank the Chairman of the Finance Committee for his very logical and helpful introduction.

There are several matters raised on which Council is asked to provide a view, and several others on which I would like briefly to comment. Paragraphs 3.77 to 3.85 of document CL 94/3, the May session of the Finance Committee, deals with miscellaneous income and proposes that current arrangements be changed. We would prefer to maintain the current system. Paragraphs 4.27 and 4.28 deal with the Special Reserve Account and forward exchange contracts. We are indeed encouraged by the view that there will be no charges to the SRA in 1988 from exchange losses. We expect that the Finance Committee will monitor these operations and may at a future date wish to review the operations of the SRA if this aspect of its functions is indeed replaced by forward exchange contracts.

With regard to paragraphs 4.43 to 4.56 on the World Food Programme accounts, we are fully satisfied with the WFP's accounts. We hope that harmony and cooperation between the two organizations will continue to characterize future working relations.

My delegation endorses the Draft Resolution in paragraph 4.57 regarding transmission of the audited accounts to Conference. Regarding Tables I to V on pages 29 to 33 of document CL 94/4, we notice that the number of Headquarters staff in Regular Programme established posts has remained virtually stable over the past three years and that there has been an overall slight increase in Regular Programme staffing establishments. There are indeed deep cuts shown elsewhere, notably in short-term or extra-budgetary established positions. However, the picture emerging does not suggest an organization whose very structure is being undermined. Perhaps future tables could include information on actual staffing levels as well as formal establishment positions in order to give a clearer picture of the impact of the financial crisis. Further information could be given, I suggest, to Council on the payment of US\$ 250 000 mentioned in paragraph 4.94 as settlement of counter-claims regarding the FINSYS/PERSYS project. For example, what were the claims? Was payment made from the approved allocation against this project outlined in paragraph 3.106 of CL 94/3? Regarding the Joint Committee's discussion on borrowing reflected in paragraphs 1.14 to 1.15, our position is well-known and Australia was one of the three members opposing borrowing.

We would welcome clarification of the statements made by the secretariat during our earlier debates that borrowing will not be at Members costs, but rather that interest will be handled from miscellaneous income or programme cuts. In essence, we are intrigued by the notion of free money.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Señor Presidente, deseamos limitar nuestra intervención a agradecer sinceramente la aclaración que se ha hecho sobre la situación de los pagos de los Estados Unidos. Las noticias que se nos han transmitido esta tarde, a juicio nuestro, son mejores de las que habíamos comprendido antes. Sin embargo, 25 más 25 son 50; quedarían aun pendientes 17.4 millones del año 87, más todo el bienio 88/89. No obstante, Sr. Presidente, tomamos nota con satisfacción de una actitud positiva, como es el hecho de que la Administración de ese importante y respetable país ha solicitado al Congreso la financiación completa de sus compromisos con la FAO y como es el buen deseo contenido en el reconocimiento de la difícil situación por que atraviesa la FAO.

Con base en esas dos premisas, la Delegación de Colombia expresa su esperanza de que se aportará la cooperación necesaria para que, sin introducir ningún nuevo reajuste en el Programa para 1989, la FAO pueda seguir realizando su valiosa tarea en favor de los países en desarrollo. Creemos, Sr. Presidente, que son elementos importantes que tranquilizan a los Gobiernos, lo cual, si el Consejo estuviera de acuerdo, podría constar en nuestro informe.

James AITKEN (United Kingdom): I should like to begin by thanking the secretary of the Finance Committee for his very clear introduction to this item. We must also express concern about the late arrival of document CL 94/4 which is a very detailed paper and reached us only in the week before Council.

In this intervention we will not comment on the financial situation but simply say that in the absence of a statement from the secretariat about their estimates of the cash flow in 1989 being available to us during this Council, we look forward to receiving the quarterly statement and forecast as at 31 December. We should be grateful if you could confirm that the secretariat will be issuing such a forecast. We will not comment on the audited accounts although these are referred to in CL 94/4. It is our understanding that the audited accounts will be discussed in full, separately under agenda item 15.

We should like to turn first of all to the subject of external borrowing. This Council is aware that we do not support external borrowing, and indeed, in the current circumstances although we realise there is a legal base for it we think it is bending the intentions of the basic text to consider external borrowing. Other delegations have referred to interest payments but many banks also make a facility charge in connection with issuing loans. We should be grateful if the secretariat could confirm the following: (a) that no payment has been made by the secretariat already in the form of any facility charge or similar payment in connection with their current investigations into the possibility of external borrowing and (b) that in the case of any external borrowing the details of any such payment will be given to the Finance Committee and passed on to the Member States.

Turning now to the question of the support costs for UNDP and Trust Funds, we noticed that there has again been an increase in the level of the cost subsidy between the Regular Programme and the Trust Funds and UNDP. I would direct the meeting to page 25 of document CL 94/4. Here you will see that there has been a significant increase both in the sums involved, and in these sums, as a percentage of the Regular Programme.

We know that the secretariat had informal discussions with Trust Fund donors concerning the questions of costs, and the Trust Fund donors meeting a greater proportion of the actual cost. We would be grateful if we could learn from the secretariat about the progress made in these discussions. Perhaps they can amplify the statements made in the document.

The question of support costs leads me on to one item which is not covered in these papers, namely, that of delivery costs. No doubt delegations and the secretariat will recall that in 1987 we raised a number of questions about these costs. As a result the Finance Committee was given the results of the secretariat analysis of Programme Delivery Costs on the Regular Programme. We were under the impression from statements made by the then distinguished Deputy Director-General that we could expect a similar presentation to the Finance Committee in 1989. I should be grateful if the secretariat could confirm that this will be the case.

In Council last November, the Deputy Director-General agreed that FAO would discuss programme delivery costs with other agencies through the inter-agency mechanism in Geneva. We should be grateful to learn what has happened on this and what progress there has been.

Turning now to the question of Miscellaneous Income, in this Organization we prefer to retain the existing system with a conservative estimate of income. We suggest that Council does not endorse the proposals in paragraphs 3.77 to 3.85 of document CL 94/3.

The question of consultants is also raised in these documents in paragraph 48 of CL 94/4. We note that from discussions of the Fifth Committee in New York the General Assembly has ruled that no former staff member in receipt of a pension from the Joint Pensions Fund should receive emoluments exceeding US\$12,000 in any calendar year in consultancy fees from UN funds. Can the secretariat confirm whether FAO has any similar regulation.

We note the comments on the FINSYS/PERSYS system. We should be very grateful for an update on the situation contained in the papers before us. We were particularly interested to learn the current estimated total cost of this system, including the information requested by the distinguished delegate of Australia which we believe is pertinent to the costs. We would also like to know the expected date when phases 1 and 2 of the system will be fully operational without any parallel running on the old system, and how this date compares to the original target date for the system.

Turning to Personnel Issues, we note that specific items are dealt with in document CL 94/3. We are again disappointed to see no general statement concerning the progress on personnel matters within the secretariat. We feel that this information would be of value to both the Member States and to the staff involved particularly at the moment when personnel matters and staff morale are such an issue. We have asked for this information on other occasions and would like to reiterate this request. It will be beneficial if the Finance Committee is provided with a summary of events relating to personnel on an annual basis.

We note from the tables in document CL 94/4 that there has been a slight increase in the ratio of field staff to HQ staff. This is marginal but it is still to be approved. We believe that there

should be a greater conscious effort to increase the number of field staff and balance this with consequential reductions in Headquarters staff.

Finally, I turn once again to the question of information which is given to the Committee and hence to Member States. My delegation was very disappointed by the response from the secretariat to our earlier request for production of an updated version of document C 87/LIM/41. This is the only document we have ever received that gives information concerning FAO Programme Spending against the headings contained in the Programme of Work and Budget. It has been said that this information is already provided to the Finance Committee, (in this case CL 94/3), which it receives at its spring session. However, this is only correct up to a point. If you care to examine Annex A to that document (CL 94/3) you will see that the information which the Finance Committee is given covers both expenditure and commitments. As we know from previous discussions in this Council there is often a considerable difference between expenditure and commitments. If we compare the information which we were given in document C 87/LIM/41 about spending profiles for 1986/87 (and we received this on the basis of spending upto September 1987) then it is quite interesting to note that a considerable amount of spending and commitment appears to have taken place in the last three months of the year. I would imagine that possibly more accurately the information would show us that there had been a very heavy rate of commitment rather than actual spending. To somebody not familiar with financial information this may seem a somewhat obscure almost medieval theological debate. However, I can assure you that this information on spending is considered important by my administration and we would use it to judge the allocations in the Programme of Work and Budget in the next biennium. We believe it is important that this information should be made available as soon as possible to Member States through the Finance Committee. We should like to reiterate this request which we believe will add minimal extra cost to the secretariat as the information is already available, and must be put in some form to be able to be published in document CL 94/3. All we are asking for is for the information to be disaggregated and circulated to Members of the Finance Committee as soon as possible after the end of January 1989. We should be very grateful to have a response from the secretariat on this second request.

LE PRESIDENT: Je voudrais confirmer que l'examen du point relatif aux comptes vérifiés figurera sous le Point NQ 15. Nous demandons donc aux délégués de réserver au Point 15 les remarques qu'ils auraient à faire sur les comptes vérifiés.

Sumiji NAKAZAWA (Japan): Our comment on this agenda item is very brief. As there is a change in practice on Miscellaneous Income recommended by the Finance Committee, as reported in paragraph 3.84 of document CL 94/3, my delegation does not oppose putting this matter to the Finance Committee and CCLM for preparation of a draft resolution.

However, my Government needs a certain amount of time to consider this matter carefully, from the viewpoint of appropriate timing of its initiation and possible cut-down of the Working Capital Fund level. So my delegation would like to reserve its position on the proposed change for the time being.

As to external borrowing, I will not reiterate the position of my delegation which was explained under item 12.

Finally, my delegation has taken note of the views of the Finance Committee expressed in paragraph 4.51 of document CL 94/4, paragraph 3.38 of document CL 94/3, and paragraph 3.121 of document CL 94/3.

Amin ABDEL MALEK (Liban) (langue originale arabe): Je voudrais tout d'abord remercier M. Bukhari, président du Comité financier, pour la présentation de deux documents CL 94/3 et CL 94/4 concernant le rapport du Comité financier dans ses deux dernières sessions en 1988.

Nous appuyons tout ce qui a été dit dans ce rapport et je voudrais ici, au nom de la délégation libanaise, remercier M. Eckert pour les informations qu'il vient de nous présenter quant à l'intention des Etats-Unis d'Amérique de payer 25 millions de dollars, dans le proche avenir. Nous n'avons aucun doute sur le fait que les efforts déployés par M. Eckert auprès de son gouvernement auraient été couronnés de succès. Nous savons pertinemment que les Etats-Unis s'acquitteront de cet engagement.

Pour ce qui est des emprunts, je pense que le Directeur général, Dr. Saouma, a bien précisé que le recours aux emprunts ne se ferait que dans des circonstances exceptionnelles. Après le paiement de 25 millions de dollars, nous n'aurons plus besoin de recourir aux emprunts. L'Organisation pourra s'acquitter de ses engagements, lorsque les Etats Membres s'acquitteront de leurs contributions.

José Ramon LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (Mexico): La Delegación de México le agradece de nuevo al Sr. Presidente del Comité de Finanzas el excelente informe que nos ha presentado y las puntualizaciones que hemos obtenido cuando hicimos nuestra moción aclaratoria. En los informes del 62° y 63° período de sesiones del Comité de Finanzas, hemos tomado nota del nivel de las cuotas pendientes y de las cuotas corrientes. A pesar de que esta cuestión ha sido ya discutida en otro tema, creemos conveniente que se pueda actualizar esta información a la fecha más reciente posible, para que así aparezca en nuestro informe.

Señor Presidente, México está convencido de que se requiere ampliar la voluntad que la mayor parte de los países han demostrado para seguir apoyando a la FAO como el órgano central dentro del sistema alimentario de Naciones Unidas, en el que se plantean ante todo salidas políticas a los problemas que en el ámbito de la agricultura y la alimentación enfrentan actualmente nuestros países. Convencida de este hecho, la Delegación de México desea que se tome nota de que nuestro país ha pagado la semana pasada una parte de su cuota, por un total de algo más de 465 000 dólares. Abonaremos una cantidad de aproximadamente 1 415 000 a la brevedad posible, y el resto, antes de que termine este año. Reiteramos el compromiso del Gobierno de México de pagar puntualmente nuestras cuotas. Razones lamentablemente de fuerza mayor, como desastres naturales y otros imprevistos en nuestras disponibilidades financieras, nos indujeron a estos imprevisibles retrasos. Debemos afirmar que, dada la difícil situación financiera de nuestro país, este esfuerzo de pago oportuno representa un gran sacrificio, pero también es un claro signo de la alta prioridad que nos merece nuestra Organización.

Reiteramos, pues, nuestro exhorto a todos los países en mora a que paguen a la brevedad. En este sentido, Sr. Presidente, mi Delegación desea también agradecer a la de Estados Unidos la declaración hecha respecto al pago de sus cuotas atrasadas y al perfil de un plan de pagos completos que se dará a conocer pronto. En especial, deseamos agradecer a el Embajador Eckert sus buenos oficios y gestiones con ese fin.

Sr. Presidente, la Delegación de México desea hacer suya la propuesta formulada por el Sr. Ministro de Gambia durante la discusión del tema 12, que quizás sea pertinente considerar en este punto de nuestra agenda, respecto a que el Director General estudie la posibilidad de que países con problemas de divisas pudieran pagar en moneda local una parte o la totalidad de sus contribuciones. Sabemos que esto causará trabajos a la ya comprometida actividad de la Secretaría, pero pensamos que podría traer también beneficios compensatorios con creces a tal sacrificio.

Por otra parte, destacamos que en comparación con el período 84-85, durante el de 86-87 se disminuyó el número de consultores así como el número de viajes de funcionarios de la FAO. Al respecto, Sr. Presidente, nosotros expresamos nuestra preocupación porque, si bien entendemos que la difícil situación financiera ha exigido a la Organización un esfuerzo enorme de ahorros y de recortes, y se ha tratado de no afectar a actividades prioritarias, debemos, sin embargo, mantener la alta prioridad de evitar que tales actividades seleccionen, como sería el caso de las consultorías externas que deben favorecerse en todo momento para instrumentar adecuados proyectos para los países en desarrollo.

Como algunos miembros han mencionado al respecto también, insistimos en que se mantenga la alta calidad de los consultores, pero se incremente a la vez la participación de aquellos provenientes de países en desarrollo tomando en cuenta, no sólo una distribución geográfica, es decir regional, equitativa, sino también de país a país. Notamos, con satisfacción, que hasta la fecha seis bancos habían respondido positivamente a la gestiones realizadas por la Organización para obtener facilidades de crédito, si bien las proyecciones sobre el efectivo en caja no determinarían la necesidad de acceder a préstamos durante el presente año, en el documento se indica que de no conseguirse la recaudación prevista de cuotas, tal vez se requeriría recurrir al financiamiento externo, aunque, como bien se ha dicho, esto debería ser un recurso de última instancia, pero reconocido, autorizado y debido, como lo ha dicho la Conferencia de nuestra Organización.

Por eso, la delegación de México reitera su apoyo al mandato que tiene el Director General para recurrir al crédito como una fórmula de última instancia e insistimos en nuestra preocupación porque hasta el momento la Organización sigue enfrentando tan importante deterioro de su actividad financiera, en virtud de la retención voluntaria de las contribuciones del mayor contribuyente y el hecho de que muchos otros no han pagado o no han podido pagar sus contribuciones.

Wallur RAHMAN (Bangladesh): I want to put on record the sincere appreciation of my delegate to Ambassador Eckert for his very important statement which is informative and reassuring. At the height of the perceived crisis my delegation in New York and Rome and other international fora all over the world has always expressed the view that the temporary situation notwithstanding the USA will in time meet its international commitment. As a founding member of the United Nations in Dumberton Oaks in 1945, the United States could ill-afford to allow the world organization to wither on the vine.

I want to express my personal thanks to Ambassador Eckert for the role which he played which I know, in getting this situation on board. I may add that during my recent visit to New York for the General Assembly session a similar reassuring statement of support was received from the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, Ambassador Walters. I thank you, Ambassador Eckert, for your very very thoughtful efforts in this regard.

Mr. Chairman, indulging in what you call a bit of academic freedom, may I refer to Ambassador Gonzalo Bula Hoyos and his statement and relate a small story about a man lost in a desert who wanted to drink water, a very thirsty man. When he reached the oasis, he found a little placard written in front of him, "Yes, you can drink water, but you have to put on a necktie". I think the time has come that we have to put on a necktie perhaps.

As regards the agenda item under discussion, contained in document CL 94/3 and document CL 94/4, I would like to extend our thanks and appreciation to Ambassador Bukhari and members of the Finance Committee and the Programme Committee for their hard work. We are not a member of this committee but I keep on monitoring the good work, the very important work, the very hard work, done in these committees. Very important and vital issues had to be dealt with in these sessions. Their reports are clear and sharply focussed and I congratulate both of them.

Keeping in view the mandate and the objectives of FAO, we, along with all the member countries, would like to see the Organization growing in terms of efficient management and effective delivery. In one of my statements earlier on last year, we said that nobody in any organization can say, "We are the best", nobody can say that.

Sometimes I quote the former Secretary-General of the United Nations, Waldheim, who used to say that better is the enemy of the good. There is only scope for improvement. We are doing all right, but there is scope for improvement. That is where the relevance of the whole exercise lies. The present financial situation of the Organization is bad no doubt, and the consequential need for programme adjustments make us somewhat unhappy. Without going into details of the situation, which have been clearly stated in the documents, we are convinced that we shall all, in concert, do everything possible to keep our business going. At the same time, we express our confidence in the present management of the Organization, and hope that the present situation will be improving soon.

The Chairman made reference to the report of the World Food Programme audited accounts for 1986-87. I have some preoccupation with that. We would like to express the hope that the dispute over procedural matters could be amicably settled through consultations. It can be done; I have no doubt about it. My delegation has the fullest confidence that the Finance Committee could play a very important role in this regard.

V.K. SIBAL (India): India would like to thank Mr. Bukhari, Chairman of the Finance Committee, for a very clear and detailed report on the two sessions of the Finance Committee which we are considering. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Eckert for a very clear exposition of the US position.

The financial situation has been discussed in detail, and we thought that the issues that were dealt with therein would not be opened. However, some issues, like the issue of borrowing, have still been referred to. This, in our judgment, was not necessary. The Council has pronounced on this issue, as on other issues inherent in the financial situation, with sufficient clarity, and expressed itself in favour of the Director-General to consider and resort to it if need be exceptionally, as a matter of last resort, to keep the Organization going. This is a sober and responsible response to assist FAO management to take the requisite steps to protect the Organization from serious and perhaps irretrievable damage. We hope the scenario can change, and borrowing may not eventually be necessary. It has been made clear that what is envisaged is an overdraft or current facility for which there will be no supplementary assessments. We had hoped that this clarification would have stilled some of the concerns expressed.

Therefore, as far as paragraphs 3.66 to 3.76 on support costs from UNDP and Trust Fund Programmes are concerned, we would like to know the result of the submissions FAO made in concert with other agencies to the UNDP Governing Council in June. What was the result of that endeavour? What are the future moves which FAO has in mind?

The proposals in paragraph 3.71 relating to the voluntary increases in the Trust Fund support cost charges seem to be reasonable. We note the views of the Finance Committee that these will not be a disincentive to donors or affect net project delivery.

With regard to paragraphs 3.77 to 3.88 and paragraph 5.2(a) we are of the view that these proposals need to be discussed in detail and with understanding. Some of them may be found necessary today because of the difficulties in the financial situation.

We sympathize with the proposal in paragraph 3.88 to charge certain investment costs to the interest income element of miscellaneous income as these clearly relate to investment activities and, therefore, should be a fit and appropriate charge on this element.

Omer ZEYTINOGLU (Turkey): Firstly, I thank the Chairman of the Finance Committee, Ambassador Buhari, for his detailed introduction. Briefly, I would like to comment on the following two points concerning the report of the Committee. We note with concern the decline in the use of consultants in 1986/87, compared with the previous biennium. Efforts are needed to ensure, at least, the full use of consultants in priority fields. Equally important is the use of consultants for developing countries. We think FAO should give greater attention to this aspect.

Secondly, we would be grateful if the Secretariat could provide more detailed information on the use of unilateral trust funds. For instance, we think it would be appropriate to adopt the same procedures as in the case of regular programme expenditure to the use of unilateral trust fund resources.

Bernard LEDUN (France): Nous remercions l'Ambassadeur Bukhari de la présentation claire qu'il vient de nous donner des documents CL 94/4 et CL 94/3.

Je ne m'attarderai pas longuement sur les aspects financiers et budgétaires de ces documents qui ont déjà fait l'objet de nos échanges de vues et d'une déclaration de notre Délégation, la semaine dernière.

Je tiens toutefois à dire que notre Délégation accueille avec beaucoup d'intérêt la déclaration que vient de nous faire le Chef de la Délégation américaine, et les indications qu'il vient de nous donner sur les perspectives de versement de la contribution de son pays que nous espérons, pour notre part, définitive, et dans un avenir pas trop lointain.

Il va de soi que si ces bonnes intentions affichées étaient suivies de versements effectifs par le Gouvernement américain en 1989, la situation de trésorerie de la FAO s'en trouverait changée du tout au tout.

Cela étant et les choses demeurant ce qu'elles sont, ici et maintenant, il paraît assez logique néanmoins d'autoriser la FAO et son Directeur général à tenter d'obtenir une ligne de crédit pour faire face à ses obligations de fonctionnement alors que 91 Etats Membres, soit les deux-tiers des pays membres de l'Organisation n'ont que partiellement ou pas du tout réglé leur contribution statutaire, à commencer par le principal d'entre eux. Nous souhaitons seulement, pour notre part, que ce faisant la FAO paie les intérêts directs sur cette ligne de crédit à partir de ses ressources diverses, comme par exemple les placements financiers, les ristournes, etc, plutôt que de pénaliser les bons payeurs.

D'ailleurs, ainsi que viennent de le signaler nos collègues, les représentants de l'Inde et du Mexique, cette décision de recourir à un emprunt avait déjà été adoptée par une large majorité lors d'un précédent conseil.

D.R. KAMAU (Kenya): My delegation wishes to express appreciation for the reports of the 54th Session of the Programme Committee and the 62nd Session of the Finance Committee as presented in the Joint Programme and Finance Committee Reports in documents CL 94/3 and CL 94/4.

In the view of the supportive role afforded by FAO to countries not endowed with resources, my delegation shares the concern expressed by the Programme Committee in paragraph 1.2 of document CL 94/3 on the financial outturn of the 1986/87 biennium which, in accordance with the cash deficit of US\$46.8 million, after full utilization of US\$13.3 million from the working capital fund. We express the hope that the forthcoming budget outturn of the 1987/88 biennium will reflect a

Situation which is gradually reverting to the recent history of FAO in which the biennium expenditure, including commitments was being held within limits that were below levels of income.

In the light of the current and recent past experience of resource constraints suffered by FAO, my delegation welcomes progress clearly being made by the Director-General to prepare a document indicating the budget level he intends to use in preparation of the Programme of Work and Budget during the period 1990/91, together with the main activities undertaken.

The move by FAO to achieve reform of the programme budget process, as pursued in other organizations of the UN system, is also very welcome.

My delegation also expresses the hope that the consultant who undertakes a review of the three identified areas of finance, personnel and administrative support services, will complete the work on time for consideration and decision by the joint committees during the meeting scheduled for May 1989.

Finally, my delegation joins other members in expressing our appreciation to the host government for the financial and other support the Government and people of Italy have offered and continue to offer to the Organization during these difficult times. We hope that other Member States who are able to reciprocate the commendable gestures of the Italian Government will do so to enhance the role played by FAO in the needy areas of the world.

LE PRESIDENT: Je voudrais souligner que le projet de réforme de la procédure du Programme et du Budget sera examiné dans le cadre du point 13 de l'ordre du jour.

Bashir EL MABROUK SAID (Libya)(Original language Arabic): First of all I would like to join previous speakers to thank His Excellency Ambassador Bukhari, Chairman of the Finance Committee, for the excellent report of the 62nd and 63rd Session of the Finance Committee. We would also like to thank all the members of the Finance Committee for their efforts. In general, we support the recommendations of the Finance Committee. However, we would like to emphasise certain observations made by previous delegates: that is, the slowing down of the rate of expenditure by 20 million dollars in 1988. This raises a grave concern among developing countries. Due to the financial crisis faced by the Organization, we understand, of course, that the Secretariat had to carry out this reduction. We hope that this will not affect the Technical Cooperation Programme. Italy in fact is one of the countries who helped in ensuring that the TCP is not influenced by these reductions. This is a point we want to emphasize.

As to borrowing; this issue was in fact approved. It is within the legal competence of the Director-General and FAO. We cannot ask the Secretariat to implement a programme without providing it with the necessary financial resources. We feel that the reduction of the Programme and Budget while the financial crisis is worsening is something that we cannot tolerate and accept in the future. Despite the borrowing procedures, we feel that the borrowing issue in fact was approved by the Conference. We hope, of course, that borrowing will only be considered as a last resort for the implementation of the Programme. In fact, six banks have responded to the request of the Organization. This is a proof of the credibility of this Organization. However, in spite of the rather positive statements made by certain delegations, we hope that this Organization will not resort to this measure. We also hope that this crisis will end to the benefit of the developing countries.

Yousef Ali Mahmoud HAMDY (Egypt) (Original language Arabic): We would like to thank His Excellency, Ambassador Bukhari for presenting the Report of the Finance Committee and we would like to emphasize our confidence in him and in the members of the Finance Committee in following up the financial issues of this Organization.

We would like to thank His Excellency, Ambassador Eckert for the information he has provided us with. We are quite sure that this information will certainly have an effect on the present situation of the Organization.

As to the issue of borrowing; the Conference in fact has authorized the Director-General to proceed to borrowing. There is no doubt, of course, that the Director-General will not resort to such a step until he has exhausted all the alternate means. In any case, the Director-General will resort to borrowing only after having consulted with the Finance Committee. We are quite confident that

the Director-General and the Finance Committee will take the necessary steps. This is why the issue of borrowing does not raise our concern. What is of concern to us are the reductions and the measures taken in 1988 in order to ensure savings. This is why we would like to ask you that such reductions may not continue in 1989. Finally, we would like to support the Report and we approve the Draft Resolution which will be submitted to the Conference mentioned in paragraph 4.57.

Miriam INZAULGARAT GARCIA DE PEREZ (Cuba): Agradecemos la excelente presentación del tema que ha efectuado el Embajador Bukhari, Presidente del Comité de Finanzas. La Delegación de Cuba ha tenido en cuenta la labor paciente, inteligente y capaz de los Miembros de ese Comité y quiere manifestar, a nombre del Grupo Latinoamericano y del Caribe, el reconocimiento a sus Miembros en ese Comité que han mantenido informada a la Región del desarrollo de sus labores en este arduo período de mayo a septiembre de 1988.

Queremos pronunciarnos sobre varias cuestiones reflejadas en los documentos. En primer lugar, a la oportuna, generosa y decisiva contribución del Gobierno de Italia. Mi delegación se une a aquéllas que han expresado su agradecimiento a ese Miembro de este Consejo.

En segundo lugar, para apoyar la conclusión del Comité de Finanzas en cuanto a interrumpir la práctica actual y que tan pronto exista un superávit de Tesorería, compensar el aumento de una sola vez en las cuotas, como se refleja en el párrafo 3.84.

Hoy reiteramos aquí la aprobación al Director General para que pueda contraer préstamos. Así lo hemos expresado anteriormente, pues la asistencia a los países más necesitados no puede interrumpirse así como tampoco las actividades más esenciales de la Organización. Confiamos en que la evolución futura de la situación financiera sea positiva y no tenga el Director General que aplicar tal medida.

Quisiera referirme a la propuesta de la Delegación de Gambia quien hizo una proposición que la Delegación de México ha apoyado. La Delegación de Cuba estima que esta propuesta debe ser analizada por la Secretaría que, de aprobarse, sería un estímulo importante para los países con déficits de divisas.

Ibrahima KABA (Guinée): La délégation guinéenne félicite le Président du Comité financier pour sa présentation claire et détaillée des rapports soumis à notre examen.

Nous n'avons pratiquement aucune observation majeure à formuler sur ces rapports. Nous nous bornerons à exprimer notre opinion quant à la crise qui fait la préoccupation de notre Organisation et de ses pays membres. Certes, mon pays doit encore sa contribution de l'année en cours mais, malgré les mesures d'ajustement structurel en cours dans mon pays, le processus de règlement de cet arriéré est engagé.

La délégation guinéenne apprécie hautement les dispositions favorables prises par le Gouvernement américain pour respecter ses engagements statutaires vis-à-vis de notre Organisation. Nous reconnaissons l'effort d'explication de l'Ambassadeur Eckert; nous l'encourageons.

Quant au problème de l'emprunt extérieur, cette question ne se pose que pour le souci de survie de notre Organisation. Il est clair que, si tous les pays s'acquittaient de leurs obligations statutaires, il ne se poserait pas de problème d'emprunt. De toutes manières, le Conseil a déjà décidé de ces questions.

Enfin, notre reconnaissance et nos remerciements s'adressent au Gouvernement italien qui, pour sa part, a sauvé le PCT au cours du biennium, ce programme si important dans l'assistance à nos pays. Nous en remercions le Gouvernement italien.

Giesberg GRAF VON WESTPHALEN (Germany, Federal Republic of): We thank the Chairman of the Finance Committee, Ambassador Bukhari, for the clear and full picture he gave us of the deliberations held within the Finance Committee. As a number of items which were already tackled in the Finance Committee are touched upon under heading 12 of the Agenda, I can be very brief. I will only raise one point and that is the treatment of miscellaneous income. We hold the view that the actual

method of calculating the miscellaneous income should be continued in the future. This method has been used for several years and proved workable. If we take the current interest rates, which are rather low on the market, we will always be on the conservative side.

I do not need to stress once more that we are against borrowing. After having heard the declaration of Ambassador Eckert, we think that borrowing in the near future will not be necessary.

Igor MARINCEK (Suisse): Ha delegation n'a pas voulu prendre la parole lors de l'examen de ce point de l'ordre du jour. Je le fais seulement pour rappeler la position de mon pays concernant le recours à l'emprunt: mon pays est opposé à cette pratique et l'a déjà fait savoir à plusieurs reprises.

Fred J. ECKERT(United States of America): I will speak just briefly and I do not want to take up any extra time but now every once in a while in life a rare coincidence occurs. While I was speaking, I stated that the United States would pay, I was trying to explain things, that we would pay that 25 million and that we would do so as rapidly as possible I have learned that sometime between the time I left the office to come over here and the time I started speaking that the United States deposited in Washington today 25 million dollars into the account of FAO. It is more rapid than I thought !

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie vivement M. Eckert de l'information précieuse et agréable qu'il vient de nous donner.

Ms. Anna-Liisa KORHONEN (Finland): I can be very brief after this announcement but I just would like to put o

D. K. CROWTHER (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department): I shall try and summarize a number of questions that were asked that were similar to one another. I will start with the first questions that were raised by the delegate of Australia. He first raised a question concerning interest payments on borrowing and how they might be accommodated. There are several aspects to this. The first is that the authority that was given in the Council Resolution to the Director-General to borrow in 1980 made reference to the fact that any interest payment arising from external or commercial borrowing should be charged to miscellaneous income, not directly to the General Fund of the Regular Programme. This means that the General Budget of the Organization, therefore, would not have to bear the interest cost that is related thereto. Incidentally, he raised the question, and one other delegate raised the question, concerning the possibility of repayment of the debt itself. The Director-General has stated very coherently that any payments that would be required for any external borrowing that may be necessary in the future would be made within the budget itself. We would hope that such payments could be made directly from arrears. On the other hand, he has stipulated that in the event this were not possible, he would make future cuts so there would be no increase in assessment to Member Nations for repayment of borrowing; to relieve some of the delegate's minds that this would require additional assessments.

Next the delegate of Australia raised the question concerning an item in the Finance Committee Report about the FINSYS/PERSYS Programme, and more specifically, about a settlement with the present contract in the amount of US \$250 000, what were the conditions and where were the funds to be made available from.

This payment for FINSYS/PERSYS arose as a result of a claim instituted by the contractor who is performing the programme development work on this major software development system for the Organization. For those who may not be aware, the Organization has contracted for the development of an automated accounting and personnel system. This is a fairly long-range programme that covers approximately a four-year period. The contract was let as a result of an international tender to nine different firms that tendered. The final result was the award to a Canadian firm called Systemshouse. This firm has been actively preparing the development work for our entire accounting and personnel system. Late last year we received a claim from Systemshouse in the amount of, at that time, about \$500 000 caused as a result of what they claim to be delays in the use of our

mainframe computer. We guaranteed a response time of a certain number of seconds and there were times when that did not occur. At the same time we made a counter-claim against Systemhouse for some other very specific items in the amount of less than that in total. We finally reached an agreed settlement for a payment to Systemhouse of \$250 000 for a very small portion of the lost time that they had incurred. This payment was an amicable one that was agreed to by the contractor and by the Organization after considerable consideration and discussion both with our in-house committee which oversees the development of all automated data systems and with the Finance Committee.

If there are any further details on that or on the claim and counter-claims I would be happy to go into them, but that is finished.

While I am speaking of FINSYS/PERSYS, there were a couple of other questions raised by the United Kingdom delegate and, I believe, another delegate, concerning the timing and the scheduling. A question was raised on the current time frame for completion of phase 1 where we would complete parallel running. The answer to that is that we shall complete phase 1 to the point where we are actually able to run the entire payroll system under phase 1 without parallel running in April 1989. The question was raised on phase 2 as to when it will be complete and implemented, and the answer to that is the end of the year, December 1989. The question was raised on how much of a delay has been incurred, and on phase 1 there has been approximately over this total four-year period - and we are into the third year now - a delay of approximately one year. Phase 2 is very close to being on schedule and the final phase, phase 3, we also expect to be very close to the original schedule for full implementation.

Therefore, while there have been some delays in the initial phase we think the entire project will be completed very close to the timing that had been expected.

Concerning the cost, the contract itself for the development is just under \$7 million. That is paid as the contractor completes each respective portion or each phase on a review certification and completion basis. There are in addition in-house costs that are related to this, many of which mean an absorption of additional duties, some of which mean the possibility of additional or incremental expenses. As these are incurred, we do report them regularly to the Finance Committee. In fact, we maintain an item of reporting on this subject to the Finance Committee at every session. We do detailed reporting on both the cost estimates and the timing and schedule once each year but discuss at each meeting at least what the progress has been up until that point.

The United Kingdom delegate raised several questions on borrowing. He asked whether or not there has been any payments thus far to banks for facility charge or any other charges related to borrowing on the basis of the discussions we have had. The answer is clearly no. There have been no charges because we have entered into no specific contracts or arrangements for facilities that would call for a commitment - a commitment charge, a facility charge or incurring any other expense relating to borrowing thus far. That does not mean that we have not had a lot of discussions with a lot of banks so that if we wanted to enter into a commitment arrangement we could do so on fairly short notice, but we have not entered into any contracts that would incur charges thus far.

A question was raised as to whether or not in the event of borrowing the details would be provided to the Finance Committee and ultimately to the Membership. Again, the Director-General has been very clear on this subject and in the event that he found it necessary to resort to borrowing he would fully inform the Finance Committee. That information would be included in the Finance Committee's report, as it always is, to the Membership.

A question was raised on the Report concerning Programmes. Reference was made in the Finance Committee's Report to the fact that there is a report provided regularly that includes expenditure by Programme. But it also includes commitments. The question was raised as to whether or not such information could be shown on a clearly cash basis so that it could be provided to the Finance Committee and the Finance Committee could decide on further reporting. The answer is that, yes, we do report this information to the Finance Committee on Programme delivery, the outturn of the budget each year, and to the degree that it would be useful to report this on a cash basis we can show it both ways so that it is clear precisely what the cash element is as well as the commitment elements. We think it is important to know both since commitments represent obligations to the Organization, and our management requires that we have a total cost each time we report on expenditure.

A question was asked about the quarterly report for the fourth quarter: will it be issued? Clearly that report will be issued as quickly as we possibly can, which will mean very near the end of January. It takes about three weeks to clear all of the accounts from all the field offices and receive the information, and a week for processing. Therefore, it will be very near the end of January when we prepare the fourth quarterly report for 1988, but certainly it will be prepared.

A request was made for additional information on developments in personnel. That is an area that the Finance Committee has been exploring, finding ways in which we can provide the greatest degree of detail to the Finance Committee. It is one that has been of considerable interest to members of the Finance Committee. Without the automated system I must admit that it has been rather difficult manually to prepare a great deal of statistical information, but we have pledged ourselves that with the automated system we shall report a much greater detail of information on personnel, personal activities and personnel statistics to the Finance Committee. Certainly the question of reporting by the Finance Committee to the Council can be discussed by members of the Finance Committee and their wishes can certainly then be reported directly to the Council. If there is further guidance that the Council wishes to give, that is the Council's prerogative.

A question was raised as to whether FAO has a regulation similar to that in the UN concerning governing the amount of money that may be paid to United Nations pensioners. Yes, we do have such a provision. It is not quite the same as that of the UN. Ours is based on time, and the employment of a staff member who is receiving a pension from the UN Pension Fund cannot exceed six months in a calendar year of income from FAO. We have a pre-condition that before we can hire any pensioners we must make every effort first to hire people who are non-pensioners to provide a degree of expertise if we possibly can. On the other hand, we find that there is a great wealth of experience in the pensioners who are there and from time to time it is important that we hire them.

Secondly, we have a management review process internally that requires a review at the highest levels before any pensioner may be hired and then a formal reporting following the use of any UN pensioner.

A question was raised about the use of local currency for making contributions to the Organization. There our regulations are quite clear. Local currency cannot be used to pay the assessments for the Regular Programme. The Basic Text is quite clear and says that contributions shall be payable in US dollars, in lira or in a currency immediately convertible to lira. We are governed completely by that regulation and, unless it is changed by the Conference, we have no power to do otherwise.

There are a few additional questions that were raised concerning overhead costs and programme delivery that I would ask my colleague Mr. Shah to address. But before I do so I would like to make one reference to the generous contributions of the host government, Italy. The Council received notification some time ago that the Government of Italy had agreed to provide an appropriation amounting to approximately Lira 25 billion for the construction of additional premises here in the Caracalla headquarters complex. We are very pleased to note that the Parliament of Italy has passed the necessary legislation that would provide this money. The Ambassador of Italy has met together with the Secretariat and with the appropriate Ministry that would oversee the conduct of this, and I am very pleased to say that actions are being taken to facilitate the next steps that would be required before going out to contract. The entire programme and construction would be performed under the direction of the Ministry of Public Works of the Government of Italy but we are very pleased that that action has been taken and happy to report that to the Council.

With that, I think Mr. Shah has a few other comments.

V.J. SHAH (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): I start by dealing with one of the points to which Mr. Crowther referred in connection with the use of pensioners or former staff members as consultants. He explained the rules and it may also interest the Council to know that pensioners represent a very small percentage of the total number of consultants used. For example, in 1986/87 we had a total of some 2,600 consultants under the Regular Programme and supports costs. The number of pensioners included in the 2,600 was only 99 which is an extremely small number. One also has to bear in mind that the importance of the use of consultants is the quality of the service obtained and the appropriateness of that service. There are many instances where respected former colleagues can make a very useful contribution using their knowledge of the organization thus making the whole process of benefit to the organization.

Turning now to the other questions which were raised, there were a number of questions raised concerning support costs. The distinguished delegate of the United Kingdom drew attention to the report on the cost measurement system which was submitted to the Finance Committee. He has drawn attention to a fact that is undeniable, namely, that the Regular Programme subsidy during 1987 has increased. Why has it increased? It has increased because of the deterioration of the US dollar in relation to the Italian lire. As far as concerns the Regular Programme as Council is well aware, we had to draw on the Special Reserve Account and when that provision was finished we had to charge the balance to the budget. In the case of the Support Cost that was exactly the same, but we did not have a Special Reserve Account. This phenomenon is not peculiar to FAO as Council Members will realize. It has affected all the European-based agencies. In fact, since this was a

problem of system-wide concern, it was addressed by the UNDP and by the UNDP Governing Council itself. There was a joint submission by all organizations concerned. It was pointed out how the various agencies were affected. In the case of FAO it may interest the Council to note that in terms of the purchasing power of the Support Costs expressed in US dollars there was a decline of 32 percent over the period 1985/87. This led to the UNDP Governing Council approving, exceptionally, an adjustment to the Support Costs reimbursed for 1987 and FAO benefitted to the tune of US\$2.1 million. However, the problem remains with us and it will have to be resolved. As the Finance Committee was consulted it is the intention of secretariat to pursue this matter and eventually submit proposals to our Governing Bodies for their consideration. Any such proposals will also take into account the arrangements which may be agreed upon with UNDP for support cost reimbursement from UNDP, because the present arrangements with UNDP come to an end in 1991 and arrangements for the period thereafter are being considered by the UNDP through its Governing Council, as well as by all the organizations affected.

I do not need to be defensive in the area of Support Costs. UNDP submits to its Governing Council a postfacto report on Support Costs as incurred. I think Council will be reassured to know that the performance of FAO is nothing to be ashamed of. For FAO in 1986/87 the ratio of Support Cost to total expenditure, according to this report, was just over 19 percent, for the United Nations it was 21 percent; for UNIDO 36 percent; for ILO 29 percent, and so on. There are certainly cases where the ratio was also lower but I think FAO does not compare too badly and we have nothing to be ashamed of.

Then there was a question raised which concerned the progress of discussions with Trust Fund donors. My colleagues in the Development Department have pursued with individual Trust Fund donors the question of raising and accepting on a voluntary basis reimbursement to FAO at a rate of 14 percent, instead of the 13 percent basic rate. As you can imagine the response of Trust Fund donors is not one of great joy and acclamation. There is one important Trust Fund donor which has accepted the increase with very good grace and we are very grateful. Others are considering the matter. I can well understand that any individual Trust Fund donor would not willingly agree to an increase in the rate. I think that this will have to be a question of persuasion and mutual understanding until such time as Conference itself decides what it wants the new arrangements to be.

Finally, there was a question concerning programme delivery costs and the distinguished delegate of the United Kingdom expressed a hope that the secretariat had not forgotten the matter. I can assure him, through you Mr. Chairman, that the secretariat could not forget the matter. At its Ninety-second Session in November 1987 Council asked us to do two things. First, to report to the Finance Committee on programme delivery costs calculations as applied to the Programme of Work and Budget of the current biennium. We have not done so yet and the reason is not that we are not prepared to do so but the work of the Finance Committee has had to be concerned so much with other matters which have been before you that we will take this matter up next year. Council did not instruct us to take it up at any specific session so I would like to assure Council that the matter will be taken up.

The other action we were asked to pursue was jointly with our sister organizations to examine the desirability and feasibility of a joint request to the Joint Inspection Unit to establish definitions and methodologies which would permit meaningful comparisons of programme delivery costs among international organizations. We did take up this matter and the mechanism with which we decided to pursue the matter is the Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions (Finance and Budget) which includes all the organizations of the UN system. In brief, we informed this Committee, and our colleagues in all the other agencies of exactly what had happened in FAO, not just orally, but we shared with them the documentation we had submitted to the Finance Committee and the Council. Therefore, they were in full possession of the same facts as we had. The Committee found the matter of great interest and deserving of careful consideration. It was also impressed by the quality of the analysis and the documents submitted to the Council - and this is an extract from its report. The Committee had doubt about the validity of comparisons that might be made between delivery costs for different programmes. Even where the programmes form part of the activities of the same organization the relative cost of delivering them was bound to depend upon such factors as their nature, structure, size and location, and the nature and extent of the supporting services that were involved. For all these, and other reasons which are given in the report of this Committee the Committee hesitated to envisage the development at an Inter Organizational Level of definitions and methodologies to assist in measuring the cost of programme delivery. The Committee of all of our sister organizations believed that the comparisons to which they might lead would be likely to be of little validity and therefore of limited use either to the organizations concerned or to their member States. The analytical effort required could even draw energy away from the efforts required to achieve greater economy and enhance productivity particularly in the current period of financial difficulties.

I hope that I have responded to the questions which were raised and I remain always at your disposal.

José Ramón LOPEZ PORTILLO ROMANO (Mexico): Le agradezco, Sr. Presidente, que me conceda la palabra. Es para hacer una pregunta. Sin demérito del mandato otorgado por la Conferencia en el sentido de que el Director General haga uso del crédito externo para hacer frente a las situaciones de la FAO, yo deseo saber que ocurrió con una propuesta que se planteó en la última Conferencia por algunos delegados en relación a la posibilidad de realizar préstamos interagenciales, es decir entre agencias hermanas del Sistema de Naciones Unidas. Recuerdo yo que en esa oportunidad alguien mencionó problemas de estatutos e incluso de autoridades; pero hemos observado que organismos con sede aquí mismo en Roma tienen superávits de tesorería muy importantes. Desearíamos saber y hago la pregunta de una manera ingenua, por así decirlo si se avanzó en esta propuesta o se si canceló completamente.

Gian Luigi VALENZA (Italie): Au terme de ces débats, je ne voulais pas manquer de me féliciter moi aussi pour les bonnes nouvelles venant d'outre-Atlantique, qui nous soulagent tous au plus haut degré.

Je confirme d'autre part les informations données par M. Crowther sur les nouveaux travaux au siège de Caracalla. En effet, la loi italienne de 25 milliards a déjà été approuvée par les deux Chambres, la Chambre des députés et le Sénat, et elle est publiée sur la Gazzetta Ufficiale du lundi 22 novembre. Nous comptons donc pouvoir commencer au plus tôt les travaux par une première tranche qui a trait au parking de l'Organisation.

D.K. CROWTHER (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department): The question of inter-agency borrowing has been discussed on a number of occasions, and we have taken the matter to several of our sister agencies. In those agencies, where there is a possibility of providing some surplus cash to other sister agencies, it does require a specific approval on the part of those Governing Bodies. While these discussions took place on an informal basis certainly it was a possibility if the event ever arose, that the proposal would be considered seriously at that point and the question of interest rates and so forth would have to be worked out. Those discussions have taken place particularly with our sister agencies which have considerable cash balances that might be available. While the possibility exists it would require some approval in accordance with the basic text. In fact, some of them do not have lending authority per se, therefore, other arrangements would have to be discussed by the Governing Bodies even including the possibility of Trust Funds for specific advances. There have been a number of discussions, but on an informal basis.

LE PRESIDENT: Je voudrais me joindre aux délégués qui ont présenté leurs remerciements aux Etats-Unis d'Amérique, et à l'Ambassadeur Eckert pour les informations précieuses qu'il vient de fournir au Conseil au sujet des perspectives de versements des contributions. Je le remercie tout particulièrement pour les efforts qu'il a personnellement déployés à cet effet.

Je voudrais aussi me joindre aux autres Etats Membres pour remercier le Gouvernement italien pour sa contribution très généreuse, aussi bien pour le PCT que pour le siège à Caracalla.

Nous allons interrompre la séance pendant quelques minutes, pour introduire M. le professeur Mazoyer.

A propos du point 13 nous allons individualiser, comme promis, les questions relatives au rapport Jansson, ce qui a été demandé par le délégué du Royaume-Uni, les Etats-Unis et d'autres délégués. Aujourd'hui nous allons écouter une première présentation du rapport intérimaire sur l'examen de la FAO, et demain matin dans le cadre du Comité du Programme, nous aurons une discussion spéciale sur le point du rapport Jansson dont on a parlé au Conseil. Donc les deux ou trois points pourront faire demain matin l'objet d'une discussion séparée dans le cadre du Comité du Programme.

The meeting was suspended from 17.00 to 17.10 hours.

La séance est suspendue de 17 heures à 17 h 10

Se suspende la sesión de las 17.00 a las 17.10 horas

LE PRESIDENT: Nous allons donc aborder le point 13 de notre ordre du jour intitulé: "Rapport des cinquante-quatrième et cinquante-cinquième sessions du Comité du Programme, y compris le rapport intérimaire sur l'Examen de la FAO: pour information, examen et éventuellement décision (CL 94/3, CL 94/4). Comme je vous l'ai indiqué, nous allons demander à Monsieur le Président du Comité du Programme de bien vouloir introduire le sujet, et nous laisserons pour la séance de demain, le Rapport Jansson qui a fait l'objet de discussions hier, et dont nous avons promis qu'il serait traité en présence du Président du Comité du Programme à qui je vais donc demander de bien vouloir introduire le point 13.

13. Reports of the Fifty-fourth and Fifty-fifth Sessions of the Programme Committee, including a Progress Report on the Review of FAO (CL 94/3; CL 94/4)

13. Rapports des cinquante-quatrième et cinquante-cinquième sessions du Comité du Programme, y compris rapport intérimaire sur l'Examen de la FAO (CL 94/3; CL 94/4)

13. Informes de los periodos de sesiones 54 y 55° del Comité del Programa, incluido un informe sobre la marcha del Examen de la FAO (CL 94/3; CL 94/4)

M. MAZOYER (Président du Comité du Programme): Monsieur le Président, Mesdames et Messieurs les Représentants des Etats Membres du Conseil, Monsieur le Directeur général, Mesdames, Messieurs, c'est un honneur pour moi de présenter le Rapport conjoint intérimaire du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier sur l'examen de la FAO. Ce Rapport vous est soumis sous la cote CL 94/4 et comporte deux parties: l'une que je qualifierais d'historique et qui, en tant que telle, est purement informative; une autre, qui est, elle, tournée vers l'avenir, et comporte des propositions et se prête aussi à discussion.

Dans la première partie, par courtoisie et par respect envers le Conseil, nous avons pris l'initiative de vous tenir informés des dispositions que nous avons prises pour remplir le mandat extraordinaire que nous a confié la Conférence dans sa Résolution 6/87. Comme vous le savez, la Conférence a chargé expressément les deux Comités d'entreprendre conjointement cet examen avec l'assistance d'un petit nombre d'experts, et en collaboration avec le Secrétariat et le Directeur général de l'Organisation. Conformément à ce mandat, les Comités organisent leur travail de manière à pouvoir présenter les conclusions et recommandations de leurs rapports par l'intermédiaire du Conseil, l'année prochaine, à la Conférence.

Dans la seconde partie, nous sommes heureux de présenter à l'examen et à l'approbation du Conseil, les résultats de nos délibérations sur la réforme de la procédure du budget et programme.

Commençons tout d'abord par l'organisation de cet examen. Nous avons tenu deux sessions spéciales conjointes à Rome en mai et septembre de cette année. Nous nous sommes mis d'accord sur l'objectif de l'examen tel qu'il est spécifié dans la Résolution 6/87. Il est clair que dans l'esprit de la Résolution, et nous l'avons nous-même souligné avec force, un examen rigoureux doit être conduit de manière à renforcer la capacité de l'Organisation de fournir des services aux Etats Membres, à rendre ses programmes à l'avenir plus sensibles à toutes les difficultés qui surviendront et aussi à améliorer son efficacité d'ensemble.

Dans le cadre de ses attributions statutaires le Directeur général nous a proposé d'inclure, dans l'examen, l'étude de deux sujets supplémentaires spécifiques, à savoir les activités de terrain, d'une part, et les questions administratives et de gestion, de l'autre. Les deux Comités ont apprécié et approuvé cette initiative, car l'étude de ces deux sujets ne peut que renforcer la valeur et l'utilité de l'examen, du moins en ont-ils jugé ainsi.

Nous avons donc adopté pour les deux Comités un programme de travail pour conduire cet examen qui comporte en fait trois études:

- l'étude des objectifs, rôle, priorités et stratégies de l'Organisation;
- l'étude des activités de terrain;
- l'étude des questions administratives et de gestion.

Nous nous en sommes tenus aux instructions de la Conférence et avons demandé aux experts de nous soumettre leurs conclusions en février 1989, ce qui laissera ensuite tout juste le temps au Secrétariat pour traduire leurs rapports en cinq langues, les imprimer, et pour que le Directeur général puisse formuler ses observations et faire parvenir ces documents à tous les membres des deux Comités avant notre session conjointe prévue en mai 1989.

Nous consacrerons donc une bonne partie de cette session de mai à l'étude approfondie des conclusions des experts et à en discuter la substance. Nous n'hésiterons pas à demander des éclaircissements complémentaires, si nécessaire, et, avec l'aide des conclusions des experts et des observations et opinions du Directeur général sur les questions relevant de sa responsabilité, nous travaillerons et réfléchirons au contenu du Rapport que nous avons reçu instruction de présenter sous notre responsabilité à la Conférence, à travers le Conseil.

Ce sont donc, à toutes fins utiles, quatre rapports qui nous seront soumis pour nous aider à produire notre propre Rapport. Un rapport sur les objectifs, le rôle et les priorités; un rapport sur les activités de terrain; un rapport sur la gestion et les questions administratives, et le rapport contenant les observations et opinions du Directeur général. Nous devons, bien entendu, faire un examen critique de ces quatre rapports et examiner avec soin leurs propositions, les évaluer, les approuver ou les désapprouver, en tout cas, les prendre en considération dans leur caractère réaliste et pratique, et savoir si elles sont réalisables et dans quelles conditions. Nous devons aussi étudier la compatibilité des différentes propositions contenues dans les différents rapports, au cas où elles ne seraient pas entièrement convergentes.

Notre session de mai devra aussi se pencher, ne l'oublions pas, pour chaque Comité séparément et conjointement à l'occasion, sur le sommaire du Programme de Travail et Budget du prochain biennium, et sur d'autres questions qui sont nécessairement à l'ordre du jour de nos sessions ordinaires. Pour pouvoir remplir le mandat extraordinaire qui nous a été confié par la Conférence, nous serons donc contraints d'allonger notre session de mai et de la porter aux environs de trois semaines, alors qu'habituellement, elle ne dure que de douze à quatorze jours. Nous espérons que les vingt membres de ces deux Comités pourront se libérer pour ces trois semaines de travail continu et intensif. Nous serons à ce moment là pressés par le temps puisque nous devrons immédiatement nous entendre dès la fin de cette session sur les orientations de notre rapport et nous n'aurons plus que la session de septembre pour adopter notre rapport définitif; je vous rappelle en effet que la Conférence a demandé que ce rapport conjoint lui soit soumis à travers vous avec les vues et observations du Directeur général, et qu'il faudra donc examiner le tout fin octobre ou début novembre.

Je voudrais maintenant vous faire part des progrès réalisés pour chacune de ces trois études.

En ce qui concerne les objectifs, rôle, priorités et stratégies de la FAO, conformément à la Résolution 6/87, nous avons décidé d'entreprendre cette étude avec l'assistance d'experts. Ayant défini le mandat de l'étude et les termes de références, nous avons choisi un rapporteur et sept autres experts dont vous trouverez les noms dans le document qui vous a été remis.

Les experts se sont réunis à Rome du 25 juillet au 5 août 1988. Au moment d'entreprendre leur tâche, le Président du Comité financier et moi-même les avons convoqués pour leur transmettre toutes informations utiles et les orientations qui avaient été jugées nécessaires par les deux Comités concernant leurs travaux.

Le Secrétariat a fourni aux experts, par ailleurs, tous les documents de base et les informations nécessaires sur les activités de la FAO. Il a aussi organisé des entrevues et des débats. Par la suite, ces experts ont établi leur programme de travail et ont rendu visite à l'Organisation des Nations Unies et à de nombreuses autres institutions avec qui la FAO coopère dans l'exécution de son mandat.

Concernant l'étude des activités de terrain, c'est là un aspect capital de l'examen qui nous aurait peut-être échappé si le Directeur général n'avait pas justement proposé de le retenir. Nous avons choisi pour cette étude un rapporteur et quatre experts qui se sont réunis à Rome du 1er au 12 août 1988 et nous leur avons également communiqué les orientations de travail et ils ont reçu les informations et documentations de base nécessaires à l'exécution de leur mission. Ils rendront visite aux institutions qui collaborent avec la FAO.

En ce qui concerne les questions administratives et de gestion les Comités ont souscrit aux propositions du Directeur général concernant le champ possible d'un examen des questions administratives. Ils ont demandé au Directeur général de mettre l'accent, dans ces études, sur les questions financières et ont approuvé les approches et modalités envisagées.

Cet examen est entrepris avec le concours de sociétés de conseil en gestion. Trois domaines de la gestion ont été retenus pour cet examen, priorité étant donnée aux questions financières.

Les thèmes choisis pour être examinés sont les suivants: finances, personnel, services de soutien administratif.

Un appel d'offres a été lancé le 1er août 1988 à l'intention de 29 sociétés de conseils en gestion. Dix-sept offres avaient été reçues à la date limite du 15 septembre 1988. Après évaluation de ces

soumissions, les contrats avec les adjudicataires devaient être signés au début de ce mois. Le Directeur général a offert de fournir aux comités les rapports des sociétés de conseils en gestion, avec ses propres observations. Ces documents seront examinés par le Comité lors d'une session conjointe spéciale en mai 1989.

J'en arrive maintenant à la réforme de la procédure, de budget - programme que nous avons envisagée lors de la session de septembre. Comme vous le savez, la Conférence n'avait pu aboutir à un accord sur ce point et, lors de la session de mai, les deux comités se sont préoccupés de trouver un consensus à ce sujet. Le résultat de ces délibérations apparaît dans les paragraphes 1.10, 1.11 et 1.12 du document CL 94/4. Je ne vous les lirai pas maintenant. Vous les avez sans doute étudiés de près.

Je voudrais seulement souligner le fait que les différents aspects du problème ont été largement débattus pendant la Conférence et que les mesures maintenant proposées par les deux comités semblent susceptibles de répondre aussi bien aux espoirs qu'aux préoccupations des uns et des autres. C'est dans cet esprit que nous vous les soumettons.

Avant de terminer, je tiens à redire notre détermination à respecter scrupuleusement les instructions données par la Conférence dans sa Résolution 6/87. Chacun se souvient de l'intensité des débats qui se sont déroulés lors de la 24^{ème} session de la Conférence et des points de vue divergents qui y avaient été exprimés et qui sont d'ailleurs consignés dans les paragraphes 136 à 142 du rapport de la Conférence, lesquels je dois le dire, ont fait l'objet d'un consensus.

En bref, on peut rappeler que, selon un courant d'opinion, il était temps qu'un groupe d'experts indépendants procède à un examen approfondi des buts et des opérations de la FAO et que, selon un autre courant d'opinion, la nécessité même d'un tel examen était contestable ou peu utile. La Résolution 6/87 représente donc, selon nous, un compromis entre ces deux tendances, compromis qui a été élaboré après que la Conférence ait entendu le rapport d'un groupe de travail qui avait travaillé pendant 35 heures au cours de 13 réunions. Ce compromis peut se résumer ainsi: d'accord pour un examen mais à condition que cet examen soit confié au Comité du Programme et au Comité financier travaillant conjointement, assistés d'un certain nombre d'experts et en collaboration avec le Secrétariat. Nous savons tous que ce compromis n'a pas fait tout à fait l'unanimité. Mais il s'agissait sans doute du seul compromis possible.

Nos deux comités, ayant reçu un tel mandat de la Conférence, entendent le remplir scrupuleusement avec l'aide des experts qui étudient, je vous le rappelle, des secteurs différents des activités de l'Organisation et dont les avis ainsi que ceux des conseils en gestion et le rapport du Directeur général sur ces différents travaux préliminaires devront faire l'objet de notre part d'un examen suivi d'un rapport qui sera présenté à la Conférence par votre intermédiaire, c'est-à-dire par l'intermédiaire du Conseil. Pour notre part - je parle en mon nom et, sans doute aussi, au nom de mon collègue, le Président du Comité financier - nous avons toujours pensé que cet examen représentait une excellente occasion de rediscuter les objectifs de l'Organisation et de les renégocier pour aboutir à un consensus renouvelé.

C'est la raison pour laquelle, dans la conduite des travaux des deux comités et dans nos relations avec le Secrétariat et avec les experts, nous avons veillé à ce que tous les membres des deux comités puissent s'exprimer pleinement et exposer leur position. Nous avons également veillé à ce que la liberté d'information, la liberté de mouvement, la liberté d'esprit des experts tant internes, à l'intérieur du Secrétariat, qu'externes, avec les différentes parties prenantes, soit entière. Je dirai même que les comités n'ont pas tellement cherché à influencer les experts; ils ne l'ont même pratiquement pas fait. C'est l'opinion des experts qui nous importe et non pas la nôtre puisque nous la connaissons déjà.

Enfin, c'est pour la même raison que, par ailleurs, nous ne pouvons pas non plus céder à la demande des uns ou des autres de prendre des initiatives qui ne sont pas prévues par la résolution et qui ne seraient pas acceptables, en tout cas pas acceptées, par les autres membres. Ce n'est pas notre rôle de prendre de telles initiatives qui, en définitive, entraîneraient peut-être plus de conflits que de consensus.

Il nous a toujours semblé que, pour atteindre le consensus en procédant à cet examen, la seule voie possible était d'adhérer le plus possible aux termes de la résolution.

Voilà ce qu'il m'a semblé essentiel de vous rapporter à propos de cet examen exceptionnel et je vous remercie de m'avoir accordé la parole à ce sujet. Je reste à votre disposition et à celle du Conseil pour toutes informations complémentaires et, le cas échéant, je vous demanderai d'accorder la parole à mes collègues du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier qui, même lorsqu'ils ne sont pas membres du Conseil, peuvent se trouver dans la salle en tant qu'observateurs, afin qu'ils m'aident à répondre à certaines questions et qu'ils expriment leur point de vue car je ne suis pas certain de refléter parfaitement la position de mes collègues.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie le Professeur Mazoyer, Président du Comité du Programme, de sa communication introductive.

José Ramon LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (México): Agradecemos al Presidente del Comité del Programa su siempre sabia y clara exposición que, por otro lado, mucho nos ha explicado sobre las tesis de las negociaciones durante las diversas reuniones de dicho Comité y de las reuniones conjuntas.

La Delegación de México reitera su plena disponibilidad para resolver todas las controversias en el seno de esta Organización por la vía del diálogo y de la negociación en beneficio de todos sus miembros. Por eso es que apreciamos mucho la forma en que nos ha descrito el Sr. Mazoyer la manera como se resolvieron esas controversias en el seno del Comité. Pero debo decir algo más en referencia al plantamiento que él hacía respecto de la forma en que se concluyó en plasmar, en materializar los acuerdos en la Resolución 6/87. A pesar de que como debemos recordar, la mayoría de los miembros de esta Organización no considerábamos que fuera necesario emprender un proceso de revisión de ciertos aspectos de la FAO, y menos aún de su totalidad, en aras de buscar una solución al problema de liquidez y de confianza y apoyo a esta Organización, accedimos espontáneamente a aceptar tal proceso de revisión cuyas directrices se plasmaron en la Resolución 6/87 de la Conferencia pasada.

La mayoría de los Estados Miembros manifestamos en aquella ocasión que si la FAO debía revisarse y eventualmente modificar algunos de sus aspectos, debía ser precisamente para responder a las crecientes necesidades de las poblaciones de los países en desarrollo que sufrían pobreza absoluta, hambre y desnutrición y, a la vez, de un mundo en general abatido por prácticas comerciales desleales y por una distribución de las cargas financieras y económicas inequitativas que inhabilitaban el progreso de la mayoría de los países y de sus poblaciones y que estaban llevando, tras una década perdida para el desarrollo de muchos países en desarrollo, a un mundo cada vez más injusto. Recordamos en esa ocasión la importancia de avanzar hacia la implantación de un nuevo orden económico internacional en el ámbito de la FAO, como lo postulaba la resolución 3/75 y otras de la Conferencia; y lo hicimos no por razones ideológicas, sino muy prácticas, como las que he mencionado hace un momento.

Vemos, sin embargo, con tristeza y preocupación que por lo menos ahora, en los documentos que se nos han presentado no se perfila aun ningún avance en este sentido. Entendemos y compartimos, sin embargo, el criterio de muchos de nuestros colegas, miembros de los Comités del Programa y también de Finanzas, de mantener una voluntad de negociación abierta, en aras de resolver la crisis de liquidez que, por razones unilaterales, socava los fundamentos y estructura de la FAO. A pesar de las expresiones de buena voluntad que se hicieron en el punto 14 de nuestro programa y que mucho agradecemos y mucho reconocemos, lamentablemente aun la situación financiera de crisis no está, ni con mucho, superada.

Por otra parte, el contenido del párrafo 1.12 nos parece cuestionable, ya que expresa algo totalmente improcedente cuando señala que la FAO ha logrado reformar el proceso de presupuestación. Nosotros creemos en la buena voluntad, en el diálogo y en la negociación, pero consideramos que no existe ningún dato objetivo para hacer tal afirmación, como tampoco aquella que se hace dos párrafos atrás, en relación a que nos congratulemos de la eventualidad de tales reformas. Debemos recordar asimismo que, de acuerdo con el mandato de la Conferencia, estamos apenas iniciando el proceso de revisión y no aceptando ahora reformas. Los planteamientos relativos a la revisión se tendrán que presentar necesariamente, como bien lo ha dicho el Dr. Mazoyer, a la reunión de octubre de los Comités. Y posteriormente, seguro, pasarán a la consideración de este Consejo en noviembre de 1989. No podemos ni debemos adelantar los tiempos. Más aún, se estuvo claro que, en aras de buscar un compromiso de buena voluntad, se haría una prueba, por única vez, en enero del próximo año, para celebrar una reunión conjunta de los Comités. Dicha reunión propuesta para enero sería, como he dicho, por única vez, y debemos afirmar ahora que su aceptación no conlleva en modo alguno precedente o predisposición alguna para repetirla posteriormente. Recordamos entre otras cosas que la Resolución 6/87 puntualiza y confirma el principio establecido de que para integrar el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto se debe también contar con las consideraciones y recomendaciones de todos los Comités principales, y ello es imposible obtenerlo y recabarlos, por lo menos para enero.

Por otro lado, deseamos recordar a este Consejo que se han eliminado a 45 importantes reuniones programadas y aceptadas por la Conferencia, muchas otras publicaciones y, sobre todo, importantes proyectos de asistencia técnica en beneficio de nuestros países.

La reunión propuesta para enero no está prevista en el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto de este bienio y, por lo tanto, viene sin duda a competir con escasísimas disponibilidades de tesorería. Por ello, sin demérito -lo digo subrayándolo: "sin demérito"- de la propuesta por la reunión conjunta de los Comités de Finanzas y del Programa, y en vista de que nuestra Organización sigue encontrándose y muy probablemente en enero también se encontrará- con graves dificultades financieras, la

Delegación de México se permite hacer una propuesta de conciliación: solicitar al Director General que, en vez de convocar a una reunión conjunta por primera vez de los Comités de Finanzas y del Programa para enero de 1989 en Roma, el Director General envíe en esa fecha la información pertinente -es decir, el breve documento descrito en el párrafo 1.10- a los respectivos miembros de los Comités, a su lugar de adscripción, a fin de recabar por correo su opinión y así integrar, una vez revisada por el Director General, la información que se entregará a la reunión de los Comités en mayo del próximo año. Así, la FAO se ahorraría indispensables recursos, quizás para aplicarlos en reuniones programadas por la Conferencia. Debo reflexionar al respecto que dichos ahorros sin duda equivaldrían a las cuotas totales de varios países miembros.

Señalamos que ya el costo del examen de la FAO asciende a la impresionante cifra de 2.4 millones de dólares, no previstos en el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto, y nos preguntamos si esa cifra no ascenderá a niveles superiores. En las circunstancias por las que atraviesa la FAO, este peso imprevisto, sumado a la crisis de liquidez, que aparentemente continuará durante todo el próximo año, ha costado inaceptables sacrificios que no debemos permitir prosigan.

Deseamos reiterar nuestro rechazo a las graves reducciones en el Presupuesto sufridas en el bienio pasado y en este año, por un total de 45 millones de dólares. Estos recortes, como lo hemos dicho anteriormente, en el punto número 12, no deben continuar para el 89. Estamos haciendo un daño irreparable a nuestra Organización, a su plantilla de personal, a la moral del personal y, sobre todo, a la calidad y oportunidad de las funciones, actividades y asistencia técnica que otorga nuestra Organización. México se ha opuesto firmemente a la política de crecimiento cero y, más aun, a cualquier criterio que conlleve una reducción del Presupuesto de FAO. Por otro lado, ya para concluir, la Delegación mexicana reitera los planteamientos hechos en el 54° y 55° períodos de sesiones del Comité del Programa; pero, además de las observaciones hechas, con las siguientes reflexiones y previsiones. Una, examinar las consecuencias que para el Programa tiene el hecho de haber reducido los gastos propuestos por el Director General en una cantidad de hasta 20 millones de dólares de EE.UU. Al respecto, reiteramos nuestro total rechazo -vuelvo a reiterarlo- de perfilar nuevos recortes para ese año.

Planteamos desde la Comisión que los problemas de liquidez u otras dificultades financieras sólo pueden resolverse con medidas de la misma naturaleza y no mediante reajustes en los programas. Pedimos que se continúe explorando posibles soluciones financieras para evitar a toda costa la necesidad de recurrir a la reducción futura de los programas y que se analice el aplazamiento de toda medida definitiva -sobre todo, de la supresión de actividades-, buscando superar, repito, las limitaciones prácticas y otros compromisos. Debe continuarse evaluando alternativas válidas para resolver la situación financiera y que conduzcan a la adecuada ejecución del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1988/89; debe vigilarse que se mantenga y, de ser posible, que se incremente la calidad de los trabajos de los consultores contratados por la Organización, de tal manera que las actividades que éstos desempeñan contribuyan a compensar la reducción de sus contratos.

Y finalmente, como también lo dijimos en el punto 13 -pero, a veces, los temas de uno y otro están entremezclados-, debe incrementarse la participación de los consultores provenientes de países en desarrollo, sin demérito de la calidad de la asistencia de los mismos, que contrata la Organización sobre una base de distribución geográfica y nacional equitativa.

LE PRESIDENT: Pour la clarté des décisions du Conseil, je voudrais rappeler aux délégués qu'il est demandé au Conseil de prendre position, au paragraphe 1.33 du rapport, sur la question de la réforme de la procédure du budget-programme établi conjointement par les deux comités et dont il est question aux paragraphes 1.9 à 1.13 de ce document.

Je serais heureux si, dans leurs interventions, les délégués pouvaient nous faire connaître leur position sur ce projet de réforme de la procédure du budget-programme. Je crois que cela serait utile au Secrétariat et au Conseil.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Bienvenido a Roma, Profesor Mazoyer, Presidente del Comité del Programa, y gracias por su presentación.

Señor Presidente, tenemos la impresión de que éste ha sido un proceso desafortunado, cuyos primeros resultados desde ahora se están saliendo de las manos de los mismos gestores. Siempre fieles al cumplimiento de sus instrucciones, Sr. Presidente, empezaremos por decir que nos oponemos firme y decididamente a todo lo propuesto en los párrafos 1.9 a 1.13 del documento CL 94/4. Pedimos al Consejo que se oponga a que se celebre una reunión especial de los dos Comités en enero próximo, hecho excepcional, nunca antes registrado en la historia de nuestra Organización. ¿Cómo va a celebrarse ahora, cuando la crisis financiera impone limitaciones; cuando, como lo ha dicho México,

se han cancelado más de 45 reuniones de real utilidad? Pedimos a la Secretaría que nos diga cuántos días duraría esa reunión especial. Suponemos que para estudiar cinco páginas bastaría un día; pero seguramente las leyes de Parkinson y el clima de Roma extenderían esa reunión por lo menos a una semana, cinco días: un día por cada página.

Preguntamos al Prof. Mazoyer y al Embajador Bukhari: ¿Presentarán informe al Consejo, como de costumbre, los dos Comités en esa sesión conjunta, o excepcionalmente será un informe dirigido al Director General? ¿Cuánto costará esa sesión especial? ¿Está ese costo ya incluido -parece que no- en los rubros citados en el párrafo 1.30 en el total de 2.4 millones de dólares? Además de los altos costos de los intérpretes y de los viáticos, la mitad de los miembros de los dos Comités viven fuera de Roma. Los pasajes deberían pagarse desde la China legendaria, pasando por Kuala Lumpur, Malasia, la interesante y atractiva Australia, en las antípodas, la maravillosa Pampa argentina, América del Norte y Europa. Título del film: "La vuelta al mundo para cinco páginas."

Deseamos aclarar que no nos oponemos a que en la FAO se comience a aplicar la reforma del proceso de presupuestación de programas. Debemos ser coherentes, si los representantes de nuestros mismos Gobiernos han apoyado esto en Naciones Unidas y otras organizaciones del sistema. Pero otra cosa es que esto vaya a comenzar a lograrse mediante una reunión especial, costosa e inconveniente. Por ello sería de interés que la Secretaría nos informara cómo se adelanta esa presupuestación por programas en Naciones Unidas y algunas agencias.

Sabemos que generalmente los casos son diferentes en cada organización, que tienen mecanismos diversos. Si las respuestas de la Secretaría nos dieran luces adecuadas, la Delegación de Colombia no se opone a que se busquen los medios, pero realmente prácticos, eficaces, racionales, sin ninguna imposición, sin obedecer a un compromiso específico, que permitan a la FAO adecuarse a lo que ya se está haciendo en otras organizaciones del sistema.

Para volver a la sesión especial propuesta, convendría también revisar los aspectos legales, para que el Consejo no incurra en ninguna decisión contraria a nuestros textos básicos. En efecto, el artículo XXVIII, párrafo 1, del Reglamento General, dice que -cito-"en el segundo año del bienio, en las reuniones de los dos Comités se examinarán el resumen" ¡el resumen!" y el proyecto de Programas de Labores y Presupuesto presentado por el Director General para el bienio siguiente." Luego, el párrafo 2 del mismo artículo XXVIII del Reglamento General habla de las reuniones conjuntas y se refiere de nuevo al resumen - al resumen, no a cinco páginas- y proyecto del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto. Además, el artículo XXXVIII del Reglamento General, en su apartado ii) en relación con las funciones del Director General, dice que el Director General debe "presentar un proyecto de Programa de Labores y Presupuesto", no cinco páginas.

Sólo con ánimo clarificador, tal vez convendría, si usted lo estima conveniente, Sr. Presidente, preguntar al Consejero Legal si esas disposiciones que hemos citado estarían en contradicción con la decisión que los dos Comités nos piden tomar, en el sentido de pedir al Director General que prepare un breve documento, cinco páginas, indicando el nivel del Presupuesto y las principales actividades a realizar. Esto no aparece en los Textos Básicos.

Por su intervención, Sr. Presidente, podríamos preguntar al Consejero Legal si una aprobación del Consejo, como los Comités la piden en el párrafo 1.13 del documento CL 94/4, violaría el Reglamento general de la Organización que sólo puede modificar la Conferencia con una votación calificada de dos tercios. Planteamos estos interrogantes sin prejuicio ninguno y con el sólo deseo de que nuestra decisión se tome dentro de un marco jurídico adecuado. Porque es evidente, a la luz de los Textos Básicos, que si bien el Consejo no puede pedir al Director General nada que no esté contemplado en el Reglamento General, los Comités sí pueden ser convocados por sus presidentes, por el Director General o el método obsoleto que aún rige para el Comité de Finanzas. Naturalmente el Director General, en uso de sus facultades constitucionales, sin ser obligado por el Consejo, espontáneamente podrá presentar lo que él quiera a los Comités.

Mientras hemos estado interviniendo, Sr. Presidente, y después de hacer estas consideraciones, debemos declarar que la propuesta de nuestro colega y amigo López Portillo, de México, nos hace vacilar un poco. ¿Pudiera ser acaso una solución de compromiso?. En esta primera oportunidad, lo más sensato y juicioso, Sr. Presidente, sería que en vez de propiciar una sesión especial, costosa e injustificada, pudiésemos ensayar lo que ha propuesto México. Se trataría de una consulta que lograría los mismos resultados ningún costo. El Director General preparará las mismas cinco páginas, ni cuatro, ni seis, ni cinco se le han pedido; las enviará a los miembros de los Comités a sus residencias, para que no tengan que incomodarse esos colegas viajando hasta Roma. Estos enviarán sus observaciones dentro del plazo estipulado y el Director General ejercerá su función constitucional de elaborar el resumen del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto, en el cual podría tener en cuenta esas observaciones y presentarlo a esos Comités en la reunión ordinaria de mayo.

Cordialmente invitamos al Consejo a que medite serenamente sobre la mejor, más práctica y menos costosa manera de hacer este primer ejercicio, en vía experimental, cuyos resultados podrán orientarnos para lo que se debería hacer a partir del bien: 90-91 y sucesivos.

Por favor, hacemos un llamado, no sólo a los países en desarrollo, sino también a los Estados desarrollados, con actitud positiva, para que no propiciemos esa reunión que sólo tendrá un objetivo ya anticipado. Cualquiera que sea el nivel del presupuesto que proponga el Director General, se propondrá reducirlo; cualquiera que sea la reacción del Director General frente a las observaciones de los dos Comités en la reunión ordinaria de éstos en mayo, se exigirán nuevas reducciones. En el Consejo de junio se insistirá en que el nivel es muy alto, y en la Conferencia se le dará el golpe final. Es el viejo cuento del salame que se consume al ser cortado rodaja por rodaja.

Pasamos ahora al Examen, Sr. Presidente, y empezamos por decir, sin ánimo polémico, con la mayor tranquilidad, que el párrafo 1.9 del documento CL 94/3, nunca debió aparecer en un Informe para el Consejo. Decimos esto, aunque fuera nuestro propio país, Colombia, el que se citase en ese párrafo 1.9; es cuestión de principios. No está bien que en un Informe para el Consejo se incluyan términos de competencias feroz, de reconocimiento de deudas, de pagos a otras organizaciones, incluida la FAO, es decir la FAO en ultimo término. La delegación de Colombia piensa que cuando la Conferencia aprueba el nivel del presupuesto y adopta la escala de cuotas, aunque algunos países hayan votado en contra, o se hayan abstenido, todos los Estados grandes o pequeños, ricos o pobres adquieren un compromiso legal y moral. Ningún país tiene que reconocer su deuda, sino pagarla. Afortunadamente, esta tarde hemos oído noticias que van en esa buena dirección y que celebramos muy complacidos.

Sobre el Examen mismo teníamos serias reservas y comentarlos causados sobre todo por falta de información adecuada y oportuna. Es como si se hubiera tejido una estrategia del silencio. Si somos sinceros entre nosotros mismos todos sabemos que lo que aparece en el documento CL 94/4, aunque corresponda a la reunión de los Comités en septiembre, todo ello fue ya acordado en la reunión de mayo de esos mismos Comités, y cuando recibimos el documento CL 94/3 de esa reunión de mayo no encontramos ni siquiera una palabra sobre lo que ya se había hecho y se murmuraba en todos los corredores. Por lo menos en ese documento 94/3 debería aparecer un párrafo mínimo, los Comités comenzaron a ocuparse de la implementación de la resolución 6/87, sobre lo cual informarán detalladamente al Consejo en su reunión de septiembre. Pero nada, ni una palabra, Sr. Presidente, y eso dio lugar a malos entendidos y a que se proliferaran versiones, que a lo mejor no corresponden a la verdad.

El profesor Mazoyer ha repetido algo que no podemos compartir, y es lo que aparece en el párrafo 1.3 del documento CL 94/4, dicen que ahí los Comités aunque no era su obligación de informar este año al Consejo nos han hecho la concesión graciosa de presentarnos este Informe. Nosotros creemos, Sr. Presidente, que los Comités han hecho muy bien, pero que han cumplido su deber porque son órganos asesores del Consejo. De todas maneras, Sr. Presidente, para contrarrestar a esa falta de información de que hemos hablado, adelantamos contactos particularmente con competentes y distinguidos miembros de los dos Comités, sobre todo de la región de América Latina y el Caribe. Sus explicaciones han hecho que para nosotros desaparezcan, por lo menos en parte, algunas de nuestras preocupaciones. Sabemos que los Comités actuaron de buena fe, pero seguramente se han equivocado. Seguimos pensando que es excesivo el número de expertos escogidos. Nos preocupa el alto costo que, como dijo México, seguramente será superior a 2.4 millones de dólares. Pedimos que la Secretaría nos diga si a raíz de todas las giras que están haciendo los expertos ese costo va a ser superado. Y desde luego estamos de acuerdo con el Director General, en que aparte de los 600.000 dólares que se arbitraron del Programa Ordinario, el resto, cualquiera que sea el monto de ese costo del Examen, se pague con cargo a la cuenta especial de reserva, porque lo contrario sería asentar nuevos reajustes en el Programa de Trabajo.

La división de los expertos en dos grupos, objetivos, funciones, prioridades y estrategias, operaciones de campo y cuestiones administrativas, más los consultores sobre gestión administrativa, todo eso conforma una estructura híbrido mastodòntica de difícil coordinación. El Programa nos había hablado de cuatro informes, seguramente por timidez, no les digo cuál es el cálculo de cuantas páginas contendrán esos cuatro informes.

Sr. Presidente, somos escépticos sobre el resultado del Examen pero, naturalmente, con realismo no vamos a insistir en nuestra oposición porque nadie podrá detener a los expertos en la gira en la que ya están empeñados. El profesor Mazoyer nos habló de que han visitado la sede de las organizaciones que trabajan con la FAO, muy pocas de esas están en países en desarrollo. Y sabemos que los expertos han visitado los santuarios políticos y económicos del mundo: Roma, Nueva York, Washington, y Ginebra. Preguntamos al profesor Mazoyer y a la Secretaría si a esos expertos, acaso les quedará tiempo para visitar a las regiones de los países en desarrollo?

Con ánimo sereno, Sr. Presidente, pedimos a los colegas y amigos; amigos afortunadamente, Presidentes y miembros de los dos Comités, asesores más importantes del Consejo, que ojalá interpreten mis palabras como una modesta, a lo mejor inocua contribución, a que la estructura que nos han edificado, - una estructura bastante voluminosa y de dudosa ejecución -, que esa estructura resulte ser una base sólida y eficaz para el futuro de nuestra Organización. Los Presidentes y miembros de esos dos Comités saben que estos comentarios son marginales y que nada afectan el apoyo que les reitero y la amistad y simpatía que les profeso.

Cualquiera que sea el resultado del examen los delegados de Colombia los juzgaremos con objetividad y espíritu positivo. Eso sí, Sr. Presidente, quisiéramos pedir al Consejo que diéramos una nota de cautela, de ponderación y de seriedad, que ya que nos hemos embarcado en todo este proceso, se proceda con orden, con seriedad, y con mucha objetividad; que no se trata de precipitar las cosas, como lo dijeron aquí algunos colegas el propio día en que se reunió el Consejo.

El profesor Mazoyer ha dicho que en esta ocasión, además de la reunión que en febrero van a tener los dos Comités, en mayo la reunión de esos dos órganos que normalmente son de dos semanas, serán de tres. Aunque mayo traiga 31 días, pues seguramente las dos reuniones van a terminar a fines de mayo. Si el Consejo empieza el 15 de junio, no habrá milagro posible, ni para traducir, ni imprimir y distribuir el Informe, ni para, sobre todo, que los Gobiernos puedan recibirlo, y oportunamente darnos sus instrucciones.

Sin embargo, compartimos con los colegas de países desarrollados que han demostrado alguna prisa en conocer todo esto, que convendrá que se busque un medio para subsanar ese calendario, que es inmodificable en mi opinión.

Pensamos que esto podrá lograrse a través de dos hechos. El primero, y lo pedimos respetuosa y cordialmente al Director General, de que convoque por lo menos dos reuniones de Representantes Permanentes, y esto creo lo dijo sobre este tema el colega de Finlandia, dos reuniones de Representantes Permanentes, repito, por lo menos, para que nos mantenga informados. Y el segundo punto, que la reunión del Consejo de noviembre, inmediatamente antes de la Conferencia, reunión que generalmente se dedica a terminar los preparativos para la Conferencia, en esta oportunidad, excepcionalmente, en vez de que esa reunión duren tres días se le concedan cinco días, para que por lo menos durante dos o tres días el Consejo de noviembre, pero nunca el Consejo de junio 89, el Consejo de noviembre, estudie a fondo los cuatro documentos y luego los transmita a la Conferencia. Esperamos, Sr. Presidente, haber dado muestras de buena voluntad, y pedimos de nuevo a los colegas Mazoyer y Bukhari, a los miembros de los dos Comités, que crean en nuestra buena fe y que nos perdonen si les hemos incomodado con alguno de nuestros comentarios.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie le délégué de la Colombie. Il a posé une question assez importante, à savoir si la révision de nos Comités conjoints en janvier est possible aux termes du règlement général de la FAO. Est-ce que le conseiller juridique de la FAO peut répondre à cette question?

LEGAL COUNSEL: The distinguished delegate of Colombia has asked a specific question, namely, whether or not it will be contrary to the Basic Texts to hold a joint session of the Programme and Finance Committees in January and for the Director-General to comply with the request set out in this document to submit an outline Programme of Work and Budget to that joint session.

As the distinguished delegate of Colombia has pointed out the General Rules of the Organization which deal with the Programme of Work and Budget process specifically refer only to a summary programme of work and budget and a draft programme of work and budget. The General Rules of the Organization are silent then on the question of preparation, of an outline of the Programme of Work and Budget. However, on reading the texts it seems to me that nothing in the rules would preclude the introduction of this extra step in the Programme of Work and Budget process - at least on a temporary experimental basis. Nothing would require the Director-General to introduce this step, but nothing in the texts would preclude him from complying with a request to introduce this new step into the process.

General Rule XXXVII which deals with the functions and obligations of the Director-General, while not requiring him to prepare an outline of the Programme of Work and Budget, would certainly not preclude him from doing so. The powers and function of the Programme and Finance Committees set out in general rule XXVI/7 and XXVII/7 are worded, in my view, in a sufficiently broad way to accommodate an outline plan of the Programme of Work and Budget. General rule XXVIII, cited by the

distinguished delegate from Colombia, does not limit the number of meetings, including joint meetings of the two Committees which may be held, nor does it limit the matters which may be considered at these meetings.

Therefore, I would conclude that the approach taken in the report of the Programme and Finance Committees on the review, whereby the Director-General is requested to prepare an outline Programme of Work and Budget in January 1989, and where he indicates his readiness to comply with that part of the request, would not be contrary to the existing provisions of the General Rules of the Organization. However, should this become a fixed feature of the Programme and Budget process on a long-term basis, obviously it would be highly desirable that it be reflected in the General Rules of the Organization.

One further point, I should draw the attention of Council to the fact that back in 1973 there was a proposal put forward by the Director-General to prepare a Summary Programme of Work and Budget in addition to the Draft Programme of Work and Budget. This was a new step in the process because at that time the General Rules of the Organization referred only to a Draft Programme of Work and Budget. Despite the fact that a new concept of a Summary Programme of Work and Budget was not included in the General Rules of the Organization, it was adopted on a voluntary experimental basis for a period of one biennium before a proposal was made for amendment of the General Rules of the Organization in order to bring the rules into line with current practices.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Agradezco al Consejero Legal su dictamen que es correcto. La versión que nos ha dado el Sr. Moore tendrá el mérito de que sea útil para la forma como se deba redactar la decisión del Consejo. Y ese era nuestro propósito, pero si intervinimos, sobre todo es porque no reclamamos para nosotros ningún privilegio. Somos un Miembro del Consejo como cualquiera de los cuarenta y nueve. Pero no sé si Ud. quiere pensar que alguna de las preguntas que yo hice, de las cuales supongo el Sr. Shah tomó atenta nota, si se responderán ahora pudieran ser útiles para el curso del debate; sobre todo, cuánto costará la reunión especial y cuántos días va a durar.

LE PRESIDENT: Personnellement, je préférerais laisser à tous les délégués le soin de s'exprimer pour que le Secrétariat puisse répondre ensuite. Je ne pense pas qu'un autre délégué posera la même question. M. Shah répondra à toutes les questions en même temps. Si nous adoptons la procédure de faire répondre le Secrétariat à chaque question, nous risquons de faire durer les discussions. M. Shah a pris note de votre demande et répondra en détail à la fin du débat.

Thomas YANGA (Cameroun). Je voudrais tout d'abord exprimer à M. Mazoyer le plaisir qui est celui de ma délégation de le voir parmi nous, et ensuite le remercier de la présentation claire et précise du rapport du Comité du Programme et du rapport sur l'examen de la FAO.

Tout d'abord sur les conséquences de la situation financière pour l'exécution du programme de travail et du budget 1988-89, la délégation du Cameroun déplore profondément ces conséquences. Toutefois les avis du Comité du Programme se fondent sur un document, mentionné dans le rapport et portant la cote PC 54/2, et sur les renseignements complémentaires donnés oralement. De même le Comité a été informé, comme nous tous ici d'ailleurs, d'un ralentissement des dépenses à concurrence de 20 millions de dollars.

Je voudrais répercuter à M. Mazoyer et au Secrétariat une question qui m'a été posée plusieurs fois, à savoir: que renferment en fait les 20 millions de dollars de ralentissement? Quels sont les programmes ralentis, pour utiliser la même terminologie que celle du rapport?

Ce ralentissement des programmes préoccupe au plus haut point ma délégation et nous osons espérer que les nouvelles positives qui nous ont été annoncées par M. l'Ambassadeur Eckert viendront non seulement arrêter à ce niveau ce processus de ralentissement des programmes pour tout le biennium 1988-89, mais aussi, pourquoi pas, accélérer et rattraper le retard pris dans l'exécution des programmes de l'Organisation.

Sur la question de l'utilisation des consultants, ma délégation se rallie à l'appel lancé par le Comité financier sur ce sujet.

S'agissant de la contribution de la FAO à l'exécution du Programme d'action des Nations Unies pour le redressement économique et le développement de l'Afrique, ma délégation se félicite pour tout ce que la FAO a fait pour la formulation et l'exécution de ce Plan d'action des Nations Unies. Aussi

serions-nous intéressés de voir le document mentionné dans le rapport sous la cote PC 54/4, que ce document soit communiqué à tous les membres de l'Organisation afin que ceux-ci puissent apprécier à sa juste valeur l'apport important et déterminant de la FAO dans ce Plan d'action.

Ma délégation approuve la réforme de la procédure du budget-programme proposée au Conseil par le Comité financier et le Comité du Programme, étant entendu d'une part que ce sujet fait partie du mandat donné par la Conférence aux deux Comités, et d'autre part que le Conseiller juridique vient de nous rassurer à ce sujet.

S'agissant de l'examen de la FAO auquel le Cameroun prend activement part en tant que membre du Comité financier, je voudrais d'abord témoigner ici le sérieux et l'atmosphère sereine qui ont animé jusqu'alors les travaux des deux Comités et qui ont eu pour résultat la prise de toutes les décisions par consensus au cours de leurs sessions conjointes, sinon à l'unanimité.

Le souhait de ma délégation est que cet esprit de concertation, de compréhension et de consensus persiste jusqu'à l'aboutissement définitif de ce processus, non seulement entre les membres des deux Comités, mais aussi entre l'ensemble des membres de l'Organisation, compte tenu de l'impact que le résultat de cet examen pourrait avoir sur les activités de l'Organisation pour les deux ou trois prochaines décennies.

Bien que le rapport sur cet examen soit soumis à notre Conseil pour information, nous souhaiterions vivement que le groupe d'experts sur les programmes de terrain ait le temps et les moyens, si ce n'est déjà fait, de se rendre au Bureau régional de la FAO pour l'Afrique, qui à notre avis mérite bien cette visite, compte tenu des problèmes spécifiques de ce Bureau régional.

Pour terminer, je crois nécessaire de rappeler que la Conférence nous a déjà engagés dans ce processus qui est celui de l'examen, et qui est irréversible quel qu'en soit le coût, si douloureux soit-il. Ensuite je voudrais rappeler que les deux Comités sont encore au stade de l'examen, - et j'insiste sur le mot examen car on utilise parfois, par abus du langage, le mot "réforme". Selon les dispositions de la Résolution 6/87, les deux Comités, financier et du programme, sont chargés de mener ce processus d'examen et lorsqu'ils auront terminé leur tâche tous les Etats Membres auront à se prononcer sur toutes les éventuelles propositions que ces Comités soumettront.

Enfin, la délégation camerounaise rend hommage au Directeur général pour l'initiative qu'il a prise d'élargir le champ de cet examen.

Achille RAHARISON (Madagascar): La Délégation malgache tient à remercier Monsieur le Président du Comité du Programme pour son exposé clair et succinct; toutefois notre Délégation tient à signifier ici son point de vue sur la réforme de la procédure du budget et programme. En effet, la question relative au processus budgétaire de la FAO a toujours fait l'objet de longues discussions de la part des Etats Membres. On se souvient qu'à sa soixante-quinzième session le Conseil a décidé

d'instaurer le sommaire du programme de travail et budget; mais, avant l'établissement du sommaire, le Secrétariat devait soumettre au Comité de l'agriculture et au Comité des pêches un projet limité à la partie technique.

Le document, qui avait en moyenne une centaine de pages, ne traitait pas de programmes de terrain mais essayait de démontrer l'allocation maximum des ressources aux programmes techniques, et la sélection rigoureuse des priorités telles que dictées par la Conférence et le Conseil, les conférences régionales et les comités techniques du Conseil. Si je me souviens bien, ce document a toujours été considéré comme incomplet, trop succinct, insuffisamment explicite et manquant de précision, par certains grands donateurs qui ont mis en cause les priorités sans pour autant avancer des arguments convaincants.

A présent, il nous est demandé d'examiner un document de cinq pages, sans doute pour répondre aux exigences de ces pays. Et l'on ne manque pas de s'interroger sur le point de savoir si de cette manière l'on ne veut pas tout simplement fixer avant tout un plafond budgétaire qui rencontrerait l'accord unanime de ces pays car, pour eux, le programme paraît secondaire, l'essentiel étant la contribution engendrée par la fixation du niveau du budget.

Nous n'avons véritablement aucun plaisir à défendre cette procédure pas plus que la politique qui consiste à faire des discriminations à l'égard de la FAO depuis deux ans, et à ne lui consacrer qu'un pourcentage assez faible d'allocations par rapport aux autres institutions spécialisées des Nations Unies.

Si tel n'est pas le cas, la Délégation malgache souhaiterait exprimer de façon bien claire sa position, en disant que le Programme de travail et de budget devrait transcrire fidèlement les résolutions des conférences régionales. Nous sommes convaincus que pour établir ce document, il

faudra toujours tenir compte des demandes des Etats Membres, des résolutions et priorités des conférences régionales, du Conseil et de la Conférence générale, qu'il faudra concentrer les efforts sur les domaines prioritaires, qu'il faudra concentrer le maximum de ressources aux Programmes techniques et économiques, et enfin qu'il faudra inventorier les projets d'intervention en cours sur les terrains et les réajuster pour tenir compte de la situation actuelle, sans perdre de vue la nécessité de maintenir, sinon de réduire, les dépenses administratives et de liaison, au plus bas niveau. Le Secrétariat s'est toujours attaché à respecter toutes ces données.

Et, si le document qui nous est présenté - fut-il de cinq pages - répond à ces critères, comment ne pas l'adopter? Tout le monde, ici, a toujours été favorable à toute action permettant de corriger les lacunes et de renforcer la capacité d'intervention de la FAO. Dans le cas contraire, c'est-à-dire au cas où ce sont les priorités des grands donateurs qui doivent prévaloir et non celles des pays membres qui les ont définies lors des assises que j'ai déjà mentionnées, au cas où l'on voudrait fixer arbitrairement le budget à partir des annonces de contributions ou de la prédisposition des principaux contributeurs à honorer leurs engagements, nous avons des raisons pour ne pas être satisfaits du travail accompli.

On nous a dit que cette procédure ne serait appliquée que pour une année; nous voulons bien ne pas songer à un piège à souris; mais qu'il soit bien entendu que notre acceptation n'impliquera pas du tout la reconnaissance comme légitime de ces versements au compte-gouttes des arriérés de contributions. Elle marque simplement notre curiosité d'expérimenter un système qui, en définitive, ne saurait rien résoudre. Nous ne voulons pas jouer les incendiaires; nous le disons non pas par excentricité mais parce que nous déplorons la faiblesse du budget 1988-89. Nous espérons que l'on reviendra bientôt à un niveau d'opérations plus normal car, en vérité, en cette époque particulièrement difficile que nous vivons, nous souhaiterions rencontrer une volonté de coopération qui soit le réflexe de la disponibilité des grands d'aider ceux qui veulent rattraper leur retard économique, d'aider les peuples qui veulent vivre autrement et forger leur bien-être et leur bonheur. Nous souhaiterions même qu'ils fassent ici une promesse solennelle de ne pas subordonner le paiement de leurs contributions à une question de réforme; certes, l'aide bilatérale demeure l'exemple type d'une coopération librement consentie apportant des solutions concrètes au problème du développement mais le multi-latéralisme est également un cadre unique en son genre pour coordonner la coopération dans plusieurs domaines: un modèle de partenariat Nord-Sud parfaitement adéquat pour mettre en pratique l'interdépendance, l'amitié et la solidarité entre les peuples. J'ai ouvert à dessein cette dernière parenthèse pour ceux qui seraient tentés de nous suggérer notre réflexion ou qui chercheraient par diverses manoeuvres à nous impressionner ou à prendre le contrôle de la FAO; ce serait faire fi de nos aspirations les plus profondes à la démocratie, à la liberté, à la dignité, à la souveraineté nationale et à une coopération internationale compéhensive.

R.G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): First I should thank Professor Mazoyer for his helpful and lively account of the Special Joint Sessions and the ongoing work. I also thank him and his colleague for the report on the Review of FAO in document CL 94/4.

As we mentioned last Tuesday, my delegation - it would seem almost unnecessarily - gave formal notification that we would wish to open discussion on this report. We do, of course, regard this as a discussion of progress. It is designed to help to prepare the Council for the task given to it in Conference Resolution 6/87, the task of conveying its comments on the review to the Conference. It can usefully be an occasion to draw the attention of those directly involved in the review to opportunities which may be taken, or be in danger of being missed, and perhaps also a chance to look at the scope of the review and the current division of labour and to consider when and how areas of potential change not currently being considered can best be pursued in the future.

If there are specific actions which we can conveniently take as a result of the review process, such as the recommendation of the Special Joint Session on the Budgetary Process, then so much the better.

I would emphasize that my delegation does not wish to encourage the Council to take over the review process itself. We do not intend - and I plagiarize the words of the Director-General - to reject or modify proposals now. The recommendations which will come to the Council next year, together with the views of the Director-General, are to be those of the two committees carrying out the task entrusted to them.

The British Government was happy to note the distinction, the wide range of experience and the background of the experts selected and we have been impressed by their robust and independent approach to their difficult task. We have high expectations of their advice and conclusions. I repeat, high expectations, but after all they have to tackle such complex issues as the balance between policy advice and project implementation, the identification of the areas where FAO has competitive advantage and which require action by an international body. They have to make

proposals which satisfy membership about the capacity of the Governing Bodies effectively to govern, and their recommendations have to be such that the implications for the structure of FAO's headquarters, its regional headquarters, and its field offices, can be clearly identified and which can lead to ready implementation of any necessary change.

We ourselves contributed ideas on several issues being covered and submitted them to the Conference, and the British Government officials have been available to develop or explain these ideas for the experts and especially the experts specialising in the areas in which we have made particular studies.

I know, as the Director-General said, that opportunities have been taken by the experts to exchange ideas with governments as they have done their work and I hope they will take literally and in good spirit the preparedness of officials of the British Government to make time available at the convenience of experts.

We were less clear on the extent to which the experts have been able to consult the major users and potential users of FAO's services. It is, of course, more important that the experts should be able to obtain first hand the views of developing countries' users than it is that they seek opinions of donor countries and organizations.

I should be grateful if Professor Mazoyer could enlighten us on the type of contact which was planned to be made possible by the programmes of visits of the two teams and what in fact has happened.

I shall also be interested to know if effective contact has been made with the World Bank, since experts consider FAO should have provision of advice in the formulation of policy guidelines in those areas where the Bank now has the key role. This was a point well made by the Director-General in his statement last Tuesday.

Mr. Saouma also in the same statement characterized this year as "the year of the experts", and next as "the year of the Council and the Conference". To help Member States make their contribution to this process as thoughtful as possible I would ask that the essential ingredients of the review are made available to the membership as soon as each is ready in a useful form. The essential ingredients are, of course, as Mr. Mazoyer said, the reports of the two teams of experts, the review of the committees, the Director-General's comments - I should have said Director General's comments twice - and the views of the Council in transmitting the review to the Conference. It would not lead to premature decision taking if all these ingredients are made speedily available, just greater thoroughness.

As regards the comments by our distinguished colleague from Colombia on the subject, there may be a need for certain short cuts. I would not wish to rule out the holding of the summer Council at a slightly later date in the summer than we currently planned, if it is necessary to make certain the review is conducted efficiently.

The Conference was not able to agree on the way in which management aspects of FAO work should be examined. We were glad to hear that the Director-General had identified areas within his sphere of responsibilities where external advice could advantageously be sought in parallel with the review of the experts. To the extent to which these studies are relevant, they should form part of the review process masterminded by the two committees, and be reflected in their report. The coverage of these reviews of administrative questions, i.e., two areas of finance, personnel and three sub-areas of administrative support services, is not as wide as the British Government, at least, envisages as desirable at quite an early stage. We would expect that the habit of appropriate use of management consultants would continue, particularly when the implications of the review on the administrative structure of the Organization becomes clearer. I note of course that paragraph 1.27 of the Progress Report envisages certain follow-up studies to those already commissioned.

Continuing with the question of possible gaps in the coverage of the review, I should be grateful for guidance on the extent to which the review is, in practice dealing with the suggestions made in the papers to the Conference, on improved functioning of the governing bodies, including this Council. If this review process is, in fact, in practice the taking of such subjects, it would be appropriate if we waited for it. If it is clearly not, we might wish to start thinking separately about ways of reviewing our own working methods, such as by the appointment of an intersessional working party - a device used successfully frequently by bodies equivalent to ourselves in sister organizations.

On the reform of the budget process, the Council has before it a recommendation by the Special Joint Session. My delegation can support the proposed change in practice whereby a budget level is discussed by the Special Joint Session, or by a Special Joint Session in January of the budget year.

I notice an element of finality in paragraph 1.12 of the report, CL 94/4. I read this to mean that this agreed proposal is as far as the Special Joint Session can reasonably go in the time allowed for its contribution to the review process. This is, thus, a first step in a continuous process of review.

We also assume this arrangement will continue unless and until a better one is devised and that, in the light of experience at next January's meeting of the SJS, action will be taken by this Council to incorporate the new mechanism formally into FAO procedures. On this I was interested to hear the opinion of the Legal Counsel a few minutes ago; we shall clearly need his advice on procedures when we get to this point.

Those are my remarks on the review. I have one extra point. I thank you for arranging for the discussion of the Jansson Report separately. May I merely ask, in this connection, that the Jansson Report itself, or at least paragraph 82 which has in it the conclusions and recommendations, be circulated to those delegations who did not manage to bring their own with them.

Yousef Ali Mahmoud HAMDY (Egypt) (Original language Arabic): It pleases us to see Mr. Mazoyer, Chairman of the Programme Committee. We were happy to work with him in a previous period in the Programme Committee, and we would like to thank him on his report on the progress achieved in the operation of reviewing FAO's operations. We support the steps taken by the Programme and Finance Committees in order to implement resolution 6/87 of the General Conference, on the choice of experts, joint sessions held, and the work programme which will be followed by the experts in the fields of studying FAO's objectives, role, priorities and strategies, study of FAO's field of operations, and a review of administrative questions. In this context, we would like to welcome and thank the Director-General for his initiative to expand the scope of the review in order to include the latter two items, in addition to the fact that we endorse the timetable proposed for the submission of reports and their study.

We also endorse the two Committees for their proposal on the reform of the programme budget process by preparing a short or brief document on the level of the budget and considering them in the extraordinary session which will be held in January 1989. We understand the motives behind the convening of such a meeting. However, we would like to pose a question. Will this meeting be repeated in the year of the preparation of the budget and the work programme, or will it be only confined to 1989?

István DOBOCZKY (Hungary): The review of FAO, called for by Member Countries during the last Conference, has been jointly undertaken by the Programme and Finance Committees, assisted by working groups of experts, and supported by the assistance of the Director-General and the Secretariat.

After beginning this work, it had been clear that the original deadline was not realistic, because detailed reports need sufficient time. My opinion is that the new deadline is more realistic, and mainly necessary for the experts to complete their task. The two Committees should be aware of the reports to be submitted by the experts on the one hand and the Director-General's comments on it on the other. After having these the Committees will be in an adequate position to discuss the questions of the FAO Review - the earlier the better, but springtime seems early enough for finishing the work before the next Conference.

However, I am afraid of the timing of the management survey. The complexity of their task and all aspects need hard and busy work during these few months because the two Committees have to get together again, at the latest, in May 1989. The Joint Committee, for practical reasons, ask that priority be given in the first instance to the questions of financial management. It is really a good and useful choice, but their financial management, although very important, is only one aspect of management. Without full complexity, the result of the survey could be even misleading as for the management as a whole. My own opinion is that the administrative services, submitted by international consultant firms, has to support or parallel the study of FAO's objectives, role, priorities and strategies submitted by their expert groups and their committees.

It must be clear whether the administration on different levels is effective enough in managing the programmes or to reach the regions or populations and, by development efforts, or has to be adjusted to the new altered conditions. For this reason, it seems to me that the realistic deadline for a complex report, submitted by consultative firms, would be perhaps early June, and the next joint meeting of the Committees in July to discuss fully these questions too. Depending on the readiness of the consultative firms' reports, it could be held earlier.

We can accept that the Committees have reached a compromise on the question of the programme budget process, as pursued by member countries at the 24th Session of the FAO Conference in November 1987. I would like to express our full satisfaction with the work done in this time by the Committees and welcome the readiness of the Director-General and the Secretariat to comply with their Committees' requests during their work; it is a good beginning only.

These altogether compose a co-operative and constructive atmosphere to strengthen our Organization, in order to help the countries and peoples in co-operation and development.

Bernard LEDUN (France): A propos du document CL 94/4, notre délégation tient à remercier tout d'abord le Secrétariat pour sa rédaction à la fois claire et concise de même que le professeur Mazoyer pour la présentation qu'il en a faite.

La première partie de ce document consacrée au Rapport intérimaire sur l'examen de la FAO n'appelle pas de remarques de fond particulières de notre part puisque la substance de l'examen ne prendra forme qu'au cours du premier semestre 1989, lorsque seront connues les diverses propositions sur lesquelles se pencheront le Conseil puis la Conférence de l'an prochain.

Toutefois, nous avons pris bonne note des dispositions qui ont été arrêtées pour permettre à la fois aux experts et aux Comités du Programme et financier d'accomplir la tâche qui leur a été assignée par la Résolution 6/87.

Nous tenons au passage à remercier le Secrétariat pour l'assistance et les informations qu'il a prodiguées aux experts, rendant ainsi plus aisé un examen qui est certes fort vaste et laborieux. Nous sommes de même satisfaits de la décision prise par les Comités du Programme et financier concernant la réforme de la procédure du budget-programme, qui permet ainsi de réaliser le consensus le plus large possible et d'apporter une solution qui tienne à la fois compte des impératifs techniques du Secrétariat et des vœux exprimés par certains Etats Membres sur ce point lors de la dernière Conférence générale.

Tout à l'heure, le distingué et prolixe représentant de la Colombie a émis de sérieuses réserves sur l'opportunité de réunir ce comité au mois de janvier. Cela a même provoqué chez lui, je pense, une crise d'urticaire; et ce terme est peut-être un peu trop faible: on pourrait ici parler d'une véritable réaction de rejet. Il a justifié cette réaction par le montant élevé, dit-il, du coût que représentera pour la réunion du mois de janvier les déplacements d'un certain nombre de membres du Comité qui viendront de capitales éloignées. Je ne suis pas certain, cependant, que dans son esprit ce soit seulement le coût qui représente un obstacle majeur à la réunion du mois de janvier. Je pense qu'en fait sa réaction de rejet est plus fondamentale, plus large et concerne l'ensemble de l'exercice de l'examen auquel nous sommes en train de nous livrer. Alors, avec tout le respect que je lui dois, je dirai à l'Ambassadeur Bula Hoyos qu'il mène là un combat un peu d'arrière-garde, car les dispositions qui font l'objet des documents soumis à notre examen ont été arrêtées à la dernière Conférence du mois de novembre. Or nous ne sommes plus au mois de novembre, nous sommes maintenant en 1988, à une date où le dispositif global a été arrêté, et nous ne pouvons plus revenir en arrière. Voilà ce que je voulais dire au passage.

L'examen qui est demandé aux deux comités assistés des experts est une entreprise singulièrement complexe, d'abord en raison de son domaine d'intervention, puisqu'elle couvre tout le champ des activités de l'Organisation après l'inclusion, grâce à l'initiative du Directeur général, que je tiens à remercier au passage, des activités de terrain et des questions administratives et de gestion, ensuite parce qu'elle devra aboutir à des conclusions et à des recommandations aussi concordantes et homogènes que possible à partir de positions qui, nous le savons bien tous autant que nous sommes, étaient loin de coïncider au départ les unes avec les autres.

C'est dire qu'il convient ici de se hâter lentement. Pas de précipitation mais un travail réfléchi, minutieux, qui est la condition nécessaire d'un dénouement favorable. Le document CL 94/4 fixe les étapes successives de ce travail. Ne brûlons pas ces étapes et faisons confiance aux efforts des comités et des experts. Ils ont besoin de notre soutien et de notre compréhension.

Bashir EL MABROUK SAID (Libya) (Original language Arabic): Being a member of the Programme Committee I had the opportunity of attending its meetings, as well as attending the joint meetings of both committees, the Programme and Finance Committees, therefore I do not have much to add.

Allow me at the outset to extend my thanks to the Chairman of the Programme Committee for the honest, objective introduction he has made.

The delegation of my country fully agrees with the contents of this report and allow us to make the following observations; the constructive spirit which hallmarked the meetings was most encouraging. There was consensus on most issues related to the review, as was mentioned in Resolution 6/87. The review aims at increasing the capabilities of this Organization in its mission, serving the interests of Member States and covering needs of developing countries and this is a most satisfactory development.

My second observation is that both committees have welcomed the efforts of the Director-General including two specific areas, namely the operational activities of the Organization and administrative matters and in fact, this on the part of the Secretariat means that the Organization has never been rigid, it has always been evolving and developing in the services of the Member states. The Organization responds in a most efficient manner to the needs of the developing countries within an overall changing world context. The Secretariat has furnished all necessary information related to the financial position and the progress report on the activities of our present biennium. It also mentioned the effects of the financial crisis on our programmes and activities. All this information was given to the experts appointed by the Programme and Finance Committees. Some of us might have overlooked the discussion we had yesterday and this is something we deplore.

The Chairman of the Programme Committee has given us an informative report which was most important for the Council. It covered the means available to both committees to implement the Conference Resolution, therefore I think it is premature now to make any new views regarding this review process before the experts finish their work and before both committees and the Director-General look into the findings of these experts. The Report of the joint meeting is crystal clear. The Conference has given this mandate to both committees and I think that it is not in our interest to anticipate and "guesstimate" whatever will happen in the future. Let us leave both committees to do the work.

The Programme Committee mentioned how to improve our Programme Budget in paragraphs 1.9 to 1.13. This was aimed to achieve our goals and therefore I would like fully to endorse what is mentioned in the Report.

Sra. Miriam INZAULGARAT GARCIA DE PEREZ (Cuba): Queremos ante todo agradecer al Profesor Mazoyer, Presidente del Comité del Programa, por el excelente resumen con que ha presentado el tema que nos ha guiado en los puntos más importantes del documento, y que es el resumen de las actividades realizadas por el Comité de Finanzas y del Programa, en virtud del mandato otorgado por la Resolución 6/87. Después de analizado el documento, observamos que hay avances en el Examen de la FAO y nuestra delegación agradece a los Comités por haber anticipado al Consejo una información parcial y autorizada sobre el proceso que tanto interés ha despertado en los Estados miembros.

La delegación cubana acepta la propuesta de que las conclusiones definitivas de ese Examen estarán a punto de debate para el 96° Consejo y la Conferencia General, presentados por los Comités encargados. Ese proceso debe preservar su calidad y el resultado final.

Apreciamos la decisión del Director General, de incluir estudios sobre las operaciones de campo y las cuestiones administrativas, complementos importantes para un examen integral de la Organización. La presentación del Director General, con carácter excepcional, de un breve documento a los Comités, sobre el nivel del presupuesto y de las principales actividades del próximo bienio, mi delegación considera que la fórmula expresada por el Representante de México es justa, en tanto contribuirá al ahorro de los ya exiguos recursos de la FAO. En cuanto a los costos de este Examen, queremos reflexionar un tanto sobre lo expresado en el documento. Todos comprendemos que tales derogaciones en momentos de crisis financiera como se recoge en el capítulo sobre asuntos financieros, hubieran podido destinarse a otras actividades prioritarias del Programa de Labores, teniendo en cuenta que los países en desarrollo, no hemos solicitado tal Examen, y menos en la coyuntura económica y financiera internacional de grave crisis para nuestros países, estancados en su desarrollo y agobiados por una enorme deuda externa. Hemos aceptado su Examen y sus costos correspondientes como muestra de flexibilidad en nuestras posiciones, que contribuyesen a preservar los objetivos y la FAO misma; pero enfatizamos que ese Examen debe continuar ejecutándose conforme a la Resolución 6/87.

Li ZHENHUAN (China) (Original language Chinese): First of all, I wish to thank Mr. Mazoyer, the Chairman of the Programme Committee, for his detailed presentation.

The Chinese delegation has taken note that in their spring and autumn joint sessions respectively, the Programme and Finance Committees reviewed the implementation of Resolution 6/87 of the 24th FAO Conference. The result of their deliberations is as reflected in paragraphs 1.1 to 1.33 in Document CL 94/4.

As indicated in the Report, the Director-General suggested that in particular the review should cover two specific areas, that is FAO's field activities and restrictive management. We support the Director-General's proposals.

We have also taken note that the two expert groups to assist the Programme and Finance Committees have been mounted and started to work. Besides the two committees have also reached consensus on the improvement of programming and budgeting procedures and put forward three concrete proposals. Though during the 24th Session of the FAO Conference the contact group had long discussions about how to improve the programming and budgeting procedures, no consensus was reached. Now the two committees have succeeded in cracking the hard nut left over by the 24th Conference.

We have noted the Mexican and Colombian position on the January meeting. However, considering the steps already taken by the United Nations and other United Nations Agencies, the Chinese delegation in principle endorses the three proposals of the two committees on the improvement of programme and budget formulation but we think it is desirable to start the exercise first on a trial basis as it carries with it multi faceted implications. The success of the exercise will depend on the political will and the active support of the relevant parties.

The Chinese delegation thinks that up till now the two committees have made better progress, as expected in the implementation of the Conference Resolution 6/87. We appreciate their efforts.

We endorse the views expressed in paragraph 1.5 in the report, that is the purpose of the study should strengthen the Organization's capability to better serve its member nations, to make FAO's programmes more responsive to the challenges of the future and to enhance the efficiency. This is a very formidable task.

As a member of the Council, China will continue to follow the development of this exercise and will join in efforts with other member nations in contributing to the success of this exercise.

Sumiji NAKAZAWA (Japan): First of all, I would like to thank Mr. Mazoyer, the Chairman of the Programme Committee, for his excellent and very informative introduction to this Agenda Item.

We believe that the FAO Review is an issue of vital importance to FAO with respect to steering its future course. The process of the Review should, therefore, be carried out with the unanimous support of all member countries, thus ensuring fruitful results. By the same token, it is essential that progress on the Review should be available to member countries and the reports of the Special Joint Session of the two Committees and other relevant information should be disseminated at least to Council member countries at any time. If we receive those documents at the Council session only, we will remain without any information until the following Council in June next year. Therefore, we urge the Secretariat to keep us informed of any progress on the Review.

The Review process, so far conducted by the two Committees, with the assistance of expert groups, seems to be suitable for the purpose of the Review. Accordingly, at this stage we would rather wait and see further progress and look forward to the end result with great expectations. However, we think it essential for the Secretariat and the two Committees, as well as the two expert groups, to know what kind of expectations and interests the member countries have for the FAO Review. This would help the Review exercising bodies to do their duty and would lead to unanimous support for the results by member countries.

We should also touch upon the management review since it is of great importance for maintaining an active organization. We expect its progress and results to be duly followed up by the expert groups and the Special Joint Session of the two Committees.

With this in mind, I would like to make clear the Japanese viewpoint on the FAO Review. Basically we expect FAO, through its review, to contribute further to the development of food and agriculture and rural development in the whole world and in member countries, as well as meeting the needs for technical assistance by developing countries. From this standpoint, we think that, among others, the following three points are most important to enable FAO to respond quickly and effectively to the various food-and-agriculture-related problems of the world: firstly, to strengthen further coordination with other international organizations and assistance organizations concerned; secondly, as an agricultural forum and agricultural information centre of the world, to accentuate the function of information analysis, evaluation and extension; thirdly, as the organization of experts, to establish an efficient and effective management system of various operations including field projects.

From these basic standpoints, I would like to give some details of issues to which, at this point, we attach importance. Firstly, the member countries' needs should be reflected as far as possible

in medium-term objectives, priority sectors and annual programmes of FAO, for which the system should be strengthened. As to the means, discussion related to the priority sectors in the Regional Conference and committees such as on agriculture, forestry and fisheries, should be sufficiently reflected in the Finance and Programme Committees as well as on the Council in a systematic way. With a view to clarifying the priority sectors, long-term objectives and medium-term programmes specifying these sectors should be decided every six years by the Conference. A system of closing current programmes should be introduced in order to give way to new programmes concentrating on the priority sectors.

Secondly, as far as strengthening coordination with other international organizations is concerned, the Organization should consider clarifying its role, as well as collaborating intensively with other international fora and organizations such as WFC and UNCTAD. In order to intensify FAO's function of policy advice, a collaborative system with international credit institutes like the World Bank, IFAD and regional development banks should be introduced.

Thirdly, as the agricultural forum and agricultural information centre, the capacity for information analysis and evaluation should be maintained and improved by staff management, computer utilization, etc. Information activities to member countries and assistance organizations should be accentuated by the dissemination of technical information, project proposals, reports of workshops, etc.

Fourthly, for the purpose of strengthening the efficient and effective management of various operations, the regional organizations of FAO should be reviewed in such a way as to clarify their roles and strengthen their functions - for example the function of policy advice, programme arrangements with other organizations, TCDC activities, etc. The process of decision-making in the Secretariat could be simplified and clarified and staff management improved so that morale and the ability of the staff are suitably enhanced. It is also very important to rationalize the process of drawing up, implementing, adjusting and evaluating field programmes, including Technical Cooperation Programmes, by properly responding to the member countries' needs, maintaining relations with FAO's Regular Programme, and improving the method of implementation, monitoring and result reviewal.

These are some examples of the issues which we consider important for the purpose and spirit of Resolution 6/87 which, as is properly formulated in paragraph 1.5 of document CL 94/4, is to strengthen the Organization's capacity better to serve its member nations, to make FAO's programmes more responsive to the challenges of the future and to enhance efficiency.

We hope that due consideration by the relevant bodies will be given to the suggestions we are here presenting.

Finally, as to the issue of the reform of the budget process, described in paragraphs 1.10 to 1.20 in document CL 94/4, my delegation does not have difficulty in accepting the measure submitted by the two Committees and, as a non-member country of the two Committees, we would like to look carefully at how the measure works in preparation for the next biennium's programme budget.

Omer ZEYTINOGLU (Turquie): Nous comprenons, de l'étude du rapport intérimaire et des explications détaillées et claires de M. Mazoyer que les travaux sur l'examen concernant la réforme de la FAO se déroulent comme prévus. On peut même dire qu'ils sont dans la bonne orientation. C'est une question très délicate, et de ce fait une approche attentive et patiente est nécessaire. L'Organisation doit saisir cette occasion pour renforcer encore davantage son fonctionnement. Il faut assurer un terrain favorable pour que les deux Comités, conjointement avec les experts, puissent remplir ces tâches très difficiles.

Par ailleurs, nous accueillons avec satisfaction l'inclusion de l'examen des activités opérationnelles sur le terrain, ainsi que les questions administratives et financières. Il paraît que le groupe d'experts qui va étudier les activités opérationnelles sur le terrain se rendra en Turquie. Si c'est le cas, nous allons mettre à profit cette occasion pour transmettre aux experts l'expérience que nous avons acquise dans ce domaine.

Hannu HALINEN (Finland): I speak on behalf of the Nordic countries.

Let me at the outset express our satisfaction that the reform review process of FAO is well under way. We are indeed expecting the reports and recommendations of the two expert groups, as well as the management consulting firms, together with the comments of the Director-General, with the greatest interest. We are looking forward to a substantive and comprehensive discussion on this issue at the next session of the Council leading to the Conference in November 1989.

Let me also express our gratitude to the Chairman of the Programme Committee, Dr. Mazoyer, for shedding more light on the somewhat limited information on this issue contained in Council documents CL 94/3 and CL 94/4.

The experts are in the middle of their work. Without in any way prejudging the outcome of their consideration we stress - based on the wide and profound interest of many Council members - that this discussion should be promptly brought to their attention.

Additionally, action and coordination between the two expert groups, which we feel is useful and important, should in our opinion be extended to cover the work of the management review firms as well.

The essential condition to an appropriate consideration by the Ninety-fifth Council of the reports mentioned before is their availability to the Council Members in their original form, and in good time before the meeting. In the latter respect, as with some other delegations, we are somewhat concerned about the shortage of time between the scheduled meeting of the Session of the Committees and the Council next summer.

The Nordic countries have, since the last Conference, been actively pursuing issues most important to them within the reform process, keeping in mind the ongoing and evolving nature of the process itself. The Organization will benefit most from the wise and open dialogue between all Member States and management in this question. We must remember that although the experts can, and most probably will, make a substantial contribution to the review process it is the Member Nations who in the final analysis have the responsibility to carry on and to develop further this discussion in order to reach consensus on this important question. The Nordic countries have been conducting informal consultations with some other donor countries, the Director-General and members of the secretariat, staff of FAO, to further clarify our views on review issues.

As reflected in the documentation of the last Conference, one area we have been particularly interested in is the priority setting of FAO. We have attempted, with our own experts, to consolidate and elaborate our views further on this issue. Suffice to say that the focal point of this discussion is the future role of FAO which, to a large extent, involves the balance between policy advice and technical assistance. It is our firm belief that in sectors dealing with agricultural policy advice structural adjustment programmes, FAO has (and should have) an important role to play. In order to facilitate the implementation of this role better coordination and cooperation of some agencies in this field is essential.

I will mention briefly another example dealing with strategies and objectives of the Organization. We feel that Member States should be able to devote their time more effectively to the discussion of the medium-term plan of FAO. In our minds this leads to some rethinking about the agenda of the Conference. The reform of the budget process, as suggested in document CL 94/4, paragraph 1.10, is a welcome step in the right direction to review the workload of the Governing Bodies.

We note with satisfaction that on the initiative of the Director-General, the management review was included in the broader context of the review process. Recently we have had the facility of studying the terms of reference of the management review. However, we have to point out that the review appears not to be as far-reaching and thorough as we would have hoped. This is particularly the case with respect to the area of personnel practices. We are somewhat concerned whether or not the contractor selected to perform this part of the review really has a clear mandate to make serious recommendations for changes. In this context we especially regret the fact that such important areas in any management review as management function and control systems are absent from the terms of reference. Of course, we mention the concerns in the context of this individual exercise only. We are confident that as the evaluation of management issues is an evolving and continuous process then in the follow-up work all relevant questions will be covered.

Finally, concerning substantial issues of high priority to us, we are happy to note that two of such issues were already included on this Council's agenda, namely, environmental questions and sustainable development and also the role of women in development. We are encouraged by the tone and content of these discussions which we feel goes well for our future work.

Waliur RAHMAN (Bangladesh): As others, I welcome Professor Mazoyer to this afternoon's meeting. His absence was acutely felt last week. His presentation of the report of the review of FAO is clear and focussed. We commend it.

It is no time for polemics. As the Conference decided, the Member States of FAO thought it appropriate to invite a group of experts to help us in giving a direction to us to find ways and means of reaching our objectives. The Bangladesh delegation recognizes that the present Progress

Report of the Programme and Finance Committees shows us that the two Committees, in cooperation with the Director-General, have been making good and sincere efforts for the implementation of the Conference Resolution.

At this stage we express our satisfaction with the deliberations and the report of the two Committees. The consensus on the reform of the Programme's budget process which could not be achieved during Conference last year is definitely a positive step forward to making a healthier Organization. We believe that similar cooperation and understanding will prevail in all our efforts, in all respects to enable us to get out of the present situation. We thus endorse the present framework. In this regard may I refer to paragraph 1.11 wherein it is stated that "The Director-General indicated his readiness to comply with the above request". We particularly hope that after the green signal given by Legal Counsel, the Director-General in his wisdom will make the best use of the decision. It is in this context also that we endorse paragraph 1.5 of the document.

We particularly appreciate the readiness of the Director-General to incorporate field operations and administrative questions under the purview of the present review. While welcoming this we would like to stress that when these two specific areas are reviewed this would not only meet some of the concerns that we have heard, but also would enhance the efficiency and the effectiveness of the Organization for which the process of review was taken in hand.

Before I conclude I have two small queries, namely, is there any cut-off time in the submission of the report; and secondly, on what basis the distinguished experts are visiting the recipient countries - major or minor? I ask this question because obviously they cannot go to all the countries.

F. Warren J. MAJOR (Canada): First, my delegation would like to thank Professor Mazoyer for his presence here today and for his work to date. Last Tuesday, Mr. Chairman, you offered guidance as to how this item on our agenda should be approached. We believe you set the stage for a constructive discussion whereby Council could enrich the deliberations of the review teams. We are very happy to note that your advice has prevailed.

It recalls Resolution 6/87 itself which said that many Member Nations with different views emphasized their openness to dialogue and their desire for agreement on this important issue in the interest of strengthening support for the organization. We hope the record of this Council will confirm that this is still the case. Obviously, there are some serious and persistent problems in world agriculture and we all want FAO to make its full contribution towards resolving them. We certainly view the current review exercise as a move in that direction. The exercise has begun punctually and, as the Director-General pointed out in his opening statement, is proceeding on schedule.

The SJS debate in May resulted in the very prompt establishment of mandates and terms of reference for part 1 and part 2 of the review. In short order two impressive panels of experts, including many eminent and respected authorities, were recruited and began their enquiries. All the indications are that they are working diligently towards their February deadline and we await their full reports with keen interest.

Now, for the first time, the Council has before it a description in summary form of the scope and orientation of the whole review exercise including part 3 - the management reviews. The Council has the opportunity to consider whether the three parts when completed will have addressed all aspects of the Resolution - the Conference will expect no less.

We wholeheartedly agree with Professor Mazoyer that this is not the time to move the goalposts. However, if Council members require any clarification as to the coverage of the Resolution it would seem only prudent to seek them sooner rather than later. As an SJS member Canada has now been able to examine the detailed terms of reference of part 3, alongside parts 1 and 2, and we would express the sincere hope that some elements of the Resolution which were important to us are not falling between the cracks. In the context of the work called for in paragraphs A, B and C of the Resolution we are hopeful that we shall see some focussed consideration of priority setting practices, of decision making processes in Governing Bodies, the inter-relationships of our Committees and the recording of decisions and of membership involvement in the planning, approval and execution of field programmes, including, but not limited to, the TCP.

By virtue of paragraph D of the Resolution we would look for suggestions to enhance practical cooperation with other members of the UN family by all the review teams at both the operational and policy level.

Somewhere between part 2 and part 3 we hope that there will be close attention to actual administrative costs, for example, of project execution and field representation and the effect of cross-subsidization between the field and regular programmes. We view the examination by Expert Group 1 of FAO's objectives, priorities and strategies as timely, but we are uncertain how the review will address the capability of FAO to conduct evaluation of its programme on an on-going basis.

Similarly, we hope that the consultant who has been assigned the task of conducting the conceptual review of the financial management and accounting policies will bear in mind the need for a more meaningful and useful financial statement on operations by the membership and not just by the managers. It may well be that some of these areas have already been taken on board by the teams and my delegation hopes to take back assurances on this score. The various mandates and tasks are broadly worded in some cases and not much is said about the linkages and inter-actions between them. Also, some tasks are identified as conceptual reviews which could by some process lead to subsequent and more detailed proposals. Turning it another way around, I suppose what I am asking is whether we are right or wrong in believing that when the various elements are completed these concerns will have been addressed?

Turning to one specific point for decision, that is paragraph 1.9 to 1.13, Canada readily accepts the measure proposed in paragraph 1.10 for the 1990/91 biennium. If the experience proves workable we would look forward to its incorporation in the budget cycle on a continuing basis.

To sum up, there are many elements and stages in the review exercise and time is of the essence. The Council will have further occasion to discuss this issue next June and a further opportunity to satisfy itself that the information requested by the last Conference will all be available for the next Conference.

Paul R. BRIDEN (Australia): We thank Professor Mazoyer for his helpful introduction of this item. My delegation commends the arrangements for the review that have been made by the Joint Session. We welcome the selection of a balanced group of experts and we also welcome the close collaboration of the Director-General and Secretariat in assisting the review. We look forward to seeing the expert group's reports as soon as they are available in sensible form. This will both facilitate the work of the Joint Session at its Session in May and also our discussion at our June Council. For our part, we will continue to participate purposefully in the process.

Regarding the suggestions for the reform of the programme budget process, my delegation associates itself with the support for the proposed measures (a), (b) and (c) in paragraph 1.10 of document CL 94/4 which we have heard during our debate.

We supported a resolution along these lines at the Conference and would also have happily supported an alternative resolution which was inexplicably withdrawn at the last moment but which contained the same basic elements. We see the measures as helping to provide at the earliest stage involvement of members, donors and recipients alike in the formulation of the budget. In this regard we do not think that the Mexican proposal, endorsed by several other delegations, meets the expressed wish of this body in its larger manifestation expressed last November.

I have mentioned this point before, and I hope we are not having a dialogue of the deaf. My delegation's concern with the review currently under way of FAO's objectives, role, priorities and strategies, is to further enhance FAO's ability to provide assistance to its members. It has nothing - I repeat nothing, and I will spell that word if required - to do with the current financial crisis or threats and intimidation. Our concerns are well known, predate the current financial crisis, and elements of our thinking are there for all to see in document C 87/10.

Many other delegations contributed views in favour of a review, or against, which were quite separate from the financial crisis.

We are encouraged by the Joint Session's view expressed in paragraph 1.12 of document CL 94/4 that these measures will represent reform of the process. We would prefer to await implementation of the measures before passing a final judgement. If the measures are deemed successful Council may then wish to consider recommending to Conference that they be adopted as a normal part of the budget process as suggested by the United Kingdom delegation, the Legal Counsel and others. We think that the measures are an important first step in the process of improving the budget process.

The suggestion has been made that arrangement be made to circulate the five-page outline by mail, a kind of chess by mail game. Quite apart from any question of returning our Organization's processes to the Nineteenth Century, the proposal does raise the issue as to whether we should have all our meetings like that. We could play FAO chess by post; think of the savings. But that is surely not

the point. The point of meetings is to bring people together for exchanges of views and ideas, to bring vitality and reality into the life of our Organization. For our part, we appreciate the sympathy offered at our fatigue in travelling far, but we are willing to make the sacrifice in the interest of enhancing FAO's capacity to offer effective assistance to members.

We would welcome further information on the selection of the management consultants and their terms of reference. Perhaps this could be passed to the Finance Committee.

The United Kingdom and Canadian delegations raised the question of the review covering the processes of our Governing Bodies including the Council. We think it is important to reflect on the way we go about our business. For example, the Colombian delegation suggested two meetings on the review between the Permanent Representatives and the Director-General. Perhaps these could be regularized as in ESCAP and UNCTAD. I merely give this as an example.

We support the views of Canada and Japan regarding the need for consideration of priorities and medium-term perspectives which relate to the programmes of work in the review process, as pointed to in resolution 6/87.

In conclusion, we commend the work in progress on the review, look forward to continuing to participate fully and positively in the process, and support the proposed budget measures as an important first step. We consider we are all at the oasis and have our ties on.

Ms. Joan DUDIK-GAYOSO (United States of America): Let me add my thanks to those of others for Professor Mazoyer's remarks on the progress reports before us. The United States commends the Programme and Finance Committees for their work in organizing the Review of FAO mandated by Conference Resolution 6/87. We are pleased that highly qualified experts have been chosen to participate in the review and that the experts are making progress in their work. We look forward to reading the report of the experts when it is completed and circulated to members and would join our voice to those who have suggested that those reports be made available as soon as possible. We also look forward to learning the views of the Director-General on the experts' report and participating in preparation of the final report of the Review of the Programme and Finance Committees during their meeting next spring prior to the June Council.

We have one specific suggestion to make with regard to the review. We have read with much interest the recent reports of FAO's External Auditor contained in Conference documents C 89/5, C 89/6 and C 89/7. We requested these reports be provided to the experts as they contain information that may prove helpful in their work.

In regard to reform of the programme budget process, the United States approves of the measure that the Programme and Finance Committees have submitted to the Council. By providing for a meeting of the Committees in January 1989 to consider a budget outline this measure allows members an earlier input into the process of developing a Programme of Work and Budget. That process will continue through 1989, culminating in November in a Conference decision on the budget. In sum, then, we approve of the measures submitted by the Programme and Finance Committees under paragraph 1.10 (a), (b) and (c), of document CL 94/4.

We also look forward to constructive participation in the process, which we believe can result in a Programme of Work and Budget that can be supported by all FAO's Members. This is an important first step. As others have said, however, it is premature to judge the effectiveness of that process, and to characterize its achievements at this point, but my delegation is very encouraged and we look forward to the January meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees.

As for Part III, Management Review, we are pleased that the Director-General has initiated this important work. We understand that he has issued tenders to consulting firms, that some contracts have already been signed and that indeed some of this work is already under way with a team of consultants in FAO. We would like to request the Secretariat to provide some additional clarifications about this review, specifically what consulting firms submitted the winning bids and by what criteria were the bids judged. We would like to know what guarantees there are to ensure that contractors will have unimpeded access to FAO staff and final authority on the content and wording of their reports. It would seem that the best way for the Secretariat to answer these or other questions about contracts would be to arrange for members of the Programme and Finance Committees to examine the contracts.

We have some general suggestions to offer on the process of the management review and some specific points to make about the terms of reference for that review. In general, first of all, the need for and content of the two phases is still not clear to us. We would appreciate an explanation of why there are two phases and what these two phases entail. We believe the management review will be more effective if the work of the consultants can be enriched by the work of the experts being

conducted under Resolution 6/87. For this reason the management review contractors should early in their work establish communication links with the group of experts. Also we note that the report of the FAO External Auditor on the FAO Regular Programme printed in document C 89/5 contains sections on Personnel Management that should prove informative for the management review consultants. We suggest that the consultants discuss this report with the External Auditor.

Some specific comments and suggestions on the terms of reference are, that the subject area of finance indicate that the review should determine how FAO financial reports may be improved to become more transparent and more meaningful. This is an important point. My delegation requests that the consultants be informed that these financial reports are used not only by FAO managers but also by governments of member countries and their delegates. Many of us have found these reports incomplete, lacking in relevant detail and hard to understand. The terms of reference call on the consultants to review and evaluate the adequacy and completeness of FAO's accounting procedures and practices, but they do not specify the standard for determining adequacy. For the management review's conclusions to be useful the consultants should clearly understand that the standard of adequacy is specifically the generally accepted accounting standards of the United Nations system.

The terms of reference for the subject area of Personnel do not include a systematic study of how FAO's posts are related to the structure of the Organization and the tasks it must perform. That is a study that the External Auditor has recommended in his Report on the Regular Programme in document C 89/5, and we suggest that the consultants discuss this recommendation and the reasons for it when they meet with the Auditor.

Mr. Chairman, you spoke, as others have mentioned already, of enriching the work of the experts. A number of remarks that I have made here are suggestions to help link various pieces of the review processes now under way. My delegation believes that another helpful step to ensure that pieces of work will be complementary would be to have the report of this Council and its verbatim conveyed by the Chairmen of the two committees to the experts and the consultants themselves.

Finally, we wish the consultants and the experts complete success in their work. It is important to all of us and to our nations. We look forward to the submission of their reports to the Programme and Finance Committees and to discussions of the reports when they come before the Ninety-fifth Council.

V.K. SIBAL (India): I would like to extend a welcome to Mr. Mazoyer, who is with us today to help us in our discussions. I would like to compliment him on the very clear report he has given. I have listened very carefully to interventions that have been made on this very important subject. It seems to be evident that it is too premature for a debate on the subject of the review. What we have before us is a timetable of work drawn up by the designated agencies, entrusted with the task of the Conference in November 1987, and the only substantial point for decision for the Council today involves the changes in the budget process.

Before I come to some of the points of detail, I cannot help but point out to you that an objective appreciation of the review process has been hindered by the financial situation. We are convinced that, if there were no difficulties in finance, the review process would have been smoother and would have generated fewer fears and doubts. We are participating in the review to strengthen the Organization, to make it more responsive to our needs and to increase its sufficiency. The commitment to the review has been demonstrated in full measure by its expansion, on a voluntary basis, to cover the field operations and the administrative questions for which there was no clear mandate from the Conference.

This has been done considering that the expansion will make the review more useful, and also it is an index of the management's commitment to positive results so that something good and substantial should come out of it. As far as the changes in the budget process are concerned, we agree fully with what is stated in paragraph 13 and paragraph 33. This exercise is too serious and too solemn to be trifled with. We knew it from the beginning, from the word go, that there would be costs, and heavy costs associated with the review, yet we accepted both the review and the costs with open eyes.

I recall that in the Conference, immediately after the resolution was passed, there was a mention of the kind of costs this was going to involve. Therefore, the financial argument is too weak and too insubstantial, at this stage, to be made on the basis of an attack on the review process. We committed ourselves to the review in November 1987; there is and can be no going back.

The agreement on changes in the budget process is the one substantial result of the work done so far. We must not fritter it away. It has not been plucked suddenly from the stars; it is the result of a close, patient, constructive, positive negotiation to achieve results conducive to the good of the FAO. Let us not throw this opportunity away or regress from the positive positions which we have accepted.

We have heard that what is stated in paragraph 1.12 is the hyperbolic. We are not in agreement with this appreciation. What we have is a simple statement of what has been achieved as a result of the changes which are proposed, because all that is being said here is that, through these changes, FAO would have achieved a reform of the process of the programme budget as pursued by other organizations in the UN system. This is not a hyperbolic statement; it is only a factual statement.

Some legal doubts were raised about the meeting in January. I think the Legal Counsel has set the position straight, and he has very clearly said that what is happening in 1988 has also happened in 1973 - that, in fact, there is a parallel to the situation today.

The costs of the Special Session in January are a very small part of the overall costs of 2.4 million dollars, which are being envisaged. If we are not calling the January meeting, we might save some money, but we may give a serious and perhaps irreversible setback to the understandings on which the review is proceeding. While reviewing this matter, we must remember that what we are agreeing with is what we have agreed to in other UN fora. There has been a lot of give and take in the formulation arrived at. Let us pursue it and strengthen the spirit which has brought about this result.

As far as the two meetings of Permanent Representatives to keep as informed on this issue is concerned, I would like to say that there are mechanisms which are established, which are working to keep the regional groups informed of what is happening and, in the light of these working arrangements, we are not very sure whether anything substantial will be achieved by having the proposed meetings.

A doubt has been expressed as to whether the changes in the budget process would put a ceiling on the budget level. If one were to read these paragraphs concerned, they are very clear that all that is being sought to be obtained is an opportunity for the two Committees to express their views on a budget level that may be proposed; that those views will be kept in view by the Director-General who has a constitutional right to approach the Conference with what he considers to be the appropriate budget level.

We consider that a very valuable point was made by the United Kingdom that the Council should not take away from the mandate of the two Committees. This review has been entrusted to certain bodies; they have been told the terms of the reference; they have also been told in what manner the review is to be done. Therefore they should be left to do it in an objective way. This examination should be considered a technical examination, not a political examination and, after the technical examination, when the results are available, we should be able to examine those results and give our views on each of the individual recommendations.

The point was made whether there have been any contacts by the experts with the World Bank or developing countries. I am sure Mr. Mazoyer will give details later on. We have the privilege of being members of the Programme Committee, and we know for a fact that these contacts have taken place.

The point has been made that the management review is not wide enough. We have a problem here. The management review that was sought was an issue for negotiation in the November Conference; it was not agreed to. It was a subsequent development that, with a view to making the review more comprehensive, certain important issues were brought up before the two Committees on which all groups were represented and the issues which were prioritized were entrusted to firms of consultants. The Committees had a big menu before them and, if all those issues were to be studied, the bill would reach astronomical figures. We should not approach the review process with unnecessary doubts and fears, or with misplaced hesitation. Let us have faith in what we have set out to do, and await further reports before loading any muskets. Of course, in the meantime, to quote a great general "we can keep our powder dry".

With regard to the terms of reference of the review, there has been some comment with a view to perhaps expand or modify them. We are not very sure whether this is the time for these inputs into the review process. The terms of reference of the review have been settled. Work is being done by the designated bodies. These bodies should be allowed to work unhindered to carry out this technical and objective analysis of the issues involved. We should steer clear of the temptation to oversee or influence either the manner or the orientation or even the content of the work at this stage. As far as the reports are concerned, a suggestion has been made that these should come at a particular time, and by a particular date. This, again, is something which may be very difficult from the operational point of view. It may not be appropriate to bind the Committees to give a report by a specific date or to settle the format of their report.

All sections of the Council are represented on the two Committees and we are sure that the format of the report will be responsive to the expectations from it. I do not think we have to lay down in the Council itself what the report should look like or what kind of format it should have. The Conference has pronounced what it wishes the two Committees assisted by the experts to do, and we should not interfere with, expand or contract its mandate.

The expectations of the review will vary, we are conscious of that, as will the interpretation of the terms. All countries concerned have been given an opportunity to express views on this subject. These are available to the Experts, and these are available in the documents. Let us not overload the process now by giving the Committees and the Experts new signals from the sidelines which will only confuse and make their task more difficult.

Reports of the Experts are to be submitted to the two Committees, who appointed them. That is also very clear in the mandate. What the Council should have is the report of the two Committees, the advice of the experts as an input to that report, and it is for the Committees to decide in what format the report will come to the Council.

Joao Augusto de MEDICIS (Brazil): I want to thank, through you, the Chairman of the Programme Committee for the information on the progress report on the review of FAO. The implementation of resolution 6/87, which entrusted these Committees with this difficult task, is no doubt being accurately carried out, and we are glad to applaud the efforts of all members of both Committees to fulfil that task. Let me remind you what has been said by my delegation during the first meeting of our session. I quote, "the Finance and Programme Committees have a mandate from the Conference. It is only the Conference which can interpret this mandate. It is not up to this Council to give guidance either to the Committee or the experts nominated by the Committee". Let me endorse in whole what has been said by the Indian delegate on the negative repercussions of the financial crisis on the review process. I could not agree more with him in this respect.

It is with surprise we hear about requests that the experts who advise both Committees convey their reports to Member States. As I said before, the review process was entrusted to the Finance and Programme Committees by the Conference, and those Committees are supposed to report in due time to this Council. The review is not being done by the experts, so there is no reasonable basis for them to report to Member States or to present their findings to this Council.

Regarding the reform of the programme/budget process, my delegation welcomes the Committees decision since it should improve the whole process and facilitate approval of the PWB by the 25th Conference. Above all, my delegation understands this provision will be adopted on a provisional and experimental basis, a definite decision on the new scheme being left for the future. The distinguished representative of Colombia raised some very pertinent doubts on the legal aspects of the changes proposed by the Committees. My delegation believes those doubts are behind the decision of the Committees to adopt this new scheme on a provisional and experimental basis, leaving the final decision to the Conference. This view was reinforced by the legal opinion of Counsel. It was pointed out that we should watch very carefully how this new process works before deciding on its confirmation.

On the study of FAO's objectives, role, priorities and strategies, there is not much to be commented on for the time being. My delegation would like only to welcome the efforts underway by the experts, under the wise chairmanship of Mr. Faaland.

On the study of FAO's field operations, my delegation is pleased to inform that Mr. Sastry and Mr. Sarraf had the opportunity to visit Brazil in the course of their programme of work. On that occasion those experts had the opportunity to meet officials in charge of development action in various offices and most important had the chance to go into the field and visit many of the FAO projects underway in Brazil. We are sure that those visits will very much enrich the report with suggestions for the improvement of field activities of the Organization.

As to the review of the administrative questions, we can presently only welcome the proposals put forward by the Director-General and expect the results of the consultants' work to be analyzed by the committees and eventually brought to the attention of this Council. In this regard, I think it necessary to call the Council's attention to the fact that the consultants cannot avoid abiding by the decisions taken by the Programme and the Finance Committees by whom they are entrusted to undertake the review of the administrative questions and to whom they must eventually report. Therefore, the terms of reference are not a restriction to their work but necessary guidelines to enable them to produce a report in line with the necessities established by those committees.

We would like to endorse the request made by the United States delegation that the Secretariat provide us with some more information on the management review.

Finally, let me emphasize that the schedule for the presentation of the reports by the experts to the committees and by the committees to the Council and finally, by the Council to the Conference was discussed at length in our last deliberations. I had advocated an earlier presentation of the reports but eventually gave in to the evidence that the request for an early presentation would represent an undue pressure on both the experts and the committees, and would hamper the achievement of the review process goals. The Committee should be allowed, in the view of my delegation, enough time to produce the best report possible and that will certainly not be feasible by June next year. So the discussion of the report could only be carried on later in the year.

Amin ABDEL MALEK (langue originale arabe): Je me joins aux collègues qui m'ont précédé en présentant mes remerciements à M. Mazoyer, président du Comité du Programme pour l'excellente revue qu'il a présentée, à propos du rapport de la session conjointe du Comité du Programme et du Comité des Finances.

Je saisis cette occasion pour remercier le Directeur général qui a décidé d'inclure, dans le cadre de ses prérogatives, l'étude de deux questions supplémentaires qui sont les activités opérationnelles de la FAO et les questions administratives. Nous avons été informés des progrès réalisés dans cette étude par les rapporteurs des deux comités d'experts au cours de la dernière réunion conjointe des deux comités au mois de septembre dernier, et nous sommes heureux de constater que le travail progresse bien.

Monsieur le Président, permettez-moi maintenant de m'exprimer en ma qualité de représentant du Liban et de membre du Comité du Programme. Je ne peux qu'approuver le rapport comme il a été présenté par M. Mazoyer, et en particulier les paragraphes de 1.9 à 1.13. Après discussion, les deux comités ont approuvé à l'unanimité les quatre points cités. Le Conseiller juridique a affirmé qu'il est possible de tenir une réunion conjointe des deux comités au mois de janvier 1989, pour étudier le document que le Directeur général proposera concernant la préparation des Programmes de travail et de budget pour le biennium 1989-1991, y compris les principales activités contenues dans ces Programmes.

Nous approuvons pleinement cette initiative.

Horacio CARANDANG (Philippines): We have studied the documents carefully, Document CL 94/3 and Document CL 94/4. In our view the only issue requiring the decision of the Council is the reform of the programme budget basis in paragraphs 1.9 and 1.12. The other matters are information. We are waiting for the reports which will be carried out and presented to us according to the modalities of the Resolution 6/87. We shall pass judgements on these reports when they are ready, together with the comments of the Director-General. The Philippine delegation refrains from making comments on the objectives, the modalities, the scope of this review. We have agreed on this during the last Conference. We have confidence in the Programme and Finance Committees assisted by the experts and we are looking forward. We do not have yet the elements to pass judgement on the quality of their work.

The Philippine delegation can agree with the proposal on paragraphs 1.9 and 1.12 of Document CL 94/4. The approval of this proposal to hold an extra joint session of the Programme and Finance Committees, which I understand on an experimental basis, the institution of the process will require an amendment of Rule XXVIII of the General Rules of the Organization, according to the provisions of Rule XLII of the same General Rules of the Organization. If necessary we can look at the issue at a later stage. It will be recalled that the Resolution was tabled during the last Conference on this matter. It was not possible then to reach an agreement but as recorded in paragraph 146 of the Report of the Conference it was noted that in accordance with paragraph 3 of Resolution 6/87, the views expressed in the Conference on this matter would be taken into account during the in-depth review called for by that resolution. In other words, the Conference itself has made a provision for looking at this matter and this will be one issue I think which could be submitted to us later at the Conference if necessary, together with the reports of the Programme and Finance Committees.

Winston RUDDER (Trinidad and Tobago): My delegation intervenes to lend support to the substance of the presentation made by the Chairman of the Programme Committee early this evening. The Programme and Finance Committees together with the Secretariat, are to be congratulated on the dispatch with which they have approached the task of the review of the FAO mandated by the 24th Conference. My delegation endorses the approach taken, notes the progress made thus far and looks forward with interest to the finalization of the reports and the comments thereon of Council's consideration prior to the 25th Conference 1989.

This review exercise is indeed very complex and comprehensive and in this regard the Director-General and the Secretariat must be complimented for facilitating the task of the committees. It is particularly refreshing to note the enthusiasm and the constructive approach adopted by the Director-General as a result of whose intervention the scope and consequently the potential contribution of the review have been considerably enhanced. As a result it is likely to be a much more meaningful exercise. We are indeed very sanguine over the fact that the results of this exercise will enhance the overall effectiveness of the Organization. No doubt it will also dispell the substantive concerns of some and confirm the views of others about the credibility and validity of FAO as a development system and institution with a clear policy advisory role in agricultural development. The heightened interest over the way the exercise is progressing is quite understandable. However, my delegation holds the view, like that of the Indian delegation that we should not attempt at this stage to preempt the work of the experts under the joint committees. We should hold our fire, await the reports and comments and then deliberate, modify, adopt and/or reject.

With respect to the reform of the Programme Budget process as elaborated in paragraphs 1.9 to 1.13 of CL 94/4, the proposals contained therein seem reasonable to us and we accept that they should be adopted on an experimental basis in respect of the 1990/1991 biennium.

Gerhard LIEBER (Germany, Federal Republic of): Let me first of all thank Prof. Mazoyer for his very thorough introduction of the agenda item before us.

According to the reports of the Programme and Finance Committees before us, the work of both expert groups is well underway. They will deliver their reports in time, late February as we understand. As we have expressed on several occasions, the work of these experts will be an extremely important input into the review process. We expect that there will be an exchange of views on the main findings between the two expert groups to ensure that they will come to coherent recommendations on the main issues. We look forward to these reports and will come up with our inputs and complements in due time.

We learned also that the management review is making progress and that the contracting process for consulting firms is on its way. We agree with others that for this very important part of the review process, some more information on criteria and priorities would help member countries to come to a better understanding of the whole process.

Just a few words on the budget review process. We welcome the readiness of the Director-General to present at an early stage a budget outline already in January next year indicating the budget level he intends to use in the preparation of the Programme of Work and Budget 1990/1991, together with the main activities to be undertaken. We also thank the Finance and Programme Committee for proposing these measures which we consider an important first step in the budget reform process. We are, however, of the opinion together with others, that the budget reform process is with these first measures not yet completed, it must be carried on. We consider the main aim of this process to increase the transparency of the whole Programme and Budget exercise for all member states. In this connection, we think that it is really important that the membership as a whole is properly informed. That means, in our opinion, that the budget outline is made available to all member states at the earliest possible time, that member states thus have a chance to form their opinion and that they have the possibility to influence the decision-making process on the budget within the Organization and its governing bodies in due time. We will continue to follow this part of the reform process with keen attention and in a constructive sense. The points mentioned above will be an important criteria for us.

Roberto E.E. DALTON (Argentina): Permítame en primer lugar expresar nuestro reconocimiento al Profesor Mazoyer por su clara y precisa presentación del tema 13 de la Agenda.

La Delegación Argentina expresa su apoyo a la propuesta de los Comités Conjuntos tal como está reflejada en los puntos 1.10 a 1.13 del documento CL 94/4.

Finalmente, Sr. Presidente, y como contribución a agilizar el debate, me limito a señalar nuestro pleno acuerdo con lo manifestado por las distinguidas Delegaciones de la India y del Brasil, sin elaborar sobre el amplio espectro de la temática de la revisión dispuesta por la Resolución 6/87 de la Conferencia.

Igor MARINCEK (Suisse): En vérité, Monsieur le Président, ma Délégation aurait préféré prendre la parole demain, mais puisque nous avançons tellement rapidement, j'interviendrai à ce point de la discussion.

Nous pensons que les ressources de la FAO peuvent être mieux utilisées pour contribuer à l'élimination du fléau de la faim, ceci dans la perspective des quinze à vingt prochaines années. Connaissant la compétence et le dévouement de la plupart des fonctionnaires de cette Organisation - ces fonctionnaires que le Directeur général appelle à juste titre le "vrai capital de la FAO" -, nous sommes convaincus de ce que ce capital humain de la FAO est capable de faire beaucoup plus encore. C'est pour pleinement réaliser le potentiel de ces hommes et femmes en faveur de la réalisation des objectifs énoncés dans le préambule de l'Acte Constitutif de la FAO que nous pensons, avec d'autres pays, que des réformes sont nécessaires et doivent être ouvertement envisagées.

Mon pays suit donc avec intérêt les travaux de l'examen en cours de la FAO; nous sommes encouragés de voir que l'examen des programmes de terrain, de même que celui des questions administratives, ont été réintroduits dans cet exercice. Nous avons également noté avec satisfaction qu'on a fait appel à des experts compétents pour l'examen des objectifs, rôle, priorités et stratégies de la FAO, ainsi que pour celui des opérations de terrain.

S'agissant des consultants chargés de l'examen des questions administratives, nous espérons qu'ils auront toute liberté pour mener à bien un travail professionnel. Comme les trois domaines d'examen sont liés entre eux, des rencontres entre les experts et les consultants nous semblent nécessaires, de même qu'entre les consultants et les Commissaires aux comptes. Nous espérons également que les experts ainsi que les Commissaires aux comptes, auront la possibilité de commenter les conclusions des consultants découlant de l'examen des questions administratives.

Sra. Doña Laurie CORDUA CRUZ (Nicaragua): Nos sumamos a las delegaciones que nos han precedido agradeciendo y felicitando al Sr. Mazoyer por su clara y precisa presentación del Informe Parcial sobre el Examen de la FAO.

Seremos breves y nos limitaremos a expresar concretamente nuestra posición referente a la propuesta de reforma del proceso de presupuestación por Programas.

Ante todo, quisiéramos señalar nuestro desacuerdo con la forma en que está redactado el párrafo 1.12 el cual habla de haber logrado una reforma, algo para lo cual entiendo que los Comités no tienen facultad. Y por otro, en ningún momento se señala que la reunión se hará con carácter experimental. Creemos que esto debería dejarse claro.

Nicaragua no tiene inconveniente en la realización de la reunión de enero con carácter experimental. Por otro lado, como lo han señalado otras Delegaciones, consideramos que dada la seriedad y la magnitud de la tarea que implica el Examen de la FAO, se debe mantener el calendario previsto y que el Informe sea presentado al 96 Período de Sesiones del Consejo para su posterior presentación a la Conferencia, tal como fue expresado por muchas delegaciones.

Muhammad Saleem KHAN (Pakistan): We, like our friend from Switzerland, would have preferred to have spoken tomorrow but were caught unawares by your considerable determination to catch up with the agenda today.

A lot has been said on the Report. At this stage we may not be able to add much. Keeping this and the lateness of the hour in view, we will confine ourselves to expressing our full support for the proposals made in paragraphs 1.10 to 1.13 and paragraph 1.33.

Antoine SAINTRAINT (Observateur de Belgique): Je serai extrêmement bref mais je voudrais quand même, en style télégraphique, faire quelques observations.

L'accomplissement des objectifs est incontestablement fonction des moyens dont on dispose; et le premier problème évoqué serait ce que j'appellerais "la programmation de l'improgrammable", c'est-à-dire pouvoir prévoir, avec un certain sérieux, l'étape de versement, les contributions et leurs montants. Sans gestion financière et sans programmation financière, il est extrêmement difficile, pour une institution, de remplir les objectifs qu'elle doit atteindre.

Un problème qui a été quelque peu négligé vient d'être évoqué par notre collègue de la Confédération helvétique, je veux parler du problème du personnel. Il est très important pour une institution

telle que la FAO, qui a un capital de cerveaux, de le préserver et de le reconstituer, et pour l'avenir, ce problème du personnel est angoissant. Il y a une certaine forme de démobilisation compte tenu des difficultés financières; il y a une certaine forme d'hypothèque sur l'avenir qui se manifeste si on ne parvient pas à temps à reconstituer ce capital incomparable qu'est l'ensemble du personnel de la FAO.

Contrairement à ce qui a été dit, on ne peut pas attendre de résultat final de cet examen. Les réformes sont des processus permanents que l'on doit mener tout au long des activités de la FAO. On reparlera de réformes, d'ajustements, d'améliorations, après la Conférence de 1989, après la Conférence de 1991 et pendant les années à venir, compte tenu de l'évolution du monde. Il est clair que ce ne sont pas les rapports d'un certain nombre d'experts, si qualifiés soient-ils, qui pourront figer définitivement une structure de la FAO qui doit pouvoir continuer à évoluer et à s'adapter en fonction des besoins du monde. Ces besoins sont de plus en plus grands, et les problèmes de plus en plus angoissants. Aussi est-il très utile de faire le point de la situation, mais il faut le faire dans une perspective qui ne soit pas figée mais dynamique. On n'est pas expert en tout; il serait d'ailleurs prétentieux que de demander à des experts d'émettre des avis sur des problèmes aussi divers que ceux que doit assumer la FAO.

J'ai souvent entendu parler de "priorité" mais j'aimerais surtout en entendre la définition ainsi que la liste de ce qui n'est pas prioritaire. Bon nombre de pays déclarent qu'il faut fixer des priorités, être davantage transparent... nous en sommes tous d'accord et le processus est en cours, et ce Conseil essaie d'amener à un maximum de transparence les activités de la FAO et l'établissement de ses budgets; mais lorsque l'on parle de priorité, il faut d'abord savoir ce que l'on considère comme non prioritaire pour pouvoir, ensuite, établir une échelle de valeurs, selon non pas des rapports d'experts, mais des décisions politiques qui reviennent aux instances responsables politiques.

S'agissant de la réforme du budget et programme, ma position est très semblable à celle de mon collègue Monsieur Li ZHENHUAN de la République populaire de Chine; sa proposition est sage et me semble une formule de compromis mais elle me donne des appréhensions car il me semble difficile d'élaborer un niveau de budget en construisant l'édifice par le toit. Un budget s'élabore par la base, au départ, par des besoins et des nécessités des différents services; il est donc utile de commencer par les fondations, de chercher à voir quels sont les besoins de différents services, forêts, pêche, nutrition, de l'ensemble des services de la FAO... et compte tenu des besoins du monde et des activités de la FAO, on peut définir un niveau de budget.

Mais si l'on adopte le processus inverse qui consiste à partir d'un niveau, et à descendre vers les différents services pour voir quels sont leurs besoins, on risque de rendre un très mauvais service à la FAO.

De plus, je pense qu'il ne faut pas se lier par un document qui soit un véritable corset; et si l'on fixe le niveau du budget, il ne peut s'agir que d'un ordre de grandeur et d'une estimation tout à fait préliminaire.

La formule retenue par les deux Comités est une formule de compromis expérimental; il faudra voir ce qu'elle donne mais elle me fait peur parce que je n'aime pas que l'on fixe un niveau du budget sans qu'on ait consulté l'ensemble des services et sans savoir exactement quels sont les besoins. Tentons l'expérience.... car bien entendu il ne peut s'agir que d'une expérience.

Frederik Ch. PRILLEVITZ (Observer for the Netherlands): First of all, we want to thank the Chairman of the Programme Committee, Prof. Mazoyer, for his elegant and solid introduction of this important item. We read with great interest the report of the Joint Session of the Programme and Finance Committees especially because the first progress report was presented on the Review of FAO - a review we, together with many other countries, requested because we think that an organization like FAO should be reviewed regularly. We all know that since its inception FAO has evolutionarily developed from an original data collecting, storing and analysing organization to an organization with important developmental impacts and potentials. We therefore very much welcome the fact that the Director-General gave an extra dimension to the review by incorporating the examination of the two specific areas - namely, FAO's field operations and administrative questions.

As we all know, where many people are involved in such a review process, impressions develop through rumours, informal discussions and sometimes reliable information from people directly involved in such a process. The impression we have gained so far is that everybody involved in the process - namely, the Director-General and his staff, the Programme and Finance Committees and the experts carrying out the review - are very keen to bring the exercise to a good and successful end.

Therefore, we feel confident that in future FAO will increase its responsibility as a policy adviser. By taking on this role as a policy consultant FAO is in a position to help make sure that

the policy dialogue between donor and recipient countries does not become too donor centered. In this context, special attention will have to be given to those countries which are undergoing the far-reaching process of structural adjustment - in which food security should always be integrated -or countries for which such an adjustment is envisaged. We know that the adaptation of FAO's capacity for such activities cannot be achieved in one or two months, but we are speaking here on issues to be dealt with in the longer-term perspective. We also trust that sufficient care will be taken by the experts over our concern about decision-making procedures. In order that a clear, unambiguous method of reaching decisions in the various FAO bodies be established, the Netherlands has submitted a number of detailed proposals.

These proposals are aimed at, among other things, establishing a clear distinction between the actual decisions taken by the Governing Bodies and the Committees, and the reporting of the proceedings of the debate. Decisions result from consultations and negotiations. A report of proceedings should not be the subject of negotiation as is often now the case.

In relation to the Jansson Report, we have already made reference to better coordination within the various organizations, and the decentralization of responsibilities to the field under Item 10 of the agenda. Of course, coordination in the house, within FAO itself, is also indispensable for more efficient conceptional policy and operational activities. This may also require some changes.

We are confident that a review will deal with all the issues we have just mentioned. Allow us to make one more remark on the review. We understand that the work and the reporting of the management consultants are done at a later stage than the work of the experts on FAO's objectives, role, priorities and strategies. Since we feel that some recommendations of the experts will have an impact on some of the subjects the consultants are dealing with, we strongly suggest to the secretariat to instruct consultants to consult with experts on this matter.

We would like to make a comment on the reform in the Programme and Budget Process as described in paragraphs 1.9 to 1.13 of document CL 94/4. Indeed, we are in favour of the presentation of this five page document on the budget level and the main activities to be undertaken, with which we note, with great satisfaction, that the Director-General indicated his readiness to comply. However, we would be even more in favour of it were this arrangement to be not only for 1990/91 biennium, but also for the biennia beyond that period. Nevertheless, we see this arrangement as the first and encouraging step in the reform of the Programme Budget Process.

McDonald P. BENJAMIN (Observer for Dominica):- I shall adhere to my traditional practice of brevity in my intervention. We wish to congratulate upon the clarity with which the Chairman of the Programme Committee, Professor Mazoyer, has made this presentation. It is only because he made a special appeal to the back-benchers of his group that I thought I would make this brief intervention.

As a Member of the Programme Committee, I wish to emphasize that the spirit of compromise which led to Resolution 6/87 has continued through the work of these two Committees in their joint sessions. The speed with which the selection of experts was made, and the agreement on bringing together the terms of reference which are very difficult to formulate, is indeed a tribute to the work of both the Finance and Programme Committees working in joint session.

We had a joint session in which we had a briefing session with the two leaders of the two major groups. In such an interchange one gets a very quick reaction as to two matters, namely, have we chosen the right people, and are these people on track? On both grounds we reached positive conclusions. A most powerful motivator in the review process has been, and continues to be, the commitment of the Director-General and his staff. The inclusion of two fields, namely, the field operations and the administrative questions at the initiative of the Director-General represents a most welcome addition to the scope of the studies to the extent that one can hardly think of making recommendations referring to headquarters unless you knew what was happening in the field. It is to their credit that they have been able to establish the inter-relationships between the various major functions of the Organization. In our view the above developments auger very well for a fruitful outcome of the review process.

Assefa YILALA (Observer for Ethiopia): As members of the Finance Committee our delegation had a chance to participate in both joint committee meetings of the Programme and Finance Committees. During these meetings we have been able to air our views, and feel strongly that the report before us fully reflects our concerns, and therefore we have no reservation in endorsing it. Professor Mazoyer, Chairman of the Programme Committee, has made an excellent introduction to the report and I would like to express my due regards for that valuable contribution.

However, we would like to make two minor points with regard to the Progress Report of the Finance and Programme Committees joint meetings as it relates to the reform of the Programme and Budget Process. The Programme and Budget Process as is being discussed here was discussed and accepted in other UN agencies and most of the delegations here will have no rationale to negate it when the same Member Countries have supported this very process in other UN agencies. Our position in this regard is the same as that of China and other delegations which have expressed their views earlier.

The other point relates to the timing of the discussion when this reform of the Programme and Budget Process was discussed. At the time when this was discussed the financial inflow of the Organization was even worse and more serious than the present situation which has become a source of worry for most of the delegations who spoke yesterday and today.

The consensus established in the Programme and Budget Process has become a relief mechanism even through very small, and this has not been pointed out. As was expressed by the distinguished delegate of Cameroun, the two Committees are still in the process of examining the responsibility vested upon them by the 24th Conference. In this connection, this report is presented as an information document to keep Council aware of the manner in which the two Committees are discharging their mandate. As regards the meeting in January - before the preparation of the detailed Programme of Work and Budget which will be presented to the 25th Conference next year - this will have an impact on further contributions and therefore should cause no differences in views.

M. MAZOYER (Président, Comité du Programme): Monsieur le Président, je vous remercie de m'accorder encore la parole et je veux tout d'abord remercier les membres du Conseil de leur accueil qui a été très chaleureux et de l'attention qu'ils ont bien voulu accorder à notre rapport ainsi que de leurs observations. Je veux aussi remercier particulièrement mes collègues des deux comités de leur appui, que j'ai beaucoup apprécié.

Mais je me dois aussi de répondre à quelques questions, à certaines inquiétudes, et peut-être d'apporter quelques précisions et éclaircissements selon mon point de vue. J'ai une première observation à l'attention du Représentant de la Colombie. Je n'ai pas prononcé la phrase qu'il a entendue en espagnol quand j'ai dit que nous avons pris l'initiative, par courtoisie et par respect pour le Conseil, de le tenir informé des dispositions que nous avons prises pour remplir le mandat qui nous a été confié. Je n'ai pas dit: "sans y avoir été obligés". Mais je sais pourquoi M. Bula Hoyos l'a entendue; c'est parce que je l'avais écrit, puis rejeté de mon texte. Malheureusement, j'ai transmis mon texte non corrigé aux interprètes. Je demande donc aux interprètes de m'excuser. La prochaine fois, je n'écrirai rien. D'abord, je lis très mal ce que j'ai écrit. Je m'excuse donc auprès de M. Bula Hoyos et peut-être aussi auprès des anglophones et des représentants d'autres langues qui ont entendu cette phrase malencontreuse. Elle est en effet très malencontreuse parce qu'en fait, que nous y soyons obligés ou non, je dois dire que les deux comités n'hésitent pas, sur la proposition de leur président, à vous faire rapport. Je crois que cela va de soi, même si ce n'est pas dans la résolution: il faut que vous sachiez où l'on en est puisque, in fine, il faut bien que vous sachiez ce qui s'est passé pour apprécier les rapports que nous vous présenterons. Je m'excuse donc du quid pro quo mais cela nous a permis de rire à la dernière minute, ce qui n'est pas plus mal.

Ensuite, on a dit qu'il y a trop d'experts. Je ferai remarquer que le paragraphe 1 de la résolution dit que le choix des experts sera fait en tenant compte d'une répartition géographique équilibrée. Il n'est donc guère possible de faire à moins si l'on veut tenir compte du mandat explicite qui est d'étudier les objectifs, les priorités, etc. D'ailleurs, avec votre permission, nous avons encore ajouté les activités de terrain. Cela fait beaucoup mais c'est peut-être utile parce que ces gens travaillent dans différentes parties du monde. J'ajouterai qu'avec notre proposition initiale, certaines parties géographiques ne se trouvaient pas très bien servies. On avait visé trop court. Je crois que notre proposition initiale était de 6-4 et que nous sommes arrivés à 7-5, si je ne me trompe pas.

Ensuite, il y aurait trop de voyages et pas assez d'experts dans les pays en développement. M. Bonte-Friedheim pourra sans doute vous donner des informations détaillées sur ce point. Mais ce que je veux dire, c'est que les experts vont dans les pays en développement dans les bureaux régionaux, dans les représentations de la FAO; ils vont étudier des projets, des programmes de terrain, etc. Dans quelle mesure la proportion est-elle respectée? Vous jugerez sur pièces.

Je dois dire que nous avons jugé qu'il était utile de faire appel à des experts comme la Résolution nous y invitait. En second lieu, si nous faisons appel à des experts, qu'il y en ait deux ou trois de plus ou de moins, qu'ils fassent un gros travail ou un travail seulement moyen, je ne crois pas que ça va beaucoup changer le prix.

Par contre, nous avons pris ce travail très au sérieux, et nous attendons beaucoup du travail des experts. Nous en attendons beaucoup, comme les Etats Membres ici l'ont manifesté, et comme leurs représentants dans les comités l'ont dit. Si on fait un examen, il faut le faire bien. C'est comme cela que nous interprétons notre tâche. Il faut en tirer le maximum. Cela coûtera peut-être **25** ou **30%** de plus, mais je crois qu'entre "bien fait" et "à moitié fait", on a jugé que cela valait la peine que ce soit bien fait.

Nous avons d'abord visé trop court. Nous avons dit aux experts, à la première réunion de notre Comité en mai: vous nous rendrez les rapports en novembre, afin que nous les examinions dans une session spéciale conjointe qui serait accolée éventuellement à la session de janvier pour examen. C'est cela que nous vous avons dit. Personnellement: je n'y ai jamais cru, mais il y avait une décision collective et je n'ai pas le droit de veto. Je n'y ai jamais cru, parce que j'imaginais le travail que cela représentait et que je savais que ce ne serait pas possible puisque déjà cela démarrait pendant les vacances.

Lorsque les experts ont reçu leur mandat, ils ont discuté entre eux comment ils allaient s'organiser. Ils ont dit: nous ne pouvons pas faire cela pour novembre, ou alors ce ne sera pas sérieux. Ils ont fait un programme. Les deux présidents, les deux Comités et le Secrétariat ont jugé qu'il fallait leur laisser non seulement la liberté d'information, mais le temps nécessaire pour que cette liberté existe réellement, et aussi la liberté de mouvement. Ils ont fait le rapport en septembre. Ils ont donné à la fois leur programme de travail, la manière dont ils envisageaient de prendre le travail. Ils ont parfois donné quelques idées, mais certainement pas sur leurs conclusions. Nous avons eu un débat. Dans ce débat nous avons exprimé notre point de vue sur la méthode de travail, sur les orientations, etc., mais nous n'avons pas beaucoup donné de conseils sur le fond. Nous attendons un rapport d'experts qui n'est pas fait sur ordre. Ils sont soumis à un tas d'influences. Si ce sont des experts, ils ont aussi des opinions. Ils doivent trier ces influences. Ce ne sont pas les nôtres qui vont les contraindre.

Nous voulons par là même garder notre entière liberté de jugement sur les rapports qu'ils vont nous remettre. S'ils mettent dans leurs rapports ce que nous avons dit d'y mettre, qu'est-ce que nous allons dire à la fin?

Les rapports seront-ils trop lourds? Il va y avoir 4 rapports: un rapport sur les objectifs et stratégies, un rapport sur les activités de terrain, un rapport sur la gestion et l'administration, et un rapport du Directeur général formulant ses observations sur tout cela. Ce n'est pas un programme de travail et de budget, chacun de ces rapports. Ce sont des rapports sur des questions stratégiques. Ce sont des rapports de synthèse et chacun d'eux fera quelques dizaines de pages -personnellement sur des questions comme celles-là je pense que cela pourrait tenir dans dix pages, mais vous en seriez trop déçus parce que pour un rapport sur les objectifs et stratégies nous attendons 50 pages. On ne va pas fixer le nombre de pages, d'autant plus que le nombre des caractères est variable et suivant le nombre de caractères par page ça peut varier du simple au triple. Quatre rapports de quarante pages, ça va faire 160 pages. On a l'habitude d'avaler des choses pires... - excusez-moi, je retire cette parole - enfin disons plus lourdes, disons moins digestes parce qu'elles sont plus détaillées, plus circonstanciées. Ce n'est pas cela qui est difficile.

Le problème, c'est que cet examen n'a rien à voir par sa nature et ses qualités avec le type d'examen que nous faisons habituellement d'un programme de travail et de budget ou d'un programme d'activité quelconque, parce qu'un Programme de travail et budget c'est quelque chose qui est dans la continuité, avec quelques changements, de ce qui se faisait avant, qui relève dans sa conception, dans son contenu, dans ses moyens d'expression, des dizaines de recommandations qui sont venues de tous les organes directeurs, de comités techniques, etc. A la limite, c'est un discours qu'on a déjà entendu dix fois avec des changements, des modifications, des progressions et de nouvelles proportions. Cela peut être très différent, et normalement ça doit l'être, cela peut être même tout à fait révolutionnaire: est-ce que vous pensez qu'on va discuter cela comme d'habitude? A mon avis, non. Notre travail est de réfléchir, de trier, de conserver, d'éliminer, de rendre compatible tout cela, de travailler dessus de manière à fabriquer un document qui aura le consensus des deux comités, et ensuite le vote de la Conférence. C'est tout un travail de construction de notre rapport. Et cela va se faire par les débats.

Mais ce dont je suis sûr - et je m'avance, parce que ce sont les deux comités qui en décideront, mais je commence à avoir l'habitude de ce qu'on peut faire et de ce qu'on ne peut pas faire: on va faire un compte rendu de nos discussions en session qui sera adopté le dernier après-midi avant de prendre l'avion - mais ce dont je suis sûr c'est que le rapport que vous attendez, on ne peut pas le faire en session. C'est impossible. Je ne marche pas pour être, avec quelques victimes du Secrétariat, le comité de rédaction de ce rapport qui serait celui qu'on devrait soumettre à la Conférence. Je vous dis d'avance que je ne ferai pas ce rapport en session. Il est bien évident que nous ferons un rapport sur lequel nous pourrions nous appuyer pour élaborer le rapport que vous attendez, qui sera d'abord soumis aux deux comités dans une autre session, avant de vous être soumis au Conseil et ensuite à la Conférence.

Je partage complètement l'impatience, l'attente, le désir d'avoir des ingrédients à discuter le plus tôt possible. Il y en aura sans doute. Mais je répète ce que je vous ai dit dans ma première observation et qui tombait sous le sens, qu'il fallait que nous fassions rapport aujourd'hui sur l'état d'avancement de l'examen. Il est bien évident que les deux comités jugeront de la même manière en mai. Les deux comités vous présenteront certainement un rapport intérimaire à votre session de juin. Mais ce qui est à mon avis à peu près sûr, c'est que ce ne sera pas le rapport définitif. Il n'aura pas encore été approuvé. Il faudra qu'il soit rédigé après la session de mai. Cela demandera 8 jours, 15 jours, trois semaines. Les experts auront mis six mois, et nous, vous allez nous donner combien de temps? Il nous faut quelques semaines. Il faut ensuite que ce soit traduit, soumis à une autre session conjointe des deux comités. Le rapport en question ne peut être que provisoire. Il faut qu'il soit approuvé, éventuellement amendé. Il faut qu'il soit retraduit, qu'il ait les observations du Directeur général. Mais ce n'est pas parce que nous accordons au travail des experts la plus grande attention et la plus grande importance que nous allons abdiquer la responsabilité finale que nous a attribuée la Résolution 6 - 87 qui est de faire, nous, notre rapport sur ces questions.

Ce rapport, ce n'est pas un commentaire comme ceux que nous faisons sur un PTB, il faut bien comprendre la différence; il me semble que, en écoutant les trois quarts des interventions des collègues qui sont intervenus ici avant moi, vous allez déjà dans ce sens; j'imagine déjà ce qu'ils vont décider mais je serais étonné que cela soit en contradiction avec ce que je viens de vous dire; en tout cas, soyez certains que nous tirerons parti de vos observations, nous y prêtons beaucoup d'attention et nous en tiendrons compte dans la mesure où elles ne sont pas radicalement contradictoires, ce qui d'ailleurs ne semble pas le cas... vos observations seront précieuses et nous les utiliserons.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie Monsieur MAZOYER pour ses explications et donne la parole au Directeur général.

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Il est déjà très tard, et je suis ici avec trois de mes collègues dont chacun a la responsabilité d'un comité chargé de fournir aux experts les renseignements qu'ils souhaitent. Ils doivent aussi m'aider à préparer mon rapport.

Comme l'a précisé la Conférence, je suis également partie prenante puisque je suis invité à formuler mes vues et observations; et j'ai même l'honneur de présenter les conclusions et les recommandations de l'étude au Conseil puis à la Conférence.

Je dois donc faire personnellement un rapport et respecter le mandat fixé par la Conférence.

Deux questions ont en fait été posées. La première était de savoir si les deux comités avaient compris les objectifs de l'étude tels que définis par la résolution de la Conférence. Dans sa présentation, le Professeur Mazoyer a expliqué comment les deux comités ont réagi à la résolution, comment ils ont interprété leur mandat suite aux objectifs fixés.

Il a expliqué que le Directeur général avait lui-même proposé d'élargir le champ de l'étude, mais il semble que les délégués du Royaume-Uni, du Canada et de l'Australie estiment que des sujets ont été omis; certains sujets ne font effectivement pas partie du mandat; ces délégués se posent la question de savoir si le rapport traitera de ces sujets.

Soyons clairs à ce sujet. Monsieur Mazoyer a indiqué comment les deux comités ont interprété les objectifs fixés par la résolution de la Conférence.

Puis, les délégués de l'Inde et du Brésil ont estimé que le Conseil n'avait pas à modifier les objectifs définis dans la résolution de la Conférence, ni à donner des instructions aux deux comités à cet égard.

C'est là une discussion entre délégués qui ne concerne qu'eux.

L. seconde question était la suivante: le Conseil est-il d'accord ou pas pour qu'il y ait une nouvelle procédure pour la préparation et la discussion du niveau du budget et pour l'orientation du programme de travail pour le prochain biennium? Il me semble que la réponse a été positive.

Je voudrais quand même dire que le Conseiller juridique lui-même a précisé que cette nouvelle procédure n'était pas prévue aux articles XXXVII et XXXVIII du Règlement général; le Règlement général a fixé une certaine procédure; et là, c'est une procédure supplémentaire qui, selon le Conseiller juridique, ne s'impose pas au Directeur général. J'aurais pu me réfugier derrière les textes réglementaires et demander une modification du Règlement général.

Mais il n'était pas question d'hésiter puisque c'est un problème très important et que cette même procédure a été acceptée d'une façon informelle par d'autres organisations comme l'OMS, le BIT et les Nations Unies.

J'ai accepté d'emblée pour cet exercice; on a dit que ce serait une expérience.

On a dit: "pourquoi cinq pages"... pourquoi pas six ou sept; les délégations qui ont fait cette proposition à la Conférence ont demandé un texte court.

Parlons maintenant très franchement: il s'agit là d'un désir de certains pays membres de pouvoir influencer à l'avance le Directeur général quant à la fixation du niveau du budget et quant aux grandes orientations.

Personnellement c'est quelque chose que je ne crains pas; je reçois tous les jours des propositions et des pressions.

Il se peut que l'on ne trouve pas au mois de janvier ce que l'on recherche mais si à l'avenir on en vient à nous demander vingt ou vingt-cinq pages, ce sera difficile car il faudra commencer à préparer le niveau du budget encore plus tôt. La préparation du budget est un long travail.

Nous préparons en ce moment le sommaire du budget 1990-91. Nous allons proposer les programmes prioritaires; mais vous conviendrez avec moi qu'il serait très difficile d'expliquer un programme de près de 500 millions de dollars en cinq pages.

Cela dit, nous allons de l'avant et avec les experts et le Comité, nous allons examiner les idées incluses dans la proposition faite par les pays nordiques et d'autres qui souhaiteraient que l'on présente à la Conférence un Plan à moyen terme de six ans. Si c'est un Plan avec des indications budgétaires, peut-être ne sera-t-il plus nécessaire de faire la réunion de janvier, mais ce sera aux gouvernements de décider. Cette réunion de janvier, une fois par biennium, à partir d'un dossier de cinq pages, est une expérience qui peut évoluer et nous sommes prêts à la faire avec vous.

J'en reviens à la question principale: les deux comités qui représentent vingt Etats Membres ont-ils omis certaines parties de la résolution ?

Certains pays ont plus de chance que d'autres parce qu'ils sont, eux, au Comité du Programme ou financier, et qu'ils sont représentés par des experts de leur pays, tandis que d'autres ne sont qu'au Conseil et n'ont pas d'experts, et ne sont membres ni du Comité du programme, ni du Comité financier. Il aurait été préférable que ces remarques et désaccords sur le mandat des deux comités aient été discutés au Comité du programme. Le Canada par exemple en fait partie; l'Australie, elle, fait partie du Comité financier.

L'examen de la FAO est une opération très délicate. Il est impératif qu'en novembre prochain la Conférence prenne des décisions à ce sujet par consensus, mais il faut commencer dès maintenant à créer un climat favorable à ce consensus. Ceci a été le cas au sein des deux comités. Le consensus au sein du Conseil semble plus difficile à atteindre.

On a dit que le mandat des experts devrait inclure l'examen des procédures de décision à l'intérieur des différents comités et organes. Pour ma part, il me semble que la résolution de la Conférence est muette à ce sujet. On a aussi parlé d'examiner le fonctionnement des "governing bodies" c'est-à-dire le fonctionnement du Conseil, de la Conférence. Ceci non plus n'apparaît pas dans la résolution.

Mais si on prépare le terrain pour un nouvel examen de la FAO en 1992-1993, c'est autre chose; je ne crois pas que cela soit le cas. Si, à l'occasion des différentes recommandations, il y a lieu, par exemple, de revoir le fonctionnement du Conseil ou de tel comité, il faudra peut-être le faire; je suis sûr que certaines propositions exigeront peut-être l'élargissement du mandat de certains comités. L'éminent délégué de la Suisse avait déjà proposé à la Conférence qu'un comité étudie les activités de terrain et les politiques de développement de la FAO. Il y a plusieurs formules; par exemple, on peut demander au Conseil de se réunir plus longuement... Quoiqu'il en soit, l'examen du fonctionnement de chaque organe directeur ou délibérant ne figure pas dans la résolution.

Les remarques à propos des sujets d'étude non couverts par le mandat des experts m'inquiètent, parce que jusqu'à maintenant nous avançons par consensus; notre débat a été très bon mais j'espère qu'il n'y aura pas de malentendu dans le futur à ce sujet.

La distribution des ingrédients: ce n'est pas mon affaire... je compte préparer deux rapports: le premier pour exprimer mon point de vue sur la validité des différentes propositions dont la mise en oeuvre éventuelle concernera le Secrétariat. Il faut par conséquent que je vous dise si elles sont valides de notre point de vue, si elles sont coûteuses, compliquées, si elles ont un impact positif ou négatif sur des politiques, programmes, etc., c'est à une analyse critique que je compte me livrer.

Je ne vais pas me précipiter pour formuler toutes mes vues à propos de l'avenir de l'Organisation.

Je vais attendre parce que j'espère avoir la main heureuse comme, en toute modestie, je l'ai eue quand il s'est agi de présenter un texte sur la réforme de la procédure du budget-programme. J'ai écrit quelque chose moi-même après avoir écouté les points de vue, après avoir étudié la façon dont la question avait été traitée à l'OMS, un peu partout. Cela a marché. J'espère que mon rapport réunira un consensus. Peut-être va-t-il coller au vôtre, Messieurs les Présidents des deux Comités. Pourquoi pas ? Mais je crois que la diversité de vues est importante. Il faut que les pays membres disposent d'une diversité de vues.

Le 1er mars, certains d'entre vous pourront voir les rapports des experts, sans qu'il y ait lieu de faire distribution formelle. En tout cas, le rapport des experts n'est pas ma propriété. Ce sont les deux Comités qui décideront de son utilisation ou de sa diffusion.

Le Représentant de la Finlande, parlant au nom des pays nordiques, m'a un peu inquiété en parlant d'"evolving continuing process". Je suis d'accord avec lui: l'examen de la réorganisation de la FAO n'est pas une chose qui est figée, mais j'espère qu'en 1989, il y aura consensus, que nous ne serons pas divisés et que l'on mettra un point final à cet examen. Il faudra sûrement faire rapport sur la mise en oeuvre. Mais il ne faudra pas ouvrir d'autres chapitres et revoir ce qui aura été décidé.

La déléguée des Etats-Unis et d'autres représentants ont parlé du commissaire extérieur aux comptes. Nous travaillons bien avec lui et nous n'avons aucune difficulté à montrer son rapport aux experts parce que c'est un document public. S'il a fait des remarques pertinentes, nous les communiquerons aux experts. S'agissant de l'étude de la gestion de la FAO, le Comité financier a reçu le nom de toutes les firmes que nous avons approchées. Ce sont des firmes des Etats-Unis et des pays européens. Il y en a 16 ou 17. Nous avons aussi communiqué aux membres du Comité le mandat fixé à ces conseils en gestion. Je crois avoir expliqué comment nous avons traité de cette affaire et je demanderai à M. Crowther de donner une réponse détaillée pour qu'il n'y ait aucun voile sur cette question. Le Danemark, le Royaume-Uni et les Etats-Unis ont posé des questions à ce sujet.

Ensuite, M. Shah vous parlera du coût. M. Bula Hoyos a voulu savoir le coût de cette réunion. M. Bonte-Friedheim vous parlera des voyages des experts dans le monde. Je crois que nous avons ainsi répondu à la plupart des questions.

D.K. CROWTHER (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department): There were a number of questions raised concerning the management consultants: how they were selected, how the review will be conducted, whether the objectivity of the consultants can be retained and so forth. Some of these answers can be grouped together so that I shall review very quickly the process. We reported the details of the terms of reference to the Finance Committee and jointly to the Programme Committee so that there was a full understanding of the approach to be taken.

We did send out a very large tender to some 29 international organizations selected on a basis of both location, their international reputations, the abilities specifically to accomplish the works that we were asking for. Seventeen firms responded. From those seventeen firms, through a very detailed listing of criteria that had been included in the tender so that each of the firms knew how they would be evaluated, they were evaluated and three firms have finally been selected to perform all of this work.

It was requested that we list the names of the firms that submitted bids. Very quickly I shall go through that list; first from France, a company called Ernst & Whinney Conseil; Eurequip, S.A.; Idet Cegos; Sema-Metra; from the Federal Republic of Germany, Kienbaum Unternehmensberatung; Roland Berger und Partner; from Italy, Arthur Andersen & Co., International, from their Rome office; Coopers & Lybrand, S.p.A., their Rome office; Price Waterhouse Associates, S.r.L, their Rome office; from the United Kingdom, Hay-MSL Management Consultants Group Ltd.; Hewitt Associates; McKinsey & Co., Inc. of the United Kingdom; PA Consulting Group; and Touche Ross Management Consultants; and from the United States, Johnson and Higgins Inc.; Peat Marwick Main & Co.; and Public Administration Services. From that group, the working group that the Director-General had established of senior officers that are involved in this process established six sub-groups to review carefully the proposals that had been received. The review was performed very carefully in accordance with the established procedures and criteria, points were awarded on each of the sections and the capability or quality-control section was evaluated first and then separately, in separate sealed envelopes the financial portion was opened and awarded and weighted accordingly and put together. The results of these six groups then were reported to the Working Group 3. Working Group 3 then drew up the short list from those recommended by the sub-groups and those on the short list were all called to Rome for personal interviews by the entire working group. The working group took some ten days specifically interviewing all the firms on the short list and made the final selection and has made the award. Two of the firms have already started work in Rome. In fact, one of the firms is in its second week already and so they are working and performing a great deal.

The question on quality and objectivity is an important one because we looked very carefully at both the reputation, the experience, the background of both the firms and the individuals. The reputations of the firms certainly are at stake and we were assured both during the interviews and in the proposals submitted by the tender that the firms would not affix their signature to a report unless they were totally satisfied that it represented their work uninfluenced, was objective and represented the independence of the firm. We rely heavily on the ethics of those firms to back up that statement.

Questions were raised concerning the scope of the review. The statement was made that it did not seem to be as far-reaching as hoped. There was not a mandate to review control systems. It was not clear as to how the financial statements might be improved and reviewed. I will very quickly go through the process so that I think there is a full and complete understanding. In the statement of work that was sent to each of the contractors, and they had to include full statements and justifications of how each would perform the work step-by-step on the financial side, there were a number of specific requirements that were included. It started with a requirement for reviewing our basic accounting policy procedures and regulations, starting with the Basic Text. Next, it included the implementation, in fact our procedures for carrying out those policies. Then it went into our procedures and practices under the accounting systems that existed. Next was the organizational structure for carrying out those specific practices in our financial division and those outposted officers in other divisions. Finally a separate section was required by each of the units on the financial reporting practices of the Organization. This was a very broad and wide portion because we wanted a very good independent, objective review of our financial reporting to all the government bodies as well as our internal management reports, under that section that more meaningful, useful, financial reports, statements for managers shall be included with increased timeliness, simplicity and clarity.

We have asked the management consultants to review all the reports that we prepare, not just those for management, but all the governing bodies, including our formal statements that are issued at the end of the biennium.

With respect to control, there is a requirement that the management consultants will review the practices that we now engage in the financial area that they may be streamlined or improved to provide for better financial control, both for internal management control purposes and for the control of costs as authorized by approved budgets.

Secondly, in the treasury area, we asked the management consultants to review our entire banking operations, our investment operations, our expenditure operations, and all of our payment procedures. We asked that they examine the existing internal cash and banking control practices, giving particular attention to the movement, transfer, payment of funds to determine areas where control needs to be improved and areas where modification can be made to improve control to prevent error. A great deal of attention has been given to the control features of the management review and we expect that each of these will bear a separate section within the Report.

Questions were also raised concerning the personnel review, that it may not be as comprehensive as it should be. It too is a conceptual review, like the review of financial activities, conceptual because we are expecting a full complete umbrella review of all aspects of our financial activities. From it we expect the management consultants will make recommendations for more specific detailed reviews in particular areas where improvements could be sought. Nothing has escaped the management review umbrella. Every aspect of personnel has been included and every aspect of financial management has been included. Just to cover the specific point mentioned regarding the recommendation made by the external auditor, we have precisely taken the words from the external auditor's report and included it as a requirement on how we might implement the external auditor's report in the personnel review. We have asked him specifically to provide his guidance and report on that aspect.

I think I have covered all of those at this point and might finalize on the schedule because there was one question raised on the scheduling of the review. All six of the management consultant reviews, including the two conceptual reviews will have been completed and the final reports issued by the 31st of March. Now with regard to the conceptual reviews, certainly there will be recommendations for follow-on reviews and decisions will have to be made on the follow-on reviews but the reports both on the conceptual reviews as well as on the other four areas which will be finite specific reviews with recommendations will all be made available to the Organization no later than the 31st of March. The Director-General will prepare his report on those reports and have them available for the Finance Committee and the Programme Committee to review in May but those reviews are all on schedule, they are all within the budget which has been allotted for this review and we are expecting a considerable amount of independent objective thinking to improve the Organization's management and administrative areas anywhere that they can be identified that would be useful and helpful to the Organization.

V.J. SHAH (Assistant Director-Cenerai, Office of Programme. Budget and Evaluation): The cost of the meeting envisaged for the Programme and Finance Committees I estimate at some \$60 000.

My second reply is to the delegate of the United Kingdom who suggested that the extract of the Jansson Report be circulated to the Council. Quite frankly the Report was submitted to the Programme Committee. We do not have enough copies in all languages to circulate formally the document but for any member of the Council who wishes to have the extract and the particular paragraph referred to which was paragraph 82 which gives all the recommendations, no problem at all, come to me and we will make photocopies in the language you wish.

CH. BONTE-FRIEDHEIM (Assistant Director-Cenerai, Agriculture Department): There were two specific questions asked, one with regard to the visits of the experts and the second with regard to the selection of the countries for Group 2. Let me start with Group 1. Members of the experts of Group 1 visited Nairobi, Washington, New York, Vienna, Geneva and all of them visited the sister agencies in Rome. They visited four international financial institutions, the World Bank, IFAD, UNDP, and the Inter-American Development Bank. They visited the United Nations and 12 United Nations specialized agencies, WFC, WFP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNEP, UNIDO, IEA, WHO, ILO, UNCTAD and GATT. In addition, the experts of Group 1 visited one international agriculture research institute, IFPRI, the International Food Policy Research Institute in Washington.

The experts of Group 2, and before I say something about their visits I would like to remind Council members that three of them deal more or less daily with international agricultural development projects in their own country and one of them is the most senior international expert with long years of experience in many countries. Some of them visited China, they joined the Group 1 in Washington and New York. Some of them visited Chile, Brazil, Ethiopia, Senegal, and they will visit one international agricultural research institute, which is the International Center for Agricultural Research for Dryland Areas (ICARDIA) in Syria and they will still visit Turkey and Bangkok.

They also in Bangkok will visit the Regional Office, and in Santiago - Chile - they visited the Regional Office. In their country visits they have met with government officials, national institutions, donors, including NGOs. They have visited and met with national and international field experts and they have visited FAO projects as well as others.

A question raised by the representative of Bangladesh was how were the countries selected. They were selected on the following basis: to include as far as possible regional coverage, and if one of the countries that is being visited will be included in two regions - in Europe and the Near East - they will succeed in visiting all regions. The other criteria were the size of the field programme and the mix of funding sources, the diversity and subject matter coverage, the possibility of focusing on such issues as emergency operations, new dimensions, TCDC and environmental problems and collaboration with NGOs.

Hanau HALINEN (Finland): I would like to mention that the Director-General was not mistaken in quoting what I said about the continuous process. The evaluation of the functions, including the administration of international organizations, is a regular feature in many parts of the UN system. My delegation was very careful not to say how this process should go on. I think it is up to the Conference to decide but this point usually arises as an internal exercise as I see it.

Finally, I would like to thank Assistant Director-General Crowther for a very comprehensive reply to the concerns and questions raised.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Rindo homenaje a la competencia y franqueza con que respondió el Prof. Mazoyer, Presidente del Comité del Programa. El ha dado respuesta a algunos de los interrogantes que habíamos planteado, y creemos que éste ha sido un debate constructivo y democrático. Sin embargo, falta la respuesta a una pregunta que consideramos fundamental. Deseamos saber si el informe de la sesión especial de los Comités en enero estará dirigido, como de costumbre, al Consejo o solamente al Director General.

En relación con la gestión de las cuestiones administrativas, confiamos en la competencia de la Secretaría, y sólo por curiosidad queremos preguntarle al Sr. Crowther si existe en algún país en desarrollo alguna firma con fama y experiencia en gestiones administrativas.

Señor Presidente, se ha repetido aquí, en este debate, que con las ideas que se expusieron se perseguía el propósito de enriquecer a los expertos. Nosotros pensamos que una sola declaración de una eminente Delegación no solamente ha enriquecido a los expertos, sino que los ha vuelto millonarios. Sí, Sr. Presidente, porque se ha producido aquí una confusión en una declaración que consideramos impropio de auditores externos, más consultores, personal, puestos..., todas esas cosas que son prerrogativa del Director General. Quisiéramos, Sr. Presidente, que en el informe no se incluya nada, ni lo más mínimo, que pueda significar interferencia ni limitación a la labor de los expertos, los cuales deben ser completamente independientes.

Finalmente, me excuso con el colega de Australia. No sé si le entendí bien; si él habló del siglo XIX o del siglo XV, cuando descubrieron América. Naturalmente, entendemos debidamente todo eso. Él vive en un país lindo, agradable, muy respetable, situado en las antípodas. Cuando viene a este otro lado del mundo, le acogemos con mucha simpatía y le decimos que acá estamos en el siglo XX.

LE PRESIDENT: Le Directeur général pourrait peut-être répondre à toutes ces questions concernant la Session conjointe de janvier.

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Si je m'en tiens au paragraphe 1.10 du document CL 94/4, cette réunion sera une réunion de consultation entre les membres du Comité financier, du Comité du Programme et le Directeur général. Le but est de connaître à l'avance le niveau du budget auquel est arrivé le Directeur général, après une préparation intensive qui a commencé au mois de septembre et qui d'ailleurs n'est pas encore terminée. Après le Conseil, je dois me pencher sur cet énorme dossier et établir le niveau du budget. C'est une consultation. Le rapport du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier sera traité de la même façon que les autres rapports destinés au Conseil.

Vous avez été vous-même Président du Comité du Programme et Président du Conseil. Jamais le Comité du Programme n'a distribué le rapport, sauf au Conseil. Ce serait une complication et une exception si le rapport devait être distribué aux 158 membres sans attendre la réunion du mois de juin. En juin, il y aura ce rapport. J'imagine déjà ce qu'il y aura dans ce rapport. Il sera peut-être difficile d'arriver à un accord sur le niveau du budget. Il y en aura qui seront pour et d'autres qui seront contre. J'espère quand même qu'on pourra arriver au consensus. Si on peut le faire, je serai très content.

Quant aux priorités, elles sont connues: le Plan forestier tropical, les ressources phytogénétiques, etc. Comme on l'a dit, il n'y a pas de nouvelles priorités. Il y en aura peut-être qui manqueront, mais je crois qu'on va surtout parler du niveau du budget.

Là aussi ce sera une expérience.

Vous saurez tous quel sera le niveau du budget que j'aurai présenté; comme je l'ai dit à propos de cet examen des activités de la FAO, je suis toujours prêt à écouter et à informer.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous arrivons aux termes de la discussion. Cela aura été le sujet le plus important que notre Conseil ait traité au cours de cette session. Le Conseil a étudié avec grand intérêt le rapport intérimaire sur l'examen de la FAO présenté par le Président du Comité du Programme; il nous a fait part de son accord pour l'adoption à titre expérimental pour le biennium 1990-1991 du projet de réforme de la procédure du budget et programme.

Nous sommes également satisfaits des initiatives prises par le Directeur général qui a inclus deux études complémentaires, une sur le programme de terrain et l'autre sur l'administration et les finances; le conseil a pris note en particulier du calendrier prévisionnel pour la remise de ces études.

Sans vouloir interférer avec le travail des deux Comités, il me semble que ce débat a fourni aux deux Présidents la possibilité de prendre connaissance des remarques et suggestions de quelques Etats Membres sur le contenu des études et je pense que les Présidents de comités pourront en tirer bénéfice pour la réalisation de leur étude.

Notre discussion de ce jour a jeté un éclairage supplémentaire sur le travail attendu par tout le monde pour améliorer l'efficacité de la FAO.

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: On a demandé que le rapport du Conseil soit disponible non seulement pour les membres du Comité du Programme mais aussi pour les experts. Sans vouloir parler au nom des deux Présidents, ce document est public, c'est un fait; les experts ont demandé de nombreux documents à la FAO; ce document aussi sera entre leurs mains; je vous le dis

LE PRESIDENT: Je tiens à remercier Messieurs les Délégués et les Observateurs pour leur patience. Nous aurons demain une réunion présidée par le Président du Comité du Programme sur le Rapport Jansson; nous en avons fait la promesse; ce sera l'occasion d'un échange de vues sur ce point précis.

The meeting rose at 21.45 hours

La séance est levée à 21 h 45

Se levanta la sesión a las 21.45 horas

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CL

CL 94/PV/13

Ninety-fourth Session

Quatre-vingt-quatorzième session

94º período de sesiones

THIRTEENTH PLENARY MEETING TREIZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE 13ª SESION PLENARIA

(23 November 1988)

The Thirteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.30 hours

Lassaad Ben Osman, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La treizième seance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 30.

sous la présidence de M. Lassaad Ben Osman, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la 13ª Sesión Plenaria a las 9.30 horas.

bajo la presidencia de Lassaad Ben Osman, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

- IV. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (continued)
- IV. QUESTIONS CONCERNANT LE PROGRAMME, LE BUDGET, LES FINANCES ET L'ADMINISTRATION (suite)
- IV. ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS (continuación)
- 13. Reports of the Fifty-fourth and Fifty-fifth Sessions of the Programme Committee, including a Progress Report on the Review of FAO (continued)
- 13. Rapports des cinquante-quatrième et cinquante-cinquième sessions du Comité du Programme, y compris rapport intérimaire sur l'Examen de la FAO (suite)
- 13. Informe de los periodos de sesiones 54 y 55 del Comité del Programa, incluido un informe sobre la marcha del Examen de la FAO (continuación)

LE PRESIDENT: Nous reprenons nos travaux avec la poursuite de l'examen du point 13 de l'ordre du jour intitulé "Rapports des cinquante-quatrième et cinquante-cinquième sessions du Comité du Programme, y compris rapport intérimaire sur l'Examen de la FAO" (CL 94/3, par. 2.21-2.31; CL 94/4).

Le point examiné aujourd'hui comprend plusieurs catégories de questions. Il y a d'abord le Rapport Jansson au sujet duquel un grand nombre d'Etats Membres souhaite avoir le point de vue du Comité du programme en la présence du Professeur Mazoyer et avec le maximum d'éléments d'appréciation. Il y a ensuite la question de la réduction des programmes, telle que l'a demandé le délégué du Canada. Il y a aussi la question des consultants.

Je me propose donc, si vous n'y voyez pas d'objections, de séparer en deux la discussion d'aujourd'hui et de laisser à part le Rapport Jansson qui pourrait faire l'objet d'une explication particulière de la part du Professeur Mazoyer en sa qualité de Président du Comité du Programme afin d'épuiser cette question qui devra être examinée au titre du point 10 de l'ordre du jour.

M. MAZOYER (Président du Comité du Programme): Monsieur le Président, mesdames et messieurs les membres du Conseil, c'est un honneur de vous présenter aujourd'hui les rapports des cinquante-quatrième et cinquante-cinquième sessions du Comité du Programme.

Je veux d'abord vous dire qu'au cours des deux sessions de cette année, qui sont les premières du biennium 1988/1989, le Comité aurait dû normalement poursuivre son cycle d'examen des programmes avec l'étude approfondie d'une partie des activités de l'Organisation. Mais, compte tenu du fait que la Conférence nous a chargés conjointement avec le Comité financier d'entamer l'examen extraordinaire de tous les programmes de l'Organisation, il nous est apparu opportun d'interrompre ce cycle normal d'examen en attendant les résultats de l'examen extraordinaire. En conséquence, afin de pouvoir consacrer plus de temps à nos sessions conjointes spéciales, nous avons considérablement réduit la durée de nos sessions ordinaires.

Je laisserai de côté, ici, les discussions du Comité du Programme sur l'emploi des consultants en 1987 et sur les rapports du Corps commun d'inspection, rapport que, de toute manière vous avez devant vous. Je me concentrerai sur trois points principaux qui ont été abordés au cours de notre session de mai. Ces trois points sont les suivants: d'abord, comme l'a dit le Président du Conseil, l'étude des activités opérationnelles du système des Nations Unies pour le développement, c'est-à-dire le Rapport Jansson; deuxièmement, les conséquences de la situation financière pour l'exécution du Programme de travail et budget 1988/1989; et enfin, un point que je présenterai rapidement puisqu'il a été en partie discuté, à savoir la contribution de la FAO à l'exécution du Programme d'action des Nations Unies pour le développement économique et le redressement de l'Afrique.

Je commencerai donc par la présentation du Rapport Jansson et, plus exactement, par les discussions que nous avons eues à ce sujet. Le document qui nous a été présenté par le Secrétariat au titre de ce point de l'ordre du jour contenait le Rapport Jansson, c'est-à-dire des études de cas, des activités opérationnelles des systèmes au niveau des pays ainsi que les commentaires de l'Organisation soumis à l'Assemblée générale, le texte de la Résolution 42/196 et un compte rendu des discussions supplémentaires dont ce rapport a déjà été l'objet. Cela a permis au Comité du Programme d'avoir une discussion approfondie dont je veux ici vous résumer les points principaux.

Le Comité a jugé le Rapport Jansson équilibré et objectif, malgré la petite taille de l'échantillon de pays examinés et la brièveté des missions. Il a noté que ce rapport donne une évaluation circonstanciée et réaliste des questions et des difficultés que posent les activités opérationnelles du système des Nations Unies et que les recommandations qu'il formule sont, dans l'ensemble, acceptables.

En ce qui concerne la coordination, qui est l'un des principaux thèmes abordés par ce rapport, le Comité a fait ressortir qu'elle relève fondamentalement des gouvernements. L'utilisation des avis techniques et sectoriels donnés par la FAO aux gouvernements a été souligné de même que le rôle décisif de l'assistance à la planification et à la formation pour renforcer les compétences des gouvernements en matière de planification, de coordination et d'analyse des politiques agricoles au niveau sectoriel et sous-sectoriel.

Le Comité a bien noté la part relativement restreinte du système des Nations Unies dans les apports, d'aide et d'assistance à la plupart des pays bénéficiaires, ce qui rend très difficile pour le coordonnateur résident des Nations Unies de gérer ou de coordonner l'ensemble de l'aide extérieure. Dans ces conditions, il est donc souvent plus utile de promouvoir une coordination sectorielle ou sous-sectorielle qu'une coordination centrale globale.

En ce qui concerne la programmation par pays du PNUD, le Comité a pris note de la conclusion du rapport, selon laquelle les programmes par pays sont souvent trop étroits et limités pour servir de cadre de référence à l'aide au développement comme il était prévu à l'origine. Il faudrait donc qu'ils soient plus étroitement liés à la planification nationale globale, d'où la nécessité de renforcer celle-ci.

Le Comité a souligné que les mécanismes existants de coordination au niveau des pays devaient être améliorés, renforcés et mieux intégrés avant que le système des Nations Unies ne se lance dans la mise en place de nouveaux cadres de coordination. Il a souligné qu'il vaudrait mieux faire fonctionner les mécanismes actuels et que la FAO, responsable du secteur qui, dans beaucoup de pays, est le plus important, devrait jouer un rôle plus actif dans son domaine de compétence et à tous les stades de l'élaboration.

Le Comité a insisté sur l'importance du rôle du représentant de la FAO qui, dans le système, s'occupe de ce comité et souvent de ce secteur essentiel de l'économie. Le Rapport Jansson reconnaît clairement et apprécie l'importance des fonctions des représentations des institutions, qui vont bien au-delà des opérations de terrain.

Le Comité a aussi insisté sur l'importance des projets exécutés par la FAO grâce à des fonds fiduciaires souvent dans le cadre de programmes d'action spéciaux. Le Comité a pris note d'une conclusion du rapport Jansson indiquant que, dans certains cas, les fonds fiduciaires devraient être acheminés autant que possible par l'intermédiaire du PNUD. Le Comité, ayant débattu de cette question, n'a pas jugé possible de souscrire à ce point de vue. Il est d'accord, bien sûr, pour que les projets financés par les fonds fiduciaires soient coordonnés avec les autres activités de coopération technique dans le contexte global des plans nationaux. Toutefois, cela n'exige pas nécessairement pour autant que les fonds fiduciaires soient centralisés. En ce qui concerne le rôle central du PNUD dans le financement, le Comité s'est félicité de la coopération active qui existe actuellement entre la FAO et le PNUD. L'importance du PNUD, principale source de financement des programmes de terrain de la FAO, a été bien entendu soulignée. Notant avec satisfaction que les ressources du PNUD atteignent des niveaux sans précédent, le Comité a exprimé le vœu qu'une part accrue de celles-ci soient acheminée par l'intermédiaire de la FAO. Je voudrais maintenant passer au point suivant, "Conséquences de la situation financière pour l'exécution du Programme de travail et budget 1988-89".

Après avoir examiné avec le Comité financier les conséquences de la situation financière et les mesures qu'il serait possible de prendre pour assurer l'exécution du Programme de travail et budget 1988-89, le Comité a passé en revue les incidences pratiques que le ralentissement des dépenses, jusqu'à concurrence de 20 millions de dollars, pourrait avoir sur la mise en oeuvre des programmes.

Il a fondé son examen sur un document détaillé, le document PC 54/2, et sur les renseignements complémentaires fournis pendant la session, oralement, par les directeurs des programmes concernés.

En guise d'introduction générale, le Comité a été informé des variables et des principes directeurs qui ont conduit à la formulation de ses propositions. Il faut dire en particulier que le choix des activités affectées n'a pas été facile. Il a fallu examiner soigneusement leur impact, mais aussi tenir compte des facteurs concrets comme l'incidence des postes vacants et la priorité accordée par les Etats Membres, soit individuellement, soit collectivement, à chaque activité ou secteur.

Le Comité a rappelé les compressions de programme exceptionnelles effectuées durant l'exercice 1986-87 en raison de facteurs indépendants de la volonté de l'Organisation. En examinant les ajustements de programme institués à cette occasion par le Directeur général, le Comité avait déjà eu l'occasion de donner son avis sur plusieurs aspects de la question au cours de ses sessions de mai et septembre 1987. En particulier, prévoyant que les difficultés se poursuivraient sans doute, en 1989, le Comité avait considéré à l'époque que l'on devrait recourir à des mesures financières plutôt qu'à des ajustements de programmes pour remédier au problème éventuel de liquidités ou autres difficultés financières.

Le Comité a déploré que les problèmes financiers persistants soient de nouveau en train de compromettre les efforts considérables consacrés par les organes directeurs et par le Secrétariat de la FAO à l'élaboration du Programme de travail et budget 1988-89. Le Comité aurait préféré qu'aucune limitation ne soit imposée à la mise en oeuvre de ce Programme de travail approuvé par la Conférence dans sa 24^{ème} Session. Il reste d'avis qu'il faut continuer à rechercher des solutions financières permettant d'éviter le ralentissement des programmes, ou du moins de limiter au maximum ce ralentissement.

Cependant, les choses étant ce qu'elles sont, le Comité a estimé que le Directeur général et les Organes directeurs de la FAO devaient faire preuve de réalisme. Il a souscrit aux principes directeurs qui ont abouti à l'identification des activités qui seront affectées par ce ralentissement des dépenses. Le Comité a noté que ses propositions n'avaient pas un caractère définitif, selon l'évolution de la situation financière et compte tenu de la nécessité constante de satisfaire de nouvelles exigences de programme. Il a reçu l'assurance qu'aucun effort ne sera épargné pour rétablir, si cela est possible, les activités affectées. Il a été informé que certaines mesures de caractère limité, avaient déjà été prises dans ce sens par le Secrétariat.

Le Comité a instamment demandé que les dispositions définitives et les annulations d'activités soient différées dans toute la mesure du possible. Il a approuvé les efforts déployés par le Secrétariat pour trouver d'autres solutions: financement extra-budgétaire, exécution conjointe de programmes avec d'autres exécutions et il a demandé que l'on examine les diverses solutions susceptibles de rétablir la situation.

Le Comité a réaffirmé qu'il est indispensable que le Directeur général dispose de toute la souplesse nécessaire. Il a donc recommandé que ce besoin de souplesse soit l'une des principales questions traitées par le Conseil aujourd'hui, c'est-à-dire à sa session de novembre 1988.

A cet égard, les membres du Comité ont aussi formulé des suggestions et indiqué leur appréciation de l'importance relative des activités figurant dans le document, activités qui seront sans doute affectées.

Certains membres ont également indiqué des priorités générales qui devraient être privilégiées dans les programmes futurs, et en tout état de cause méritent d'être analysées dans l'examen exceptionnel demandé par la Conférence dans la Résolution 6/87.

Le Comité a demandé que le Secrétariat tienne compte de ces propositions dans ses efforts pour rétablir, autant que possible, l'Intégrité du programme biennal approuvé. Vous trouverez dans notre rapport aux paragraphes 2.15, 2.16, 2.17 les détails de ses suggestions et appréciations.

En conclusion, le Comité a accepté les propositions présentées par le Directeur général, en espérant qu'il ne sera pas indispensable de les mettre en oeuvre entièrement. Il a fait observer que de nouvelles réductions de programmes seraient de nature à hypothéquer inutilement les programmes de la FAO. Le Comité a émis le vœu que les raisons qui ont entraîné l'adoption de ces mesures disparaissent au plus tôt, et que les activités de la FAO n'aient pas à subir de nouvelles érosions.

Je serai maintenant très bref en ce qui concerne l'exécution du programme d'action des Nations Unies pour le redressement économique et le développement de l'Afrique.

Nous avons également examiné ce point conformément à la Résolution 88/1 du Conseil économique et social, qui demande, aux organes directeurs de toutes les organisations compétentes du système des Nations Unies, de passer en revue les aspects du programme d'action des Nations Unies pour le redressement économique et le développement de l'Afrique qui le concernent directement, et faire connaître leur vue à la session d'été de l'ECOSOC en 1988.

Le Comité a réaffirmé le rôle prééminent de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture dans la relance et le développement des économies africaines. La FAO a donc un rôle essentiel à jouer dans l'exécution du programme d'action des Nations Unies pour le redressement économique et le développement de l'Afrique. A ce sujet le Comité s'est félicité que la FAO participe étroitement aux efforts du système des Nations Unies et a approuvé les initiatives et actions de l'Organisation.

Le Comité a souligné que le succès du Programme d'action exige une mobilisation massive des ressources tant à l'intérieur qu'à l'extérieur de la région. Il a reconnu, dans le cadre de cet effort en faveur de l'Afrique, que l'Organisation devrait porter une attention particulière aux secteurs et aux couches sociales qui sont les plus particulièrement désavantagés.

Le Comité a demandé enfin que le document présenté par le Secrétariat, ainsi que ses conclusions sur ce point de l'ordre du jour, soient présentés au Comité ad hoc plénier mis en place par l'Assemblée des Nations Unies pour l'examen et l'évaluation à moyen terme du Programme d'action pour le redressement économique et le développement de l'Afrique.

Voilà les principaux points que je voulais vous présenter et je reste à votre disposition pour toute information complémentaire que vous pourriez souhaiter.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie M. le professeur Mazoyer de sa communication introductive et nous allons ouvrir le débat d'une part sur le rapport Jansson, et d'autre part sur les autres questions soulevées, la réduction des programmes et le Programme d'action pour le redressement économique et. le développement de l'Afrique, par le Professeur Mazoyer. Je donne la parole à M. le Représentant de la Suisse.

Roger PASQUIER (Suisse): Nous avons déjà précédemment dans ce débat fait connaître l'appui que nous donnions à une intervention très élaborée du représentant du Royaume-Uni sur ce sujet. Nous constatons que le rapport du Comité du Programme, présenté par M. Mazoyer, n'est en aucun point en contradiction avec cette prise de position. Nous voudrions donc, pour notre part, ne pas revenir sur cette question, appuyer aussi ce que dit le Professeur Mazoyer et développer trois points supplémentaires.

Les deux premiers sont des propositions que notre Conseil pourrait reprendre pour les transmettre à la Commission de l' ECOSOC compétente et ensuite je ferai une recommandation qui concerne la FAO elle-même. Le rapport Jansson recommande que le PNUD élargisse le recrutement des résidents coordinateurs à des personnes provenant des agences spécialisées. Nous soutenons cette recommandation et proposons que le Conseil la fasse sienne et la transmette à la Commission.

Mon deuxième point est que le système des Nations Unies doit prendre des mesures en relation avec les nouveaux accents du développement, à savoir l'accent relatif aux programmes sectoriels et l'accent relatif aux ajustements structurels. Ces mesures dont je vais parler sont des mesures concernant le personnel. Les agences des Nations Unies, dont la FAO, devraient prendre des mesures pour recruter, à l'occasion de départs naturels des membres du personnel qui soient aptes à répondre pleinement à ces nouveaux besoins. Ces agences devraient également procéder à une formation complémentaire, qu'on appelle aussi recyclage, de certains fonctionnaires qui se prêteraient le mieux à une telle formation complémentaire pour répondre à ces nouveaux besoins.

Je passe maintenant à la recommandation que je veux faire à la FAO.

Il existe un groupe de travail sur les frais d'agence, organisé sous l'égide du PNUD. Nous supposons que la FAO a déjà pris des mesures pour y participer ou prévoit d'y participer. En tout cas, elle devrait le faire. Les frais d'agence sont de 13% actuellement. Ce chiffre est prévu jusqu'en 1991. Pour la suite, on admet qu'il faudra une formule révisée. Ceci est un point important, non pas tellement en raison du chiffre exact: 13%, un peu plus ou un peu moins, mais c'est un point où se détermine la répartition des tâches entre le PNUD et les agences. Les agences peuvent être chargées de davantage de tâches ou de moins de tâches. Le chiffre des frais d'agence varie avec cette répartition des tâches et il nous semble que c'est un point charnière qu'il vaut la peine d'étudier en prenant son temps, de manière qu'en 1991 les décisions qui seront prises soient les plus opportunes possibles.

Ms. Anna-Liisa KORHONEN (Finland): Thank you for giving me the opportunity to make additional comments on the Jansson Report. As I said in an earlier intervention, Finland supports the idea that Council provides the ECOSOC with a substantive reply for its tri-annual policy review of operational activities for development in July 1989, in accordance with the recommendations contained in the report.

My delegation considers it useful to begin with a statement in support of the Programme Committee's judgement that the Jansson Report is a balanced and objective document. This is so because it makes an assessment of the difficulties that the UN system is facing and also it tries to respond to the needs of the developing countries in a rapidly changing economic environment with its assistance programmes.

Keeping in mind the inevitably limited resources at their disposal, the UN agencies (and FAO among them) must focus their attention on providing country-specific advice based on their global, regional, and sub-regional expertise in an integrated manner. Here, joint programming may become a good tool to be further developed in close cooperation with the Governments concerned. This is even more important when many Governments are undertaking structural adjustment programmes. As has been stated earlier by several delegations, FAO's advice and active participation in the early planning stages may prove to be of considerable importance. Roundtable consultative group meetings

and other policy coordination mechanisms should be used by FAO in a cooperative spirit. The role that agriculture plays in the economies of the developing countries is such that no national plan can ignore its prominence. Therefore, the question of FAO's role in those exercises, namely, roundtable and consultative group meetings, should consider how its advice could be taken into account in order that the most meaningful results be achieved. Thus, the concept of joint programming should be considered by FAO as a new challenge which offers new opportunities to fulfil its advisory role in cooperation with the other assistance agencies.

The primary responsibility at country level coordination rests with the governments concerned. The UNDP country programming system is the foundation for longer-term programming of resources. Through no other mechanism can the recipient countries estimate funds for such a long period ahead. The programming process needs constant scrutiny because of the changing circumstances. The agricultural sector has absorbed a large part of the resources channelled through the UNDP country programming system. Therefore, it should also be of interest to FAO to be actively involved in the further improvement of the country programming exercise. A separate trust fund approach cannot replace the central funding system, but only complement it in certain specific cases.

Finland considers it important that FAO indicates in its Trust Fund requests how the proposals fit with the other related programmes, regardless of the funding source, and also how the proposal promotes the nationally adopted objectives for development - especially if the country is implementing structural adjustment programmes.

My delegation supports the notion of the Programme Committee that the roles of the Resident Coordinator and the Resident Representative should not be separated, but should be continually improved through modalities suitable in the country concerned. The question of co-location of premises should also be studied from a pragmatic point of view. Not only cost saving arguments speak for common premises, but also the ease of communication. The harmonization of procedure should also be promoted as the delegate of the United Kingdom suggests as a reply to recommendation (d) of the Jansson Report.

Ms. Joan DUDIK-GAYOSO (United States of America): The Jansson Report is, as the Programme Committee said, a balanced, objective document which provides a realistic assessment of the issues and the difficulties facing UN operational activities. As we said the other day, we believe the Council should expand on the views expressed by the Programme Committee and transmit its conclusions to the ECOSOC as requested by UN General Assembly resolution 42/196. We urge FAO's continuing participation in discussions of these issues because they coordinate with the review of FAO currently underway.

My delegation would like to note here that after listening to yesterday's discussion, it seems that one of the by-products of the review is likely to be a widening of the dialogue between FAO and its sister members in the UN system. My delegation would appreciate the Secretariat providing the Members of this Council with a list of the FAO staff members who accompany the experts on their visits to various UN organizations, the multi lateral banks and so on.

The Jansson Report has shown us irrefutably what most of us have suspected all along. Namely that there are major problems of coherence in most UN system field programmes. Depending on the capacity of individual recipient countries this places more or less of a burden on government authorities charged with managing development activities. My Government believes that the current arrangements between UNDP and the UN specialized agencies undermine the effectiveness of UN operational activities and development. Agencies are encouraged to maximize total dollar value of UNDP funded projects at the expense of project quality.

Sectoral agencies have allocated resources to project backstopping at the expense of their broader responsibility for sectoral analysis and policy advice. Technical backstopping by headquarters staff has tended to focus on delivery of project inputs, with little or no attention to implementation and results. This we have found in a number of agencies in the system, not just in relation to FAO.

UNDP is becoming increasingly an implementing agency. The financing role of the specialized agencies is increasing. As I said the other day, government execution is growing and its nature is changing. The relationship of UNDP and other organizations of the UN system is changing.

My Government believes that these changes should be reflected in new arrangements for support costs and the reimbursement of agencies for their role in implementing UNDP projects. I will not speak in detail because I took this matter up yesterday. However, I would state here that the problems I have noted were pointed out years ago as well as the possible solutions. No action was taken then, or since, in spite of the Jansson Report.

Support cost decisions are not simply financial decisions, they are basic policy decisions on the structure of the relationship of the partners in the system. They must reflect the real changes that have and are taking place.

One tool to increase the coherence of UN system field activities is the UNDP country programme which so far has failed as a frame of reference for programming all UN system technical assistance. Lack of common objectives, different programme cycles, weak analytical capacity in UNDP and the agencies are three of the reasons for this state of affairs. We believe that in order for the UNDP country programme to become a frame of reference for all UN technical assistance, a UN system - a country programme - it is essential for the country programme to be based on an assessment of technical assistance needs and an integrated technical assistance strategy.

The following comments are keyed to the particular paragraphs in document CL 94/3 on the Jansson Report in the Programme Committee's assessment. Paragraph 2.23 - we fully support the efforts to improve and augment FAO's capacity to provide substantive and sectoral advice to governments, and to assist in building up government competence in sectoral and sub-sectoral agricultural planning, coordination and policy analysis.

However, we also see a need for more effective use of technical cooperation activities to build up governments' capacity to manage agricultural development programmes. Too often this aspect of - external assistance gets too little attention. We believe such capacity building can best be achieved by decentralising to the field level the design and implementation of UN development assistance activities so as to facilitate and encourage country government participation in these processes and a more effective transfer of technical and managerial expertise from the UN system to recipient governments.

Not only do we recognize the fact, noted in paragraph 2.24, that it may be difficult, if not impossible, for the resident coordinator to coordinate all external assistance to a country, but we believe such a role may not be appropriate in some situations. We make a clear distinction between the resident coordinator's responsibility for coordinating UN system operational activities for development pursuant to UN General Assembly Resolution 32/97 which is in the annex, and the added responsibility for coordinating all technical assistance which may be conferred on the resident coordinator in a limited number of countries, perhaps for example, in round-table countries, by the host government and owners.

With regard to paragraph 2.26, we agree that FAO and other sectoral agencies should play an important active role in the country programming process - and I do not think FAO should wait to be asked - as well as in the NATCAPS. We believe that the current system of project execution and support cost reimbursement has resulted in excessive emphasis being placed by central agencies on project execution, as I said, at the expense of their analytical and advisory functions.

We believe that important coordination at the country level is not simply a matter of more frequent exchange of information but rather a question of more effectively integrating the use of UN system resources to pursue common, sectoral, subsectoral or cross-sectoral strategies, to achieve common objectives regardless, I might add, of the particular personalities involved.

We recognize the importance of the functions of agency representatives beyond those involving field operations, but we also believe in the need for country level coordination of all UN system activities which contribute to the resident country's development.

Looking at paragraph 2.29 we believe that agency staff serving as advisers to specific agricultural ministry units should be located at the relevant agricultural ministry premises. We feel, however, that FAO and other sectoral agency staff responsible for providing agricultural policy advice to the government and for the management of operational activities for development should be located in the same premises as the resident coordinator. Accordingly we strongly support the efforts of the Joint Consultative Group for Policy to rationalize field office structure, not only to reduce administrative costs but also, as others have said, to enhance cooperation, coherence and efficiency, and to facilitate the provision of ongoing integrated multisectoral advice at the field level.

Here I would like once again formally to put a question that my delegation put at the Conference last year and to which we are still awaiting an answer: what is the cost on a country by country basis of FAO field offices? We asked this question three or four times. I refer to all costs, those associated with the regular and the field programmes. I would be happy with data for the most recent year available. We have been waiting for an answer for one year.

We share the Committee's appreciation of the ongoing active cooperation between FAO and UNDP but we are concerned that, as indicated in paragraph 2.30, UNDP seems to be viewed only as a source of financial support for FAO's field programmes. We strongly believe that the UNDP central funding

role within the UN development system should be more effectively used to encourage an integrated approach to the country programme and management of UN development resources as well as to the provision of policy, technical and management advice to governments.

We deplore the fact that the current system of project execution and support cost reimbursement is perceived as fostering competition between UNDP, technical agencies and governments for the management of UNDP/IPF resources, whereas the UN system's goal should be to help resident governments assume responsibility for the overall management of their development programmes.

Finally, with regard to paragraph 2.31, we believe that the design, monitoring and evaluation of projects financed by bilateral donors under multi-bi agreements with specialized agencies could benefit significantly from integration within the UNDP project formulation and management system, even if Trust Funds continued to be channelled through these agencies.

We also note that the report of the External Auditor on FAO's administration of Trust Fund projects calls attention to the fact that the FAO system for formulating, appraising and monitoring Trust Fund projects suffers from the lack of detailed guidance prescribed by UNDP for UNDP-funded projects.

In closing I would like here in this body to note that in the September meeting of the UNDP working group two requests were made of the specialized agencies participating there. These requests seem to be very simple and yet they are indicative of what needs to be done in the system.

The first request was a suggestion made by the representative of another UN specialized agency, and it was that the specialized agencies each undertake to provide to the recipient coordinator in country on a quarterly basis an indication of the travellers coming from their agency to that country. This, the members of the working group agreed, would greatly facilitate not only the work of the UNDP resident coordinator but also the government.

The second request was that agencies indicate in the next meeting of the UNDP working group how they handle their trust funded projects in relationship to the UNDP country programme. I certainly hope that the FAO representative participating in the meeting in February at which this topic will be taken up will have a positive response, and I must say that I was rather concerned that none of the agencies - I am not singling FAO out - felt comfortable responding to the idea of providing travel plans without first checking with their headquarters, even on an indicative basis.

Masahiko YASUMURO (Japan): My delegation considers that the Jansson report contains a lot of constructive comments or recommendation on the UN System Operational Activities for Development, and shares the view of the two committees that the report is a balanced and objective one.

My delegation believes that FAO can improve and strengthen its ability in development activities, as well as its policy advisory role, by accepting those recommendations of the Jansson Report, which conforms to the role, objectives and operational system of our Organization.

My delegation can support the comments on the report by the Programme Committee, described in document CL 94/3, that is (1) the importance of catalytic assistance to governments from the specialized agencies concerned with effective coordination and goodwill, in paragraph 2.23; (2) improvement and strengthening in coordination of external technical assistance at the country level, in connection with the UN resident coordinator and UNDP country programming, mentioned in paragraphs 2.24 to 27; (3) the important role of FAO representatives and its good relation to the UNDP operational system, in paragraphs 2.28 and 29; and (4) the importance of FAO Trust Fund projects, in paragraph 2.31.

My delegation expects that concrete measures to improve and strengthen FAO's operational system of development activities should be set up through the ongoing FAO review, and discussion at future sessions of the Governing Body which are to pay due consideration to the Jansson report and UNDP review now under implementation.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Profesor Mazoyer, parece justificada la expectativa con que lo esperamos toda la semana pasada, porque usted ha confirmado esta mañana nuevamente sus grandes capacidades. Sr. Presidente, intervenimos ahora porque pensamos que usted ha hecho muy bien al conceder la oportunidad a distinguidos representantes de países desarrollados, que han intervenido hasta ahora, de pronunciarse sobre este tema. Yo hablo solamente a nombre de Colombia, pero creo que los países en desarrollo nos encontramos ligeramente en desventaja, porque no conocimos el informe Jansson en su oportunidad ni tenemos tantas oportunidades de acceso a otras fuentes y a otros contactos como nuestros colegas.

De todas maneras, Sr. Presidente, queremos declarar que este informe es importante, y creo que es una conclusión sobre la cual nosotros nos podemos poner fácilmente de acuerdo; es un documento equilibrado y objetivo, como dice el Comité de Programa. Creo que no convendrá hacer referencia a que se visitaron pocos países ni a que las misiones fueron de breve duración, para no restarle importancia al informe, que, a juicio de la Delegación de Colombia, señala con realismo problemas y dificultades que existen en las actividades operacionales en el sistema de Naciones Unidas.

Señor Presidente, nosotros pensamos que en este Consejo, que es el organismo eminentemente político de la FAO, nuestra función en relación con el informe Jansson es tratar de reflejar nuestra opinión sobre cómo las recomendaciones del informe Jansson deben aplicarse en el seno de esta Organización. Por ello, aunque no tengamos un conocimiento muy profundo de este tema, nos sentimos tranquilos, porque el Sr. Jansson tiene un nombre de prestigio y de respeto en la comunidad internacional -proviene de Finlandia, un país nórdico, y todo el mundo sabe cómo Colombia aprecia y admira la actitud altruista y generosa de los países nórdicos- y porque, además -esto no se ha dicho esta mañana-, el Sr. Jansson es merecidamente uno de los expertos que están estudiando el Examen de la FAO en la parte referente a las actividades de campo. De manera que yo creo que nuestras preocupaciones no deben ser muy intensas acerca de si ha hecho o no ha hecho mucho la FAO o lo que podemos hacer nosotros, porque estamos seguros de que, en su función de experto el Sr. Jansson, como es natural, tratará de que se apliquen muchas de sus recomendaciones, que, en general, son muy objetivas, prácticas y benéficas, y nosotros las apoyamos.

En relación con lo que ha hecho la FAO hasta ahora, Sr. Presidente -digo la FAO e incluyo también al Prof. Mazoyer y a esos otros colegas, diez miembros más del Comité del Programa-, la Delegación de Colombia piensa que nuestra Organización ha hecho hasta ahora lo que tenía que hacer en relación con el informe Jansson y con la Resolución 42/196 de la Asamblea General. El Comité del Programa, desde mayo pasado, se ocupó de este asunto. Consignó en este documento sus opiniones, opiniones que han sido generalmente apoyadas por los miembros del Consejo, y todo esto lo hizo en tiempo, antes de la reunión de julio de ECOSOC; eso, desde el punto de vista de nuestros órganos rectores. Por su parte, la FAO, la Secretaría de la FAO, también ya ha transmitido sus observaciones a la Asamblea General. No sabemos, Sr. Presidente, si algunos colegas que han intervenido pretenden torturar aun más al Prof. Mazoyer y a los miembros del Comité del Programa pidiéndoles que se vuelvan a ocupar de nuevo de este asunto. Yo creo que es inconveniente hacer esa sugerencia, porque del examen que tan largamente discutimos hasta ayer en la noche surgirán todos estos elementos, que en el marco de la FAO podrán ser considerados más objetivamente dentro de ese Examen. De manera que creo, Sr. Presidente, que el Comité del Programa ha cumplido sus funciones.

Queremos decir también, Sr. Presidente, que hoy nos sentimos más tranquilos en relación con intervenciones que acerca de nuestros temas oímos en los días pasados, cuando tuvimos la impresión de que se proponía limitar la acción de la FAO, nos pareció entender que la FAO no debería cumplir su función de asesoramiento político y técnico a los Gobiernos. Nosotros estamos de acuerdo con el Comité del Programa de que la FAO tiene un papel importante de asesoramiento sustantivo y sectorial a los Gobiernos y también estamos de acuerdo en que la FAO debe cumplir cada vez más una función activa y dinámica.

En los años 60 los Representantes de Colombia acuñamos una frase, según la cual los Representantes de ciertos países habían pretendido encerrar a la FAO en una torre de marfil, aislándola de la realidad, del desarrollo global internacional. En esos años cuando hablábamos aquí de que la FAO enviara sus conocimientos en materia de producción, proyección y comercio agrícola a la UNCTAD o al GATT, se nos decía que estábamos pretendiendo que la FAO fuera más allá de sus campos específicos. Debemos dar acto, Sr. Presidente, a que a través de un proceso progresivo y con la ayuda franca y leal de todos los Representantes de los países desarrollados, la FAO afortunadamente se ha transformado y hoy es una Organización que cumple sus funciones en los campos de la agricultura y la alimentación, pero con la necesaria interrelación que ello conlleva en otros aspectos de la economía mundial. Por otra parte, también estamos en capacidad de afirmar a través de nuestra experiencia nacional y de nuestra propia participación en estas actividades, que la FAO ha ido mejorando progresiva y considerablemente en la ejecución de sus proyectos. Yo creo que ésta es una opinión generalizada de todos los gobiernos, sobre todo los países beneficiarios.

Algunos de los colegas que están en esta sala y sobre todo funcionarios de la Secretaría, recordarán también que hubo un período en que las relaciones entre la FAO y el PNUD no eran propiamente satisfactorias, para usar un calificativo benévolo. Hoy debemos registrar con satisfacción que esas relaciones son excelentes. Entendemos que a principios del próximo año, seguramente esto lo podrá confirmar la Secretaría de la FAO, o el observador del PNUD, a principios del próximo año habrá otra reunión de alto nivel entre los Representantes de la FAO y el PNUD, para, como esperamos todos, se fortalezca aun más ese pleno entendimiento que todos debemos registrar complacidos.

Sr. Presidente, en vista de que no hay más oradores, si usted me lo permite quisiera hacer algunas referencias, a las propuestas concretas que han hecho algunos colegas. El colega Pasquier, de Suiza hizo tres propuestas específicas, que no nos ofrecen dificultades. No sabemos si la primera de

ellas en relación a que nosotros estimulemos a que el PNUD pueda contratar cada vez más representantes residentes, a funcionarios de los organismos especializados, sí puede hacer una competencia muy adecuada para un organismo que está limitado al marco de la FAO, porque, naturalmente, el PNUD tiene una política mucho más amplia, pero esto no nos ofrece dificultades y sabemos el buen ánimo y el espíritu constructivo con que los Representantes de Suiza intervienen siempre.

En relación con los reajustes estructurales, allí sí, Sr. Presidente, queremos apoyar al colega de Suiza. Pensamos que la FAO no debe estar aislada de esos procesos, que se le debe permitir que nuestra Organización cumpla una cierta función de mediación, que trate a través de la acción de la FAO en el campo agrícola y alimentario, que es tan importante para los países en desarrollo, en mitigar, en modificar un poco los impactos a veces dolorosos y de consecuencias lamentables que sufren algunos países a través de los llamados reajustes estructurales. El tercer punto del colega Pasquier, de Suiza, también pertenece a una larga controversia a través de muchos años: los gastos de apoyo del 14 al 13%; creo que afortunadamente ese debate ya se ha terminado en los órganos rectores, se ha estabilizado en el porcentaje que hoy todos aceptan y esto, Sr. Presidente, lo podíamos ver de nuevo en el año 91.

Otra delegación, Sr. Presidente, una agradable voz femenina, planteó algunos asuntos a los cuales deseamos referirnos con el mejor de los saludos. Apoyamos plenamente y pedimos que conste en el Informe del Consejo la necesidad de que la FAO participe cada vez más en todos los debates en los cuales se discuta en el seno de las Naciones Unidas cuestiones relacionadas con el desarrollo. Y decimos que la FAO insista en esa participación, porque nos consta que nuestra Organización ya lo está haciendo, la FAO no está aislada. Se habló aquí de viajes y de nombres de las personas que van a participar en una u otra actividad, creo que esto es secundario Sr. Presidente, los Representantes de Colombia cada vez que vamos a una reunión o queremos saber quiénes de la FAO van a estar presentes lo obtenemos fácilmente y naturalmente esto es constructivo porque a través del contacto personal se facilitan todas estas cosas.

No estamos de acuerdo, Sr. Presidente, con el hecho de que los acuerdos actuales socavan las actividades operacionales. Creo que hay dificultades, el Informe Janesom las señala, pero se pueden ir mejorando.

Queremos reiterar nuestra preocupación, esto se dijo también, por el hecho de que el PNUD se haya ido convirtiendo progresivamente en un propio organismo de ejecución y hoy día parece que la FAO no es el primer organismo de ejecución del PNUD, sino el propio PNUD. El Banco Mundial también ejecuta muchos proyectos. Yo creo, Sr. Presidente, que si queremos en realidad, como parece que es la intención de este Consejo, el reafirmar el papel fundamental de las agencias especializadas como la FAO, debemos pedir, Sr. Presidente, que el PNUD tenga en cuenta las capacidades, la especialización, el alto grado profesional de los expertos de la FAO y que trate de que los organismos especializados entre ellos la FAO puedan seguir ejecutando progresivamente en mayor cantidad los proyectos hasta donde sea posible.

Otro punto a que no se hizo referencia en relación con la ejecución de los proyectos es el hecho de que el PNUD está llevando a cabo ahora una política que apoyamos ya en un tema anterior y que fue apoyado por la Conferencia Regional de América Latina y el Caribe en Brasil, y es la ejecución de los proyectos por los propios gobiernos que estén en condiciones de hacer esas ejecuciones. Creemos, Sr. Presidente, que esto es importante también que se diga en nuestro Informe, porque aquellos países que estén en condiciones de que sus gobiernos o instituciones nacionales ejecuten los proyectos tendrán así un medio para fortalecer esas instituciones y para formar nuevos expertos nacionales en los países en desarrollo.

La misma distinguida delegación a que me estoy haciendo referencia, Sr. Presidente, dibujó un marco ideal de programación común y total, nos pareció ver un cuadro a través del cual marchaban todos los representantes de los organismos de brazo, mano entre las manos, hacia los representantes de los gobiernos. Naturalmente que apoyamos esa concepción, pero si somos realistas debemos reconocer que ese sería el punto ideal al que deberíamos llegar, pero que por ahora estamos en un proceso progresivo que ha avanzado favorablemente, y creo que con ese espíritu es con el que debemos recibir el Informe Jansson.

Sr. Presidente, se dijeron cosas muy serias, sinceramente, Sr. Presidente, y muy importantes. Nosotros creemos que todo esto debe releerse en nuestro Informe, pero igualmente se trataron cosas de menor importancia, en nuestra opinión, como son por ejemplo, las oficinas, este es un problema que conocemos y que también se ha discutido a través de los años. Nosotros creemos que no por el hecho de estar en el mismo local, que no por osmosis, el espíritu de cooperación y coordinación se va a transmitir. Eso va mucho más allá de un local común, de la ocasión de tomarse un capuchino al tiempo en la mañana. Desgraciadamente, Sr. Presidente, ese proceso de la coordinación está afectado generalmente también y esto es marginal, pero conviene citarlo, por las personalidades que ocupan los cargos en cada oportunidad. El entendimiento, las fricciones entre las personas, entre el

coordinador residente, los representantes de las agencias, los funcionarios de los gobiernos, esos son en realidad factores que determinan la mayor o menor coordinación, la mayor o menor cooperación, más que los locales mismos.

Después de todo esto, Sr. Presidente, yo quiero agradecer a usted y a los colegas anteriores que han intervenido que nos hayan dado la ocasión también de referirnos a este Informe, que repetimos es sumamente importante.

Queremos pedir a nuestra distinguida colega de Finlandia que trasmita a su Gobierno el reconocimiento del Gobierno colombiano, porque uno de los hijos más competentes y capaces de Finlandia se ocupe de estas cuestiones tan importantes. Gracias.

V.K. SIBAL (India): We would like to thank President Mazoyer, the Chairman of the Programme Committee, for the presentation of the items under discussion. I must say I am concerned that this debate is not being held under ideal conditions. The Jansson Report was considered by the General Assembly; views on it were to be submitted to the Second Regular Session of ECOSOC in July 1988. You have already heard the explanation that, as the Council was not meeting when the matter had been examined, to avoid delay, the matter was put before the Programme Committee, which considered it in detail. Now those views have been comported to Council today.

We do not have the document before us and this discussion is almost becoming a discussion on the Report itself when the ECOSOC has considered FAO's views on the report. The matter has even gone to the General Assembly. If we want to reflect further on these issues, we need to reflect on them in the full knowledge of the issues involved so that everyone can apply himself fully to these issues. This is not happening today in the absence of the Jansson Report.

So far as this report is concerned, we agree that it is balanced and objective and the recommendations are acceptable, even though these are based on visits to a small number of countries for a few days. It is a complement to the report that, in spite of the short sample and short duration of the visits, it is acceptable and a number of valid recommendations have emerged.

Coordination is the central focus of this report and there is no doubt that it is the responsibility of the national governments primarily to bring about this coordination. The FAO has a role in assisting the government with advice and assistance on agricultural planning, coordination and policy analysis. In this context, training in economic planning would have its own importance. We have to view this issue with realism, in the context of the share of the United Nations System in the total aid flows to recipient countries. Considering the small size of the United Nations System's contribution to total aid flows, it would be unrealistic obviously to expect the UNDP Resident Coordinator to coordinate all external assistance in a country. This, in all seriousness, would be asking for too much. It would be more realistic to aim at sectoral or sub-sectoral coordination, and here the role of the FAO, and Specialized Agencies like the FAO, is self-evident. The report itself has concluded that the UNDP country programmes were often too narrow to serve as a frame of reference for development assistance, as they were not linked closely enough with overall national planning. This situation would limit the possibilities of the Resident Coordinator in bringing about any overall coordination. We agree that the existing national coordinating mechanisms should be strengthened and improved rather than having new coordinating institutions or systems installed and that FAO should play its proper role in the improved functioning of the existing mechanisms.

The role of the FAO Representatives has been referred to. This role is important in technical cooperation advisory services and as a channel of information between FAO and countries to which representatives are accredited. It may be recalled the the Jansson Report has recognized and appreciated the importance of the role of FAO Representatives.

On the sharing of premises the Committee has rightly supported the case by case approach, keeping in view the importance of the preference of national governments in these matters. We agree with the Committee's conclusion that it may not be necessary that Trust Funds be channeled as much as possible through the UNDP. What is important is that the Trust Fund projects be well coordinated with the Technical Cooperation activities in the context of the national plans and that does not predicate any centralization of funds. We agree with this approach.

Sra. Margarita LIZARRAGA (México): Apreciamos mucho la presentación que ha hecho sobre el tema el Sr. Mazoyer. Nuestra delegación le da una gran importancia al sistema multilateral y a la coordinación interagencial. Nos parece un elemento clave para hacer el uso más eficaz de los recursos disponibles y de los esfuerzos gubernamentales. Nuestra delegación no ha tenido la

oportunidad de contar con el documento completo, ya que no era un tema de agenda, sino solamente las áreas de competencia con FAO, la cual está muy bien explicitada en los documentos que analizamos en el tema 10 y en el actual, así como la presentación del Presidente del Comité del Programa. A este respecto le damos todo el apoyo. Sentimos los comentarios de los colegas de Finlandia, Estados Unidos y otros que nos precedieron, ya que hay una objetividad de actitud constructiva que mucho nos satisface.

Apoyamos pues que en el ámbito de la FAO, particularmente en estos momentos que se hace la revisión, puedan ser tomadas en consideración. Estamos seguros que con la experiencia del Sr. Jansson y a la luz de la participación del mismo en un trabajo que analiza particularmente a la FAO, los resultados serán todavía más completos.

Compartimos con el distinguido Delegado de Colombia la inquietud relativa a que algunas Agencias Coordinadoras como el PNUD o el Banco Mundial se vuelvan ejecutoras.

Winston RUDDER (Trinidad and Tobago): Both as a recipient country of development assistance and a member of the FAO Council we have an interest in this particular topic. The multi-faceted nature of development argues in favour of greater cooperation in strategy definition and increased coordination in planning and programming amongst the agencies and arrangements established in the name of international development assistance. Accordingly my delegation supports the various initiatives proposed in the Report and as agreed by the Programme Committee to avoid costly duplication among several United Nations related organizations. We believe that this coordination provides real opportunities for improving the efficacy of programmes of technical assistance to individual countries. We would emphasize, however, the point made in paragraph 2.23 of CL 94/3 which underscores one of the points made in the Jansson Report that coordination is the overriding responsibility of governments. In this regard, therefore, the strengthening of controllable coordinating mechanisms should take account of this fact and include the promotion of mechanisms to improve the capability of national coordinating systems.

Whatever the modalities of coordination amongst the agencies themselves this must not impair the responsiveness with which the sector-related agencies are able to provide assistance to countries and in this regard we wish to single out the responsiveness of FAO. Let us remember that a primary function of the Organization is to furnish such technical assistance as governments may request and to organize any cooperation with governments concerned such missions as may be needed to assist them as stated in Article 1. I make this point merely to forewarn that coordination may not be pursued as an end in itself but rather as a facilitating framework or mechanism to strengthen, enhance and further support the Organization in the realization of its mission, role and function. Conceptually therefore, coordination holds no terrors for us, in fact we support it wholeheartedly but as far as the responsiveness, flexibility, user-friendliness, if you like, of FAO is concerned, it is not our anticipation that in any such coordinating arrangements the effective contribution and influence of FAO will become diluted. We make this point because, as you well know, and the Colombian delegate has emphasized, the question of personalities has tremendous influence on the effectiveness with which institutions operate, collaborate and coordinate.

Our expectation is that the true worth of FAO as an International policy advisory and programme assisting institution in the area of agriculture, forestry, fisheries and rural development will be acknowledged in these arrangements and will be fully utilized and that the overall technical assistance provided to individual needy countries will be more cost-effective.

R. G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): I had not originally intended to come back again on the subject of the Jansson Report, having spoken at some length on another occasion but I would just like to make two simple points. One is that I have seen this debate as an opportunity for the collection of ideas from members of the Council. It is not an occasion when one need have comments on comments or count heads on the degree of support for views. The key point in the discussions in which the Jansson Report is a part is the triennial review next year.

I do make one exception to this in that I would wish to associate myself with the views expressed by the United States on the subject of the consideration of the success arrangement for the support costs being conducted in the UNDP Governing Council. This review must be taken imaginatively and I would strongly support the suggestion by Finland that FAO take seriously their involvement in the prior work by the Secretariats of the UN System. I believe they are doing so but I would emphasize this is important.

The second point is that in my intervention a day or so ago I did invite various questions and points of view from the Secretariat and I would hope that in our report, which I assume will be our response to the paragraph 2 of the General Assembly Resolution, that we do include the Secretariat views on this and do not distinguish them as Secretariat versus member views. They are all FAO views that should be conveyed as part of our response.

Namukolo MUKUTU (Zambia): We have studied the Report of the Programme Committee on the Jansson Report, that is the study of the operational activities of United Nations System. Since we have not received a detailed report, our comments are guided completely by what the Programme Committee has reported. In spite of the small size of the sample of the countries used in the Jansson case studies, my delegation is in general support of what appears to be the main recommendations of the Report.

It is very sound that the Report focused on coordination. My delegation agrees totally that coordination is the overriding responsibility of governments. The government coordination must be both sectoral and at national levels. At sectoral level, the ministries of agriculture must lead the coordination with FAO playing its key role at this stage. At national level, the planning ministries should be responsible for coordination, with UNDP playing its role at this level. Both UNDP and FAO should pay greater attention to enabling and building the capacity of governments to coordinate. In other words, the two United Nations Agencies should be involved in institution-building. The Zambian delegation believes that it is important to have the strong presence of both UNDP and FAO in the concerned countries. The FAO would have strong sectoral interests whereas UNDP would be involved in the coordination of other United Nations Agencies, including the FAO itself.

However, agricultural activities are too crucial for Africa and indeed other developing countries to be left to the portfolio of a few UNDP staff in a given country. Even in areas where FAO matters were broadly covered by UNDP, it was extremely difficult to obtain timely action on vital matters. The situation has since changed for the better.

My delegation would like this Conference to take particular note of paragraph 2.24 in document CL 94/3 where the Programme Committee has "recognized the relatively small share of the UN system in total aid and assistance flows to most recipient countries." This must surely be part of the problem for the lack of development in the poor countries. This meagre flow of resources to poor countries is made worse by the fact that most of the financial flows are for the payment of consultants. In other words, most of the financial flows go back to Europe or elsewhere in the form of fees. It is important that we orient our future programmes more to actual developments than to studies which always end up recommending more studies for consultants to perpetuate their income-earning capacities by study after study after study.

How can it be that in spite of all the apparent goodwill in this august House, the developing countries are getting poorer and poorer? Is it our policies? Is it our failure to identify the real issues, or must there always be the rich and the poor? Is it not possible for all of us to be rich at the same time?

It was against that foregoing background that I read with interest the latest developments in the UN system with regard to the Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development. It is true that the food and agriculture sector is crucial and extremely important for the economic recovery of Africa. It is also absolutely true that FAO and UNDP can play the most important role in this possible recovery. For this to happen, however, resources must be mobilized on a massive scale. These have to come from outside Africa in the style of the Marshall Plan of the 1940s, but who is prepared to look after Africa today?

Waliur RAHMAN (Bangladesh): As I had occasion to thank Prof. Mazoyer for the report, I would like to renew my appreciation to him for the Report and also for the supplementary comments he made this morning. We believe - as I have already stated earlier on - that the Programme Committee's deliberations have taken care of the major findings of the Jansson case studies. I am convinced that this will greatly assist us in improving and revitalising the operational activities of the UN system.

I was particularly struck by the very important comments made by the distinguished delegate of Finland which underline the vital role that agriculture and agro-based industries play in the economy of most of the developing countries. It is true. That is precisely why we believe that the FAO should be called upon to play, and should play, an increasingly important, active and creative role in, and participate in, all inter-agency discussions as realized in the preparation of the IPF and national planning, etc.

The FAO's advisory role among others, inter alia, will in our view go a long way in helping us to achieve the important structural adjustments in our national economies.

Lastly, a word of thanks to Mr. Jamison for the very good work he has done in a rather limited timeframe and a limited base of work possibility.

Ms. Joan DUDIK-GAYOSO (United States of America): I would like to clear up what perhaps might be a misunderstanding based on the comments made by the delegate of India having to do with the UNDP country programme. He said, if I heard him correctly, that the country programme was narrow. He referred in particular to its relationship to national plans. Those of us who have reviewed the UNDP country programmes - and I would say if you have reviewed 150 country programmes you certainly know that you have reviewed 150 country programmes - know that UNDP has made a great deal of effort to make the country programmes (which basically are documents, in any case, of the governments concerned) conform to the national planning periods and the national planning priorities. It is the assessment of my Government, and also the assessment of UNDP presented to the governing Council after the review of the fourth cycle 150 country programmes, that virtually all of them correspond to the national plans. If they do not, that is the result of a decision by the government, but I have not seen one that does not, I must say. In fact, it has been the position of the US that perhaps these plans, in trying to do that, are so broad, given the size of UNDP resources, which others have pointed out are not all that large, that they may be dispersing their effort and diffusing it too greatly. In any case, I would like to reassure this body that as far as we know to the UNDP country programmes do conform and support the priorities of the national plans and fit in to those planning periods.

The second point I want to make has to do with whether or not this was on the agenda. In fact, we had a long discussion the first day that this was on the agenda. The problem is that for those of us who do not follow this all the time, if it is not indicated in the annotated agenda you do not necessarily know until you get to Rome or until the document arrives - which is usually just about the time you are getting to Rome - that this is on the agenda. We were watching for it because we have been following the Jansson Report through the UN system, but delegations who have not been following it have my sympathy.

This adds to the request we made under Item 10 that if there could be in the annotated agenda some indication of what are the topics that are likely to come up in the document provided for Item 10, so that people can get their act together before they come here, it would be helpful to all of us.

I would also like to take this opportunity to ask that we try to move, together with the FAO, a little bit from the rhetoric to the action. I have heard a lot of agreement about the development of host country capabilities around the room, about the priority responsibility of government, about the role of FAO in sectoral level coordination. My delegation would like to suggest that there be a report by FAO to the Conference about specific steps FAO has taken to improve coordination in the field. The Jansson Report has been out for a year now. The FAO will have another year in which to take some steps in response to its recommendations, and I think it might be useful for us not just to say that we all agree that there should be coordination but talk about what has been done to improve the situation.

Vanrob ISARANKURA (Thailand): Since Thailand is not a member of the Finance and Programme Committees, we have had no chance to look at the Jansson Report, but because I am from a recipient country I want to say something. I should like to refer to the last part of paragraph 2.31 of document CL 94/3 which indicates that it is not necessary to have centralization of Trust Fund resources. My delegation would like to support the Committee's view because FAO has already managed these Trust Funds effectively.

We also concur that in many cases the Trust Funds with a sectoral focus have led to additional resources for technical cooperation in agriculture.

Bernard LEDUN (France): Je serai très bref puisque notre Délégation a déjà eu l'occasion d'intervenir à propos du Rapport Jansson sur l'examen du point concernant les faits nouveaux survenus dans les Nations Unies. Je souhaiterais en premier lieu m'associer à ce qui a été dit par le Délégué de l'Inde sur une sorte de débordement dans ce débat qui, initialement, devait se cantonner à des observations sur les commentaires faits par le Comité du Programme sur le Rapport Jansson, et non pas sur un débat de fond à propos du rapport lui-même.

Ceci dit je ferai deux remarques qui porteront plus particulièrement sur deux points du document établi par le Comité du Programme.

Il s'agit d'une part du paragraphe 2.23 où il est dit que la coordination doit être faite principalement et tout d'abord par les gouvernements.

Nous nous associons tout à fait à cette observation et considérons qu'en ce domaine la FAO a un rôle tout particulier à jouer auprès des pays confrontés à des programmes d'ajustement structurel ou sectoriel.

Notre seconde remarque porte sur le paragraphe 2.31 et nous pensons, comme le Comité du Programme, qu'il n'est pas souhaitable que les fonds fiduciaires soient centralisés par le PNUD.

V.K. SIBAL (India): Possibly there is a misunderstanding about what we said, and I should just clarify that what we were referring to was a conclusion in the Jansson Report itself, that the UNDP country programmes were too narrow to serve as a frame of reference for development assistance. If they were to serve as a frame of reference for development assistance, it would be necessary that there should be closer links between these programmes and overall national planning. That is the simple point we were trying to make and I hope that there is no misunderstanding on this score. The fact that this linkage was not of the proportion it should have been would have an effect on the influence of the resident coordinator to promote overall coordination. That was simply the point.

Antoine SAINTRAINT (Observateur de la Belgique): Je voudrais faire quelques réflexions sur ce débat particulièrement intéressant et qui le sera peut-être encore davantage dans l'avenir lorsque ce rapport sera éclairé par les perspectives que le même expert est en train de réaliser au sujet des opérations de terrain de la FAO. Celui-ci est particulièrement bien placé pour ce faire, et je suis convaincu que le rapport qu'il déposera sera particulièrement intéressant.

La coordination est un objectif que l'on essaie tous d'atteindre à tous les niveaux, que ce soit au niveau des pays, au niveau régional ou mondial, mais c'est un objectif que l'on n'atteint jamais; en effet, la coordination parfaite n'existe pas. Nous sommes bien placés pour le savoir puisqu'au sein d'un petit pays il est extrêmement difficile d'arriver à une coordination à travers la même administration, entre le 10ème, le 14ème ou le 12ème étage... il y a fatalement des antagonismes, des rivalités et des points de vues différents-Cette tâche est encore plus complexe quant il s'agit d'en arriver à une coordination entre différents ministères, par exemple le Ministère de l'Agriculture ou des Finances ou des Affaires Etrangères ou de la Coopération. Par conséquent, si l'on ne parvient pas à réaliser la coordination dans un petit pays, le problème est infiniment plus complexe quand on atteint une dimension plus large.

Depuis des années, on discute de coordination, notamment pour ce qui concerne le Comité d'aide au développement de l'OCDE; il faut essayer d'améliorer la situation; mais il faut aussi se rendre compte que des difficultés continueront à se poser.

Il y a un point précis sur lequel nous devons pouvoir nous prononcer, c'est celui du rôle du PNUD; le PNUD doit assurer un rôle de coordination au sein des pays, au niveau régional ou au niveau de bureaux plus larges, pour essayer de faire en sorte que les différents points de vues s'expriment et se coordonnent tant sur le plan conceptuel qu'opérationnel.

J'ai déjà eu l'occasion de dire qu'il fallait réagir contre la tendance du PNUD à se constituer en un organisme propre d'exécution. J'ai entendu avec plaisir les représentants de la Colombie et du Mexique se prononcer dans le même sens. L'OPS peut avoir un rôle à jouer, mais risque de prendre une place beaucoup trop grande et de supplanter les organisations spécialisées, notamment la FAO, pour la réalisation de projets dans le domaine agricole. Il a été dit à plusieurs reprises, notamment par le Représentant de l'Inde, que la FAO a un rôle de coordination à jouer sur le plan sectoriel.

La FAO recouvre des activités nombreuses et multiples et il est indispensable de réaliser une bonne coordination au sein des membres de la famille des Nations Unies à Rome; et, manifestement, les trois organisations auraient intérêt à se coordonner davantage.

Il y a un point sur lequel nous sommes un peu réticents - et les remarques faites par la FAO au sujet du Rapport Jansson me semblent fondées - c'est le problème des fonds fiduciaires. Je ne crois pas qu'il soit bon que les fonds fiduciaires transitent dans leur totalité par le canal du PNUD. Le

PNUD a, actuellement, une situation financière confortable, et les fonds fiduciaires sont indispensables à la FAO pour élargir son programme et lui permettre d'avoir un champ d'action et une expérience plus vastes; en effet, il y a interaction constante entre les programmes de terrain élargis et le programme ordinaire; 11 n'y a pas de bon programme ordinaire si ne se réalisent pas, sur le terrain, un nombre suffisant d'expériences. C'est la raison pour laquelle les fonds fiduciaires ont une valeur irremplaçable. Et, sur ce point, je me permets de lancer un appel parce qu'il me semble indispensable que les donateurs bilatéraux, dans le système multilatéral, mettent à la disposition de la FAO des fonds fiduciaires importants pour des projets, car ces fonds fiduciaires doivent servir dans le cadre d'une politique globale et dans un esprit véritablement multilatéral.

Je n'entrerais pas dans la discussion des frais d'agence; un problème se pose et 11 faudrait en arriver à des formules raisonnables le plus rapidement possible.

Tout ce qui a été dit au sujet de la FAO, dans le cadre des programmes d'ajustement structurel (encore est-ce une notion large, vague et floue) est intéressant. Le débat que nous avons eu ce matin, devra se prolonger dans l'avenir, par le nouveau Rapport Jansson qui donnera un éclairage nouveau compte tenu de l'expertise qui aura été faite dans les opérations de terrain de la FAO.

Michel MOMBOULI (Observateur du Congo): Comme c'est la première fois que nous intervenons de façon formelle, nous saisissons l'occasion pour vous dire, une fois encore, combien nous sommes heureux, Monsieur le Président, de vous voir présider les travaux de cette session; et nous adressons une fois de plus nos félicitations à tous les membres du Bureau qui président aux destinées des travaux de cette session.

Comme chacun le sait, nous sommes Observateurs et, comme l'a dit l'Ambassadeur de la Belgique la semaine dernière, les Observateurs ont pour rôle d'observer mais ils sont également tenus par les engagements et décisions que prend le Conseil; c'est à ce titre que nous pouvons quand même nous permettre d'intervenir de temps en temps.

Nous ne sommes pas membres du Comité du Programme, et cela nous donne l'avantage de faire quelques commentaires objectifs sur le document soumis à notre examen.

Notre déclaration portera sur les trois points abordés par le Professeur Mazoyer, à savoir le Rapport Jansson, les incidences de la situation financière de l'Organisation sur son propre programme, et l'exécution du programme des Nations Unies pour l'Afrique aux termes de la Résolution 88/1 de l'ECOSOC.

Concernant le Rapport Jansson, la Délégation amie de la Colombie, qui est intervenue avant nous, a dit que même si les pays en développement sont représentés au sein du Programme 11 faut reconnaître que le Rapport Jansson n'a connu ni la même diffusion ni la même célérité de distribution auprès des pays en développement comme cela a été le cas pour les pays développés.

Dans l'ensemble notre Délégation est d'accord avec les commentaires faits par le Comité du Programme concernant ce rapport; et dans ce cadre, nous sommes d'avis que la coordination des activités entre le PNUD et les agences des Nations Unies, dont la FAO, soit renforcée. Nous estimons aussi que la programmation par pays du PNUD, en tant que cadre de référence, est un processus assez restreint, assez rigide et pas suffisamment souple. Ce faisant, nous ne pensons pas qu'il soit nécessaire de concentrer tous les fonds fiduciaires au sein du PNUD.

En ce qui concerne les incidences de la situation financière de l'Organisation sur ses programmes, Monsieur Mazoyer, qui est intervenu dans son exposé préliminaire, nous a dit que la situation de crise que connaît la FAO a été lourde de conséquences sur ses programmes essentiels.

Nous aussi, nous déplorons cet état de chose et c'est aussi à notre corps défendant et par réalisme que nous nous efforçons de comprendre et d'accepter les mesures correctrices, conservatoires, prises par le Directeur général pour "sauver les meubles de l'Organisation".

En ce qui concerne le rapport sur l'exécution du programme des Nations Unies pour l'Afrique, aux termes de la Résolution 88/1 de l'ECOSOC, nous nous permettons de faire remarquer, d'entrée de jeu, que tous ceux qui sont intervenus avant nous ont très peu parlé de ce point. Pour notre part, nous sommes heureux du concours apporté à la FAO, dans l'élaboration de ce programme; nous remercions ceux qui ont contribué à son exécution et exhortons tous les donateurs à apporter leur pierre à l'édifice.

Je voudrais maintenant faire quelques commentaires concernant certaines déclarations que nous avons entendues. D'aucuns ont fait valoir ici qu'il y avait une sorte de concurrence entre la FAO, organe d'exécution des projets, et d'autres organisations. Nous voulons simplement rafraîchir la mémoire de ceux-ci, en rappelant que s'agissant du secteur agricole, la FAO a toutes les compétences et a été la première à exécuter depuis longtemps des projets concernant ce secteur; et s'il y a une sorte de concurrence, ce sont ceux qui viennent d'être créés qui font concurrence à la FAO qui est, elle, sur le terrain depuis longue date. Si il y a un blâme à faire, il n'est pas à faire du côté de la FAO mais du côté de ceux qui veulent partager ce domaine qui est celui de la FAO.

D'autres ont également marqué leur surprise de constater que les représentants de la FAO sur le terrain n'ont pas voulu donner d'informations au coordinateur du PNUD, sans se référer au siège. Nous estimons qu'il n'est pas surprenant que lorsqu'on sollicite un délégué ou un représentant d'une organisation, il s'en réfère à son siège; cela ne devrait pas surprendre.

Enfin pour terminer, nous voulons saisir cette occasion pour remercier tous les membres du Conseil qui ont bien voulu nous faire confiance en nous élisant comme membre du CPA pour les trois prochaines années et nous leur promettons d'être aussi dynamiques pour ce nouveau mandat, que nous l'avons toujours été pour tous les mandats que nous avons assumés par le passé.

Eugène YOUNG (UNDP): The purpose of my intervention is not to give the views of UNDP on the Jansson Report. The report was discussed fully at the UNDP Governing Council last June. The decision (88/56) clearly shows the Governing Council's and the UNDP's involvement in the report. The purpose of asking for the floor is to comment upon some of the references made in previous interventions.

Mr. Jansson was the Resident Representative of UNDP in Pakistan. I visited him eleven or twelve years ago in Pakistan. He had been the Director of the Social Affairs Division in the UN before and because of his excellent background and involvement in development issues, we were very happy to ask him to come to work for UNDP. At the time I visited him in the field he had excellent relations with his colleagues from FAO, and from other agencies, with bilaterals, with the World Bank and with USAID which was located in the next building, as well as with many other organizations which were very active in Pakistan. Jansson tried to make sure that he knew what all other organizations were doing and kept his colleagues also informed about UNDP's activities in the country. Therefore, it is quite fitting that he wrote the first report and now he is a member of one of your Review Committees.

Our reaction to his report was communicated to him first, and then later on it was discussed at the Governing Council. We are encouraged to hear the comments which were made in connection with the coordinating role of UNDP, UNDP's cooperation with the agencies, and how this cooperation could best take place. In my intervention a few days ago concerning the operational activities - and the verbatim records are available - you will note that UNDP said nothing but to ask for more cooperative action, and more involvement by FAO in an area where 45 percent of UNDP's central funds (IPF funds) in Africa goes to the agricultural sector.

Mr. Jansson was a good Resident Representative and I could not agree more with the representative of Switzerland when he said that in UNDP we should attract the best talents we have in the whole UN system, including FAO.

I very much welcome the suggestion that some of our Resident Representatives should come from FAO; we have been working in this direction and have some experience. In some cases this has been successful. As a matter of fact Mr. Bonte-Friedheim's ex-assistant came to us on an exchange basis as a Resident Representative. So there is already such an arrangement and we should endorse it and take the best advantage of it.

Some comments were made on the support costs. They came from the delegations including the United Kingdom, Finland, United States and others, and I have here again to associate our position, with the one of the delegate from Switzerland. We would like to have FAO very active in the working group which has been established according to the Governing Council's decision 88/50 to study the support costs, or better known as successor arrangements. It is not a group which is going to study and come to the conclusion whether it should be 13, 14, 12 or 11 percent. Decision 88/50 very clearly indicates that this group's terms of reference would have a broad approach, and I quote "covering issues such as appropriate compensation arrangements which ensures enhanced accountability, project quality and maximum cost-effectiveness and alternative arrangements between UNDP executing agencies and governments in the execution of projects and programmes." These are very serious issues which merit full participation of all agencies involved and the representatives from the agencies who are fully versed in these issues. For all practical purposes the successor arrangement study may be

another capacity study, - a study which will define these very delicate and complex relationships of the agencies within the UN system which are working together for the development of the countries we serve. I therefore very much hope that FAO's representatives at the February meeting will be at the level and will be the kind of persons who are fully versed and have the full backing of the Director-General.

As to the comments made on the issue of UNDP Country Programme as a frame of reference for development activities, or on the Trust Funds and how best their inputs can be co-ordinated at the country level, or on other matters related to better arrangements aiming at more efficient and effective co-operation and co-ordination, which will enhance the governments' efforts in achieving their development goals - the views and policy of UNDP are well known and I shall not take up your time to elaborate on them.

I should like to make one more comment regarding the roles of UNDP and of the executing agencies, including FAO, in the round-table meetings - another issue that has been referred to. Here on behalf of UNDP I would like to invite FAO to participate in the strongest possible way in the preparatory and initial stage before round-table meetings are held in Geneva. The agricultural sector is too important not to be involved in this process from the beginning. Thereafter we have the sectoral segment meetings after the round-tables. This is another stage when FAO's participation is absolutely crucial and I would like very much to say that not only are we anxious to have FAO's strongest participation to help in the process of our round-table meetings but we would be most pleased to have FAO assist us as much as possible with its recognized competence in this field. I know that a lot of discussion has taken place on that and I will limit my intervention here. But I wanted to react on some of the specifics and some of the issues which were raised by several of the previous speakers.

V.J. SHAH (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): Mr. Chairman, first I would like to thank you and, through you, the Council for a very thoughtful and thought-provoking debate on this item, which was enhanced by the personal participation of the Chairman of the Programme Committee. The replies to which I should address myself are not very numerous but I would like to cover all of them in their essence.

First, I was pleased to note that those delegations who had expressed an interest in knowing the approach or the implications of the programme cuts, which were reviewed by the Programme Committee in May 1988 had cause for satisfaction this morning through the report which the Programme Committee submitted and the supplementary remarks of its Chairman.

Secondly, I am pleased also to note that the Council should find satisfaction in the discussion it has had on the Jansson report. As you had indicated, Mr. Chairman, the views that were expressed under agenda item 10 were supplemented by the views of Member Nations in the debate that has taken place this morning. Mr. Chairman, there are many aspects of this debate which call for some reaction from the Secretariat and I would request that after I have responded to some other points you would kindly give the floor to my colleague Mr. Regnier who will provide the clarification and information requested.

May I turn now to the question of support costs. We note very carefully the views which have been expressed this morning and the two points that I would emphasize are, firstly, there should be no doubt about the willingness, and indeed the determination, of FAO to participate in the process of reviewing the successor arrangements to support costs. The process has just begun. We are participating already in the initial arrangements that have been made and the Council may rest assured that the Director-General will ensure the right level and nature of participation at each stage.

The second point in this connection that I would like to emphasize is that whatever is going to come out as proposals for support costs to be applied after 1991 will again be a matter on which our Governing Bodies will have to take a position, as happened in 1981. There was a long process then which led to certain decisions being taken by the UNDP Governing Council but these decisions were submitted to FAO's Governing Bodies so that they could take a position as to whether they accepted or did not accept the arrangements which were proposed. So the Governing Bodies will be and can expect to be fully involved in exercising their rightful role.

One delegate enquired about the dialogue with other organizations, and I take it in that context and not as a comment on the process of the FAO review which is under way. In fact we seek every opportunity of furthering this dialogue with other organizations. This delegate asked to be informed who were the FAO staff who had accompanied the experts to other organizations, funding

agencies and specialised agencies. The arrangements were made in as pragmatic a way as possible to make sure that the staff who accompanied these experts were the ones who were dealing with the issues to be discussed and secondly as moderately as possible in order to bear in mind the economies to be observed.

For the visit to UNEP in Nairobi the colleague who accompanied the experts was Mr. Mouttapa, who is the focal point in our relations with UNEP. He is the Head of the Environment and Energy Unit in the Agricultural Research and Technology Division.

For the visits of the experts to Washington D.C., where the organizations visited were the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank and IFPRI, the task was shared jointly by my colleague Mr. Gusten, the Director of the Investment Centre, and our representative in Washington D.C., Mr. Sorenson. They shared this task accompanying the experts to the meetings jointly or singly depending on the schedule.

For the visits to New York - that is, to the United Nations, UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF, the task was shared by my colleague Mr. Bonte-Friedheim and Mr. Régnier.

In the case of Vienna the visits were to the International Atomic Energy Agency and to UNIDO. This task was taken by Mr. Bonte-Friedheim.

In the case of Geneva, where four organizations were visited - WHO, ILO, UNCTAD and GATT - there was only one colleague, Mr. Dutia. In view of his responsibilities as Director of the Commodities and Trade Division, he was of course the best person as regards the discussions with UNCTAD and GATT, but being also from the Economic and Social Policy Department, he could also handle the visits to WHO and ILO.

There is one last point which was raised again by the delegate of the United States, and I reply on behalf of the Secretariat, although I should point out - and I trust that the Council will accord me its understanding - that in this case the remark addressed to the Secretariat happened to be addressed to me. She requested information on the cost of FAORs and not just for the Regular Programme but for other sources of funding, and I detected a certain complaint that this information had not been provided for some time, in fact that the delegate had waited for one year. I speak most respectfully of course, as always, to all Member Nations and to the persons who represent them. This request was made to me on the first day of this Council Session when the delegate reminded me that she had mentioned it at a cocktail party at the last Conference.

I admitted that, of course, I am accessible at all times and all places, but was sorry that I had overlooked this request, if it had been made then, and I would do my best to provide the information. Because of my preoccupations with the current session of the Council, I am again sorry that I have not been able to provide this information in writing yet, but let me give it right now.

The total expenditures on FAORs for the biennium 1986/87, amount to US\$ 43 903 000 (US\$ 43.9 million). The budgetary provision was US\$ 44.6 million. So there was in fact an underexpenditure of US\$ 700 000, which was part of the contribution to the budgetary savings, which had to be made in the last biennium.

In addition, under support cost funds, there was an expenditure of just over UA\$ 900 000. I do not have the figure in front of me, but I am reasonably sure of the figure. One should then consider also the contributions in cash made by the host countries. These amounted to some US\$ 1.5 or 1.6 million.

Mr. Chairman, may I now request your permission, if you will be kind enough to give the floor to my colleague, Mr. Regnier, he will reply to questions raised regarding the Jansson Report and the comments of the Council.

LE PRESIDENT: Je vais tout d'abord donner la parole à M. Régnier, qui va répondre aux questions posées par les délégués.

A. REGNIER (Directeur, Division du développement des programmes de terrain): Je voudrais essayer, en toute modestie, de répondre aux nombreuses questions qui ont été posées par le Conseil au sujet du Rapport Jansson. Je dis en toute modestie parce que ces questions sont extrêmement nombreuses et substantives, et je m'excuse à l'avance si j'oublie certaines d'entre elles.

Mais avant de passer aux réponses, je voudrais faire rapidement deux commentaires: l'un sur le rapport Jansson lui-même et la procédure, et l'autre sur les relations avec le Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement qui, je pense, a été très largement au centre de la discussion, l'autre jour et ce matin.

En ce qui concerne le Rapport Jansson lui-même, la FAO l'a toujours considéré comme un document très important. C'est la raison pour laquelle elle a communiqué son point de vue à l'Assemblée générale en 1987 et qu'à la suite de la Résolution 42/186 de cette année, elle a saisi la seule opportunité qui lui était offerte par le calendrier pour faire discuter de ce rapport par un organe directeur de l'Organisation, à savoir le Comité du programme, en mai puisque l'ECOSOC se réunissait en juillet. Le rapport du Comité du programme a donc été soumis, comme vous le savez, à l'ECOSOC. Il a ensuite été mis à la disposition de l'Assemblée générale, où la Deuxième commission a discuté des questions opérationnelles. Je pense que le débat est terminé mais que les conclusions ne sont pas encore tirées. Il est toutefois un peu tard pour que le Conseil fasse connaître son point de vue à cette session de l'Assemblée générale.

Par contre, les conclusions que le Conseil tirera de cette réunion pourraient être communiquées à M. Ripert, Directeur général du développement et de la coopération économique internationale, qui doit soumettre à l'ECOSOC, en 1989, un rapport triennal sur les

questions opérationnelles. Quoi qu'il en soit, le Secrétariat de la FAO considère que ce rapport est extrêmement équilibré et objectif et constitue certainement une excellente base pour une réflexion ultérieure. D'ailleurs, comme de nombreux délégués l'ont dit ce matin et l'autre jour, le seul fait que M. Jansson soit membre du groupe d'experts des programmes de terrain est pour nous une garantie que ce rapport ne sera pas oublié dans l'examen du futur rôle de la FAO en matière de développement sur le terrain.

Ma deuxième remarque portera sur les relations avec le Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement. Je voudrais dire, de la part du Directeur général, que la FAO attache une importance considérable à ces relations. Cela est évident puisque le Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement est la source la plus importante de ressources extérieures pour la FAO, même si la FAO n'est plus la première agence d'exécution du PNUD étant donné que, comme vous le savez, le PNUD lui-même est devenu son premier agent d'exécution. Il est vrai que la FAO n'a pas signé un accord de base avec le PNUD. En octobre 1959, en réalité, la FAO a conclu un accord avec un des prédécesseurs du PNUD, c'est-à-dire le Fonds spécial; et c'est sur cette base, depuis lors, que les opérations de mise en exécution de projets financés par le PNUD se réalisent.

En 1975, des discussions concernant la possibilité d'un accord de base standard ont eu lieu. Elles ne se sont pas conclues, de même que cela a d'ailleurs été le cas pour la plupart des organisations puisque ni l'UNESCO, ni l'OIT, ni l'OMS n'ont conclu un tel accord. La raison pour laquelle cet accord ne s'est pas fait est sans doute qu'à l'époque le besoin n'en était pas évident étant donné qu'existait déjà cet accord antérieur avec le Fonds spécial. D'autre part, comme vous le savez, lorsque le PNUD finance un projet pour exécution par une institution spécialisée, il conclut un accord avec le gouvernement intéressé qui prévoit toutes les responsabilités et les fonctions respectives des différents partenaires, y compris l'immunité du personnel, etc. Par conséquent, je pense que c'est la raison pour laquelle la question n'a plus été soulevée. Je pense que cela n'a pas empêché la FAO et autres institutions d'avoir d'excellentes relations avec le PNUD. A cet égard, je voudrais rappeler l'intervention du Représentant du PNUD, il y a quelques jours, lorsqu'il a dit, par exemple, qu'au début du mois de novembre 1988, des projets financés par le PNUD pour exécution par la FAO avaient été approuvés pour un montant de 211 millions de dollars. Chiffre record.... Ce chiffre record n'est pas le fruit du hasard; il est en réalité le résultat d'un travail de collaboration et de coopération avec le PNUD, à la fois au niveau des sièges et des différents pays.

Evidemment toute chose peut être améliorée et perfectionnée. Par conséquent nous attachons pour l'avenir aussi une énorme importance aux contacts que nous avons avec le Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement. Nous avons renouvelé la pratique de l'année dernière, des réunions à haut niveau. Nous attachons également une extrême importance à l'examen que le PNUD est en train de faire de son propre futur, en particulier eu égard aux orientations probables de l'assistance technique, aux nouvelles modalités d'exécution. La FAO est certainement prête à collaborer à cet examen, si elle peut apporter sa contribution, de même qu'elle apportera sa contribution à l'étude que M. Ripert est en train de faire du rôle central du PNUD dans le financement.

J'en viens aux questions plus précises qui ont été posées lors du débat, il y a quelques jours et ce matin, concernant le rapport Jansson que je voudrais peut être grouper, pour faciliter nos délibérations, autour de 5 thèmes majeurs. Le premier est le processus de programmation, le second le programme du PNUD en relation avec les fonds de dépôt, le troisième les questions d'harmonisation, quatrième les bureaux de la FAO et cinquième les modalités d'exécution des projets.

D'abord, le processus de programmation par pays. La question a été posée de savoir si la FAO en tenait bien compte. La réponse est évidente: pour nous le programme par pays est extrêmement important. Mais en même temps il faut bien reconnaître, comme le rapport Jansson le mentionne, les limites actuelles de l'utilisation de la programmation par pays du PNUD comme cadre pour les activités opérationnelles - on en a parlé l'autre jour et ce matin: l'insuffisance d'intégration dans les plans nationaux, avec l'aide bilatérale autant que multilatérale, l'insuffisance d'intégration de l'assistance en capital avec l'assistance technique. Le programme reste très largement axé sur une présentation très générale des projets à financer par le PNUD et ne pouvant pas couvrir la totalité des processus de développement. Le PNUD lui-même reconnaît ce problème et parle maintenant d'ailleurs d'un processus continu de programmation pour garder la flexibilité nécessaire et l'approche globale.

Cette question est à l'examen. Effectivement, un consultant très bien connu de la FAO, comme l'a mentionné le représentant de la Grande Bretagne, a fait une étude de cette question et la FAO est tout à fait disposée à contribuer à cet examen.

En tout état de cause, la FAO appuie toujours et pleinement les efforts de planification et de programmation faits par les gouvernements responsables de la coordination de l'aide extérieure, de même que les efforts fait également sous l'égide du PNUD. Nous nous efforçons de renforcer les structures et les institutions nationales à cet égard. La FAO en réalité reconnaît pleinement et respecte le statut du représentant résident du PNUD, coordonnateur résident, comme primus inter pares parmi les chefs d'agence, et la FAO met son expertise à sa disposition tout autant qu'à la disposition des autorités nationales.

D'ailleurs comme vous le savez, des réunions sont convoquées au niveau local par le représentant résident et nous y participons très activement. Si nous avons un vœu à soumettre à cet égard ce serait de souhaiter que ces réunions organisées au niveau local soient plus substantives. Trop souvent elles sont de nature administrative ou de personnel. Nous voudrions qu'elles touchent plus fréquemment à la substance de la programmation.

Donc la FAO voit avec faveur un rôle actif des représentants résidents, rôle pour lequel les textes réglementaires à notre avis offrent déjà l'autorité nécessaire.

En revanche la FAO s'attend à être consultée et à voir sa compétence reconnue, comme conseiller en matière de politique, comme conseiller sectoriel et technique, tout autant que comme agence d'exécution des projets.

En ce qui concerne la programmation par pays, la FAO souhaite être consultée, comme l'a dit ce matin la représentante de la Finlande, très tôt dans le processus de définition de cette programmation par pays. A cet égard, la situation varie d'un pays à l'autre, mais il arrive que le dialogue PNUD-Ministère du Plan laisse quelque peu de côté la FAO, malgré la contribution sectorielle évidente qu'elle pourrait apporter.

De la même manière la FAO s'attend à être considérée, au moins par le PNUD, comme l'interlocuteur naturel pour les études sectorielles agricoles, conduisant à la définition des politiques ou à l'évaluation des besoins en assistance. A cet égard, une participation plus large de la FAO aux groupes consultatifs de la Banque mondiale et aux tables rondes du PNUD renforcerait cette coordination sectorielle et je prends acte de ce que le représentant du PNUD a dit ce matin lorsqu'il a parlé des travaux préliminaires et des phases successives. Nous serions aussi intéressés à la phase centrale de cet exercice, et pas seulement à ses phases préliminaires ou successives. Cela renforcerait sans doute la coordination sectorielle et élargirait la gamme des choix offerts aux gouvernements.

De même nous souhaiterions une association plus étroite avec les "NAT-CAP", les exercices tendant à évaluer les besoins en assistance technique, du fait que le secteur agricole représente bien souvent une part majeure des besoins en assistance technique. Il s'agit d'éviter les doubles emplois et d'éviter les avis contradictoires offerts aux gouvernements.

En ce qui concerne son rôle d'agent d'exécution, la FAO, conformément au consensus de 1970 souhaite évidemment être consultée et impliquée par les agences spécialisées des Nations Unies et les institutions de financement dans la programmation et la formulation des projets nationaux, régionaux, globaux, avant qu'ils ne soient approuvés, ce qui n'est pas toujours le cas. La coordination est un phénomène dynamique qui doit jouer dans tous les sens.

Le deuxième groupe de questions posées se référait à l'utilisation du Programme par pays du PNUD et sa liaison avec les fonds de dépôt. En réalité, la question posée était de savoir s'il existe une telle liaison, s'il y a un mécanisme pour éviter que les projets financés par le PNUD et ceux des fonds de dépôt ne se concurrencent et ne fassent double emploi.

A cet égard je voudrais faire trois remarques.

La première est la suivante: sur les 162 millions de dépense en fonds de dépôt en 1987, à peu près un tiers seulement relevait directement de ce que l'on pourrait appeler le programme du PNUD par pays; les autres relevaient d'autres procédures, en particulier les projets régionaux, interrégionaux et globaux, les fonds de dépôt unilatéral avec les organes de financement comme la Banque mondiale ou les banques régionales, les programmes d'urgence et enfin d'autres agences des Nations Unies comme la population, l'environnement, ou le fonds des stupéfiants. Par conséquent, la programmation du PNUP a une base un peu plus restreinte.

La deuxième remarque que je voudrais faire est qu'en réalité les exemples de collaboration entre PNUD d'un côté et fonds fiduciaires de l'autre sont nombreux. Pour me faire comprendre je voudrais en donner un ou deux en montrant qu'en fait cela joue parfois dans tous les sens. Nous avons des exemples évidents des projets PNUD qui ont ensuite débouché sur le fonds de dépôt. Par exemple un projet PNUD régional de formation en Amérique Latine: une première phase a été financée par le PNUD, la 2ème phase préparée en collaboration avec le PNUD et financée par le gouvernement italien. L'inverse est également vrai. Un fonds de dépôt au départ devient ensuite un projet PNUD ultérieurement. Je pourrais citer un projet de ce genre pour la lutte contre la East Coast Fever. Un troisième type de collaboration est le cofinancement, un projet financé à la fois par le PNUD et un donateur bilatéral, comme c'est le cas par exemple au Rwanda pour le développement des pêches sur le lac Kiwu. D'autres exemples peuvent être donnés de repêchage de projets préparés par le PNUD qui, ensuite, pour des raisons financières et de priorité, ont été financés par des fonds de dépôt.

Quoi qu'il en soit, la question a été posée. Y a-t-il des mécanismes intérieurs qui permettent d'assurer cette harmonisation? Je dirai oui, et je citerai deux points. Le premier c'est que tout projet, quelle que soit sa source de financement, doit faire l'objet d'un examen préalable sur place par le représentant de la FAO sur la base d'un formulaire imprimé indiquant entre autres la relation éventuelle de ce projet avec d'autres projets en cours ou en préparation du PNUD ou des autres agences du système des Nations Unies, et même dans la mesure du possible de l'assistance bilatérale, l'objectif clair étant d'éviter que des projets parallèles ou plus ou moins similaires ne soient pas considérés, simplement parce qu'on n'a pas l'information nécessaire.

En second lieu je voudrais ajouter que l'information doit exister au niveau local puisque la lettre d'accréditation des représentants de la FAO dans un pays donne instruction à ces représentants de tenir au courant le représentant résident de toutes les activités de la FAO dans son pays d'accréditation, et en ce qui concerne les projets, quelle que soit la source de financement. Par conséquent ils doivent être au courant. J'ajouterai d'ailleurs que maintenant dans plus des deux tiers des pays c'est en fait le résident du PNUD qui assure l'appui administratif et financier des fonds de dépôt. Il doit donc être au courant de ce qu'il doit en fait administrer.

J'en arrive à la question de l'harmonisation des procédures au sein du système des Nations Unies.

Cela fait l'objet de délibérations permanentes entre autre de la part d'un Comité qui s'appelle le Comité consultatif pour les questions de fond (activités opérationnelles) le CCSQ(OPS). Le représentant de la Grande Bretagne nous a demandé dans quelle mesure la FAO y participait.

La FAO participe à cet effort de manière intensive, et je vous donnerai trois exemples.

D'une part à travers cet effort d'harmonisation, de nouvelles procédures ont été mises au point pour le reporting, l'évaluation et la surveillance des projets. Ceci a été fait en étroite collaboration avec l'ensemble du système des Nations Unies. Ces nouvelles procédures sont en place à titre expérimental, et récemment la FAO a délégué un de ses membres pour participer à une mission organisée par le PNUD dans les pays pour tester ces nouvelles procédures. Je pense que c'est un développement intéressant.

Deuxième exemple: vous savez que le PNUD a élaboré un nouveau format pour ses projets et des directives nouvelles relatives à ces projets ont également été élaborées. Cela a été fait en étroite collaboration avec le système des Nations Unies. Ce nouveau format pour les projets apparaît à la FAO une amélioration notable par rapport au format précédent et nous nous sommes engagés à appliquer ce format, bien entendu pour les projets du PNUD, mais aussi à considérer dans la mesure du possible comment adapter ce nouveau format du PNUD pour les projets en fonds de dépôt de façon à assurer une standardisation entre les deux et réduire autant que possible les divergences de requête en ce qui concerne la formulation, le reporting, entre les différents donateurs. Cette harmonisation serait certainement un élément permettant un meilleur dessin et une meilleure qualité du document de projet.

Je voudrais ajouter qu'à travers le CCSQ des contacts vont être pris avec le Comité de l'aide au développement pour assurer cet effort d'harmonisation sur les formats des projets avec les donateurs bilatéraux, et je pense que c'est excellent.

Le troisième exemple que je voudrais donner a trait aux procédures d'octroi des bourses; là aussi des efforts d'harmonisation ont été faits et la FAO y participe très activement.

Une question a été posée par le distingué Représentant de la Grande-Bretagne sur ce que l'on appelle le IAPSU de savoir si ici la FAO était "default in this regard"; je veux le leur assurer: nous ne sommes pas "default" et je vais m'en expliquer.

Mais auparavant, je voudrais vous rappeler ce qu'est le IAPSU; ce groupe des services d'achat inter-organisations, en anglais: Inter-agency Procurement Service Unit, se trouve à Genève et a pour objectif d'essayer de favoriser une standardisation des équipements des biens et services, à travers le système des Nations Unies, en particulier par un meilleur flux d'informations.

La FAO participe très activement aux sessions du IAPSU, et considère qu'il peut effectivement apporter un élément de standardisation utile, y compris pour une exécution plus rapide des projets. Récemment, des efforts ont été faits pour la préparation, par exemple, de dossiers spécifiques par pays, et des standards communs ont été définis en particulier pour l'utilisation des véhicules et des équipements de bureaux. La FAO tient compte de ces éléments de standardisation pour ses propres achats.

J'ajouterai d'ailleurs que ceci peut également contribuer à une meilleure connaissance des équipements qui pourraient être fournis par les pays en voie de développement eux-mêmes; cela fait d'ailleurs l'objet d'un rapport du corps commun d'inspection.

La FAO fournit les informations même s'il y a des difficultés - et notamment il peut y en avoir en ce qui concerne l'origine des produits; en effet, tous ceux qui ont traité du problème des règles d'origine savent combien c'est compliqué, car si un pays livre un produit, il peut avoir été fabriqué en partie ou entièrement, dans un autre pays; ce sont des questions techniques auxquelles le IAPSU essaie de répondre et la FAO l'aide certainement à cet égard.

L'avant dernier groupe de questions a trait aux bureaux de la FAO dans les pays, à la question de la localisation des bâtiments communs. Le premier choix qui vient à l'esprit de la FAO, lorsqu'une représentation s'ouvre, c'est de voir s'il est possible de localiser les bureaux avec le PNUD; mais dans la réalité les choses ne sont pas toujours aussi simples, d'une part parce que le choix des gouvernements est bien souvent d'être logé auprès du Ministère de l'agriculture, par exemple, et vous savez que les représentants de la FAO ont de très nombreuses activités qui ne relèvent pas du programme de terrain mais du Programme ordinaire, et la disponibilité physique des bureaux auprès du PNUD est loin d'être toujours assurée.

On m'a également demandé quelle revue nous faisons de ces bureaux. L'examen des bureaux extérieurs de la FAO est permanent; le dernier en date par un organe directeur de la FAO a été fait pour le Comité du Programme et le Conseil en juin 1987, à l'occasion de l'examen du rapport du Corps commun d'inspection sur la représentation dans les pays des organes du système des Nations Unies. Le Conseil a constaté que les critères proposés par le Corps commun d'inspection, pour l'établissement des bureaux de représentation, étaient bien suivis par la FAO.

Cette question est également à l'examen du groupe d'experts qui revoit le programme de terrain et c'est la raison pour laquelle nous n'avons pu donner qu'un avis intérimaire à l'ECOSOC; de toute façon, le Comité du Programme a estimé que la chose doit être appréciée sur une base *ad hoc*.

Enfin, le dernier point concernait les nouvelles modalités. La question a été posée de savoir dans quelle mesure la FAO appuyait l'exécution par les gouvernements; à ce stade, à peu près 10% des programmes du PNUD, en 1987, prévoient l'exécution par les gouvernements, et la FAO considère qu'il s'agit là d'un élément naturel, puisque cela tend vers ce que l'on peut appeler, en quelque sorte, l'autosuffisance, la capacité des pays en voie de développement, eux-mêmes, de faire leur propre exercice de développement. Nous sommes donc parfaitement en harmonie avec cette nouvelle politique. Par contre, nous pensons qu'il y a eu des difficultés dans certains cas, notamment sur le plan administratif et financier, dans ces pays. Le PNUD en est bien conscient; il en a délibéré à son Conseil d'administration et c'est la raison pour laquelle je pense que les consultations prévues dans les règles du PNUD doivent être respectées pour s'assurer que la capacité d'exécution - qui varient d'un continent ou d'un pays à l'autre - sont bien mises en place. La FAO, quant à elle, souhaite être associée à cette opération dès la définition des programmes, de manière à assurer au gouvernement l'aide qu'il souhaite parfois, même s'il exécute un projet; et dans ce cas là, nous sommes, ce que l'on appelle "agence coopérante de l'exécution du programme". La FAO est parfaitement disposée à jouer ce rôle.

Monsieur le Président, vous m'avez demandé d'abréger, je m'arrêterai donc là.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie Monsieur Régnier pour ses explications amples et précises qui, je l'espère, auront répondu à l'essentiel des questions.

CH. BONTE-FRIEDHEIM (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): With regard to project implementation, a number of comments have been made on what is known as "decentralization and new dimensions". FAO can certainly prove with facts and figures our present status with regard to decentralization to project management - and I repeat, to project management, irrespective of whether it is national project management, joint management or FAO project management; and the degree of new dimensions - less long-term experts, more national directors, more national experts, more consultants, national as well as international. We can prove it, I said, but we feel that this will come up in what has already been termed the new Jansson Report, and will be discussed then, because we claim that we can be compared with any other UN agency. We would also like to be compared, to see how we fared with national bilateral programmes of technical assistance.

My second point is that there were a number of comments which were addressed by Council not so much to FAO but to all specialized agencies. Hopefully I will be allowed to make two or three comments on behalf of specialized agencies without having their specific mandate but knowing them well enough. These are comments vis-à-vis UNDP. The specialized agencies and FAO feel that the executing responsibility for national projects should be decided by governments - and by governments only - without too much interference from the UNDP Resident Representative. Specialized agencies and FAO feel that the executing responsibility for regional and global projects should be discussed with specialized agencies. Specialized agencies and FAO, as Mr. Régnier has said, would like to be involved, if that is necessary, in project formulation but certainly in project appraisal for all national, regional and global projects in their specific sphere of competence. They want to be involved in the proposals for project execution, as I said. Specialized agencies and FAO would like to receive project progress reports of projects in their own field of competence for all UNDP-financed projects, irrespective of IPF finance or other sources of funds available to UNDP. We feel that this sharing of information is also part of coordination.

I have two other points. Mr. Youkel of the UNDP has indicated the value of round tables which we fully support, and has requested FAO to assist in the preliminary work and the follow-up work. FAO, like other specialized agencies, feels that if a government wishes to have a specialized agency attend the round table that that should be permissible and should be welcome because it is the governments who should also make that decision.

My final point is made as an Assistant Director-General of a technical department in FAO. From here I would like to thank the representative of Belgium for highlighting the close interaction, the close inter-relationship and, to use an agricultural phrase, the cross-fertilization between the Field Programme and the Regular Programme. We are convinced that without a sound and good Regular Programme, our Field Programme would be weak. We are equally convinced that without a good up-to-date Field Programme our Regular Programme would be worth only half.

M. MAZOYER (Président du Comité du Programme): Excusez-moi, Monsieur le Président, de vous avoir demandé de manière intempestive la parole, mais je voudrais d'abord remercier très blèvement les représentants des Etats Membres du Conseil, de leurs observations, ainsi que de celles des observateurs qui ont bien voulu approuver notre rapport.

Je n'ai pas de réponse à apporter à vos questions, puisque le Secrétariat y a répondu de manière circonstanciée. Je ferai simplement trois observations un peu disparates mais qui me semblent utiles.

Tout d'abord, je n'ai pas insisté dans ma présentation préliminaire sur une de nos conclusions qui a été abordée par certains d'entre vous et que je voudrais souligner ici. Nous avons noté que la coordination est indispensable pour ce qui concerne l'aide extérieure, qu'elle relève fondamentalement des gouvernements, et qu'elle doit se faire dans le cadre des stratégies propres de ces gouvernements, voire de leurs plans propres.

Cette organisation ne peut pas, pour diverses raisons, être entièrement faite par le Coordinateur président, ni par la programmation du PNUD, et de ce point de vue, il faut souligner l'importance de la recommandation du paragraphe 2.23 qui dit que les pays doivent acquérir les compétences, pour pouvoir faire leurs propres programmations et leurs propres coordinations. Et il est dit dans cette seconde partie de cette Résolution 2.23, qu'il "importe de former des cadres compétents dans le domaine de l'agriculture, au sens large, d'une part, et dans celui de l'économie et de la planification, d'autre part. Le Comité a jugé que ces activités devraient être renforcées davantage et que des ressources supplémentaires devraient y être consacrées". Le Comité et moi, personnellement, tenons beaucoup à cette recommandation.

Comme vous l'avez noté, nous avons beaucoup apprécié le Rapport Jansson et les qualités qui, à travers ce rapport, apparaissaient comme celles de l'expert. Il nous est apparu que la meilleure manière de tirer partie de ces qualités et d'en prolonger les effets au niveau de la FAO, était de choisir Monsieur Jansson, expert dans le Groupe 2, qui étudie les activités de terrain de la FAO et vous vous en êtes, me semble-t-il, félicités; je le dis et le redis, parce que cela nous a amenés à violer la sacro-sainte exigence d'équilibre géographique, et j'ai une petite explication à donner à ce sujet.

On avait choisi le Docteur Faaland, Rapporteur du Groupe 1. d'experts; normalement, nous aurions dû prendre un expert d'Europe de l'Ouest, un d'Europe du Sud, un d'Europe de l'Est; et nous avons repris un expert nordique. Et nous avons dû quelquefois nous en expliquer.

Je voulais le dire clairement parce que grâce à la compréhension de tous, et également à la vôtre, nous avons pu maintenir le choix de Monsieur Jansson sans augmenter davantage le nombre des experts. C'est un de ces compromis que nous avons fait grâce à vous.

Enfin, je voudrais dire un mot pour m'excuser. J'ai noté que vous aviez regretté mon absence la semaine dernière; je voudrais m'excuser de cette absence auprès de vous et auprès du Président du Conseil. Mais je voudrais quand même donner quelques explications.

Depuis décembre 1987 et en tout cas depuis janvier 1988, je suis venu à Rome chaque fois que les autres membres participant à un examen - le Président, le Président du Comité financier, le Directeur général, les comités, les experts, les rapporteurs - ont jugé utile que nous ayons ici, des réunions; je suis venu plus de dix fois depuis le 1er janvier et j'avais décidé d'être tout à fait disponible à tout moment pendant le Conseil; et j'avais même prévu de déplacer une conférence que je devais faire au Ministère de la recherche, lundi soir. Cela avait d'ailleurs été accepté. Malheureusement, 11 y a en France, depuis plusieurs semaines, une grève des postes et il fallait décommander 500 invitations par téléphone ou par télégramme; je ne pouvais pas exiger cela de mes partenaires, le Ministère de la recherche. C'est la raison pour laquelle j'ai dû faire cette conférence à la date prévue.

J'aurais pu venir la semaine dernière en coup de vent, et revenir à nouveau en coup de vent, cette semaine, mais grâce à votre compréhension, on a pu regrouper ce qui me concernait hier et aujourd'hui, et je vous en remercie personnellement; je ne voudrais pas que vous pensiez que par rapport à l'examen fait par le Conseil, je suis un peu "léger", "non disponible" quand il le faut; ce n'est bien évidemment pas le cas.

LE PRÉSIDENT: Je remercie le Président du Comité du Programme de sa communication. Je crois que personne n'a pensé un seul instant qu'il avait failli dans ses obligations professionnelles et de courtoisie.

R.G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): Mr. Chairman, I am sorry but I misunderstood the way in which the meeting was being run. I was expecting you to close the list for the Jansson Report but not for the Agenda Item itself. This is of no particular significance to me except that it has inadvertently caused me to have a misunderstanding with Mr. Shah. Had I spoken again later I would simply have reminded, through you, whoever it might concern that we had raised in a discussion of the financial situation the point about the priorities or the rationale for selecting programmes to be affected by the slow-down of £ 20 million, and it was suggested that this was the Agenda Item under which more Information should be given by the Programme Committee and/or the Secretariat. I did not, I am afraid, draw this point to the attention of Professor Mazoyer. He did speak on it, but he largely spoke to the existing paper rather than to expatiate on it. This is a point of some Interest because we may face the situation again.

Secondly, I thank Mr. Régnier for his very full responses to mine and other people's queries. I have looked through my list and the only thing that has not been taken up is the request I made that the Council be informed at the 95th Session of the formal responses by the Secretariat to all the relevant paragraphs of Resolution 42/196 other than the ones which are so obvious because they have been part of the Agenda.

Ms Joan DUDIK-GAYOSO (United States of America): I should like to support the UK request and the reminder to Council that there were several delegations who had asked for additional information earlier in the week. It was suggested, quite emphatically, in the Drafting Committee that this was the place to raise it. I will not repeat everything that was said - it is in the verbatim record -but it would be useful to have that Information.

Returning to the question of the field offices, which several people have mentioned, the Jansson Report indicated that a major agency of the United Nations had instructed its field representatives not to give information about the cost of its field offices to the Jansson teams visiting eight countries to complete eight case studies. This is why last November during the Conference debate on the agenda item dealing with developments in the United Nations system, the United States made a formal request to FAO for this information. That request was repeated three or four times - again it can be found in the verbatim record of Commission II of the Conference. We did not receive an answer at that time and we have the impression that the secretariat did not have the information available. Therefore, we made the same request to the Director of the Development Department at a meeting in his office in May. Subsequently, at a cocktail party I reminded Mr. Shah of last November's debate and the United States request, as I did again last week when I arrived in Rome.

My delegation takes very much to heart the assurances that the Director-General gave in his statements last week of FAO's desire to provide Member Governments with the information they request. The United States has made this request formally and informally and often enough. We have been more than reasonable in waiting a year for the response. Surely FAO knows what its field offices cost - it is basic management information.

I raise the question because of its importance to the issue of the sharing of premises. This issue has been discussed several times today. The Programme Committee suggested that co-location should be looked at on a case-by-case basis. To do this we need the information on a country-by-country basis but we have not received it. My delegation would appreciate that information being provided to Members of this Council. Otherwise, I feel that we are having a debate concerning the co-location of field offices in something of a vacuum, because we do not really know what is the cost in relation to the benefit. We have heard a good deal of discussion today of the benefits on both sides of the argument.

Sra. Margarita LIZARRAGA (México): Mi delegación le pide disculpas, Sr. Presidente, por intervenir de nuevo, pero hemos percibido que se está tratando de cerrar el tema, visto que los otros son las cuestiones sobre los efectos de la reducción del Programa y los del Programa especial para Africa. Por lo que respecta al Programa especial para Africa, hemos dado siempre nuestro apoyo para que se revisen los mejores términos, pero en lo que se refiere a los efectos de la reducción del Programa, y en vista de los problemas que se podrían presentar en el Comité de Redacción, podemos decir que es un tema que ha sido suficientemente tratado en otros puntos y que no habría ningún problema en tomar esas posiciones de los países para ubicarlos también en este tema correspondiente, conforme a lo expresado en el resumen presentado por el Sr. Mazoyer, que nosotros compartimos totalmente.

V.J. SHAH (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): I will try not to take up too much time but I should like to give satisfaction to those delegations who have raised a question. First, the question concerning information on FAOR offices. I must say in my earlier response I was bearing in mind the request that the distinguished delegate of the United States put to me personally and that was all I was referring to. As reference to this request has been made to other colleagues and in other meetings of FAO, if you will permit, I will take up this matter with the colleague concerned in order to pursue the matter. This is not information which I have at hand.

A question was raised by the distinguished delegate of the United Kingdom concerning the rationale for the programme cuts. I did not reply to that earlier because there was no question raised, or comment made, in your debate this morning. However, as it was raised in other discussions I am perfectly willing to provide this information and I think it was raised not only by that distinguished delegation but also by a number of others.

When it comes to making programme cuts, or programme adjustments - whatever the terminology used - we have to explain that we do not find that it is possible to make these cuts or adjustments simply on the basis of a ranking of priorities. According to this argument lower priority programmes could be identified for reduced implementation or elimination, thus achieving the level of savings needed. However, this approach has several practical limitations within a short time frame for the following reasons: resources for FAO programmes consist essentially of staff, variable operational resources and fixed logistical facilities, and the actual possibilities for reductions and savings are limited by the characteristics of each. To give but one example, in the case of staff resources, staff resources are spread across a number of programme activities, programme elements and sub-programmes. The cancellation of a particular activity, element, or in the extreme of a whole sub-programme, does not automatically result in a proportionate saving of staff costs. This is because the saving is determined first in terms of staff costs - whether or not the post involved is filled or vacant. If the post is filled there is no budgetary saving. The

cancellation of a particular activity means that staff time involved has to be redeployed to other activities, and then the redeployment of such staff resources is a managerial process which yields no savings.

Conversely, if the posts are not filled the corresponding saving would be realized. However, not filling the post affects activities across different elements and across different sub-programmes. The approach, in dealing with this problem, was essentially first to set some guiding principles and in his approach to identifying possible savings the Director-General was guided by his concern to: safeguard in particular FAO's direct field action, maintaining the Technical Cooperation Programme at its approved level - as he had been requested to do by Council and Conference in the previous biennium. He was concerned to meet statutory requirements such as the main governmental meetings and the completion of major studies as required by the Governing Bodies; to maintain FAO's role as the global watch for food and agricultural matters, particularly through the Global Information and Early Warning System, the Emergency Centre for Locust Operations, and for recurrent policy assessments such as the state of food and agriculture. The statutory requirements also included the new priorities which had been identified in the Programme of Work and Budget of the current biennium, such as biotechnology applications, the enhancement of planned major systems both on the administrative side, such as the FINSYS/PERSYS (the finance and personnel systems) and on the technical side. Programme priorities which have been identified for the current Programme of Work and Budget, such as work on the environment, were also a particular example where savings or reductions were avoided.

It was an "iterative" process, that is to say the Director-General and the secretariat had to consider where were the vacant posts or whether or not posts were going to fall vacant. They had also to consider what would be the implications in programme terms of not filling those posts, what work would not be done, and also if that work were not going to be done what non-staff resources could also be economized. Two factors which are also important to stress in this process are that it was not a package of proposals which was fixed. In his submission to the Programme Committee the Director-General emphasized that the proposals that were submitted could be amended in the light of the views and the guidance of the Programme Committee. It was not a fixed package on any take it or leave it basis.

Secondly, by the same token the Programme Committee itself emphasized that there had to be flexibility in the carrying out of the Programme. This flexibility had been emphasized by the Council itself during the previous biennium and by the Conference at its last session.

There is a great deal of information which was considered by the Committee and which we provided. I believe that this gives the essence of the answer requested by Member Nations.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous arrivons à la fin du débat. Je remercie les délégués et les observateurs d'avoir enrichi la discussion sur cette question très importante. Je remercie également le Président du Comité du Programme et le Secrétariat de leurs réponses.

Ce que nous pouvons retenir essentiellement, c'est que le Conseil a approuvé le jugement du Comité du Programme selon lequel le Rapport Jansson est équilibré et objectif et que ses recommandations sont acceptables.

Nous allons lever la séance et la reprendre 14 h 30, sous la présidence du Vice-Président, M. Mabrouk Said, pour examiner le point 15 de l'ordre du jour relatif aux comptes vérifiés.

The meeting rose at 12.45 hours.

La séance est levée à 12 h 45.

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.45 horas.

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94º período de sesiones

FOURTEENTH PLenary MEETING QUATORZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE 14ª SESION PLENARIA

(23 November 1988)

The Fourteenth Plenary Meeting Was opened at 14.45 hours,
Bashir El Mabrouk Saïd, Vice-Chairman of the Council, presiding

La quatorzième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 45,
sous la présidence de M. Bashir El Mabrouk Saïd, Vice-Président du Conseil

Se abre la 14ª sesión plenaria a las 14.45 horas,
bajo la presidencia de Bashir El Mabrouk Saïd, Vicepresidente del Consejo

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): I should like to welcome you all here for this afternoon's session. I welcome representatives of the FAO Secretariat. A high degree of cooperation has always existed between the Chair and members of the Council, and I trust that this cooperation will continue and enable us to cover all the items that remain on our agenda.

IV. PROGRAMME, BUDGETRY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (continued)

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

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

15. Audited Accounts

15. Comptes vérifiés

15. Cuentas comprobadas

Atif Y. BUKHARI (Chairman, Finance Committee) (Original language Arabic): In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful: Mr. Chairman, once again I have the honour to address the distinguished members of the Council, and it gives me great pleasure to see you chairing this session of the Council while considering this important item on the agenda.

Under consideration are the audited accounts and the External Auditor's Report for the 1986/87 biennium.

I have already mentioned yesterday in my introduction of item 14, regarding the reports of the 62nd and 63rd Sessions of the Finance Committee, that the Committee reviewed in depth these audited accounts of the Organization and the WFP. The programme accounts are contained in document C 89/5 and corrigendum 1. The United Nations Development Programme in document C 89/6 and the World Food Programme in document C 89/7, and corrigendum 1.

The Committee also reviewed the accounts of the various programmes operated by FAO and WFP, and obtained from the Secretariat all information which it deemed necessary for its comprehension and judgment. The Committee also heard the presentation of the External Auditor on these accounts, and had a full exchange of views with him on the various points in his reports.

As a result of these deliberations, the Committee recommended that the Council approve and submit for adoption by the Conference the following accounts: Regular Programme 1986/87, United Nations Development Programme 1986/87, and the World Food Programme 1986/87. Document CL 94/4 includes the corresponding resolution, together with the views of the Committee in paragraph 4.57.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): I thank the Chairman of the Finance Committee for a clear and excellent presentation of this document. Before we open the floor for discussion of this item I deem it appropriate to consider the sub-items under item 15 separately. Therefore, I do appeal to you that in your various interventions you take into consideration the appropriate separation between the Regular Programme, the UNDP, and the WFP because this will enable members of the Secretariat to be present, and, therefore, to respond to any queries and explanations you deem appropriate.

15.1 Regular Programme 1986-87

15.1 Programme ordinaire 1986-87

15.1 Programa Ordinario 1986-87

Ms Gunilla KURTEN (Finland): The delegation of Finland has carefully studied the report of the External Auditor on the FAO accounts for the financial period 1986/87 contained in document C 89/5. The part of the report dealing with the administration of the trust fund projects is of particular interest to us, since we have been financing a rather large number of trust fund projects, with FAO as the executing agency, during a long period of time.

We would like to express our support for the recommendations of the Auditor summarized in paragraph 106 and especially those dealing with the importance of improving project formulation and the project document. The project document should include clearer statements concerning the development objectives and immediate objectives of the projects and their beneficiaries. The outputs should be consistent with the inputs, planned activities and objectives to be achieved. This would also make more effective monitoring possible, because the progress reports could then be required to provide more analysis of progress against defined targets.

One aspect the Auditor does not mention in this context, which we think is essential, is the integration of women. When the objectives of the projects are defined, it should be made clear how it affects women and this gender-segregated approach should be applied throughout the document in respect of the beneficiaries, outputs, inputs and activities. It should then, consequently, also be applied in the progress reports and the monitoring process as a whole.

Another important question that should not be forgotten in connection with the project formulation is how sustainable development is promoted in the projects. We fully agree with the Auditor that the detailed guidelines contained in the UNDP manuals on project administration could be very useful to FAO and subscribe its recommendation that FAO consider the applicability of these also in the administration of trust fund projects.

John COOK (United States of America); We would like, first of all, to thank the External Auditor for his opinion that FAO's financial statements have been presented fairly for the period ending 31 December 1987, and we approve these accounts.

We would also like to convey our appreciation for his reports. We have a few comments, though, on the reports: first of all to the report concerning the Regular Programme. In this report the External Auditor made a number of useful recommendations to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of FAO operations and to control costs, particularly in the area of manpower resources. These are important recommendations, since nearly 63% of the 1986/87 Regular Programme budget was devoted to staff resources.

We learned from the Secretariat yesterday that management consultants have been contracted for, and we know two of their subject areas of study are finance and personnel. We would like to reiterate our suggestion that the Secretariat arrange an early meeting between the consultants and the External Auditor's Office in as much as a number of subjects covered by the External Auditor in his report on the Regular Programme would clearly be of interest to the consultants.

Furthermore, we would also like to reiterate our suggestion that the reports of the External Auditor be provided to the experts participating in the review of FAO, and we would appreciate the Secretariat's follow-up on this suggestion. In view of the on-going work of the experts, the work of the consultants, which is just beginning, and the responsibilities of the Programme and Finance Committees for preparation of their report on the review next year, it would be premature to take decisions at the present time on implementation of the recommendations of the External Auditor in the report on the Regular Programme. Rather, the question of implementation of these recommendations should be addressed at a later date in the context of the results of the review of FAO.

Giesberg GRAF VON WESTPHALEN (Germany, Federal Republic of): We would like to thank the External Auditor for his report. We welcome the fact that the External Auditor also carried out a programme of examination, apart from auditing the accounts and the normal financial transactions. We are also grateful to the External Auditor for the precise conclusions he has drawn from his findings. If these conclusions were taken into account in future by the Organization, FAO's effectiveness and efficiency would be improved. We recognize, however, that FAO's main capital is vested in the quality of its experts, and we state with regret that the present financial crisis has caused already certain losses. We urge the Director-General and his staff to do everything to minimize further negative impacts.

My delegation notes with interest that the standard manpower costs in the last biennium consider a lapse factor of 5.5%; in reality, however, an overbudgeting of several million dollars occurred due to a greater number of vacancies. Add to this that, in the case of more realistic budgeting in the parallel post-sector, a reduction of the 1986/87 budget of more than one million dollars would have been possible.

In this regard, the statement also seems remarkable to us that the total number of posts was reduced, but at the same time the number of Professional positions and General Service positions substantially increased in the upper grades. My delegation considers this policy very doubtful in view of the present financial position facing our Organization. We are concerned about the findings of the external auditor that 21 percent of Professional positions and 70 percent of General Service positions remained vacant for more than 2 years. Therefore, we are of the opinion that the lapse factor should be corrected accordingly.

In the field of trust fund projects the external auditor comes to conclusions which are of interest to my delegation. We do not deny at all that additional problems may arise from the necessary cooperation between donors, recipients and FAO in project formulation; implementation and control and strictly target-oriented action may become difficult. The findings and the recommendations of the external auditor in this respect offer, however, useful approaches to improve FAO's project work.

The recommendations of the external auditor are of great importance to my delegation. We take them very seriously, also in connection with the current processes of review both in the United Nations System and in particular for FAO. My delegation is interested to know how these recommendations are being implemented by the Secretariat and suggests that the Programme and Finance Committees be informed accordingly at their next session by the Secretariat and the Council next June. Moreover, my delegation wants to suggest that a follow-up be undertaken by the external auditor in the foreseeable future.

Earl W. WEYBRECHT (Canada): My delegation wishes to thank the external auditor for the quality and timeliness of his report as outlined in Document C 89/5. We also note his appreciation for the comments and assistance extended by the Director-General and the staff of the Organization. Many of the remarks in the document before us echo suggestions made by representatives of my government over the last decade. This Report serves to reinforce our concerns.

We have noted as well the comments made in the Finance Committee at its 63rd Session on the audited accounts in its report CL 94/4. We believe the Council should clarify, in particular, how the external auditor's recommendations are to be implemented and whether we require further progress reports.

On the question of the management and control of manpower, the external auditor has found that no procedure exists for zero-based manpower planning. We agree that it may not be realistic to review the need for all existing posts in each biennium. We do, however, believe that the FAO should make provision to review the need for all established posts over a period of time. Changing circumstances, up-grading of other posts in the same unit, and consolidation of responsibilities within divisions may, over time, create opportunities to abolish or transfer posts. Some of the process already takes place; it is a question of creating an independent mechanism to ensure that the process is carried out in a thorough and orderly fashion.

The external auditor has also found that the vacancy rate has been running at up to 15 percent in the Professional category and up to 7.6 percent in the General Services Group over the last 3 biennia. The Organization had, however, only budgeted for a 5.5 percent lapse rate resulting in an additional and unnecessary assessment of \$5.2 million dollars on member states in 1986-87. In preparing the Programme of Work and Budget for 1990-91, we believe that the Director-General should determine a lapse rate which is much closer to the actual rate experienced in recent years.

We are attracted to the external auditor's recommendation that procedures be introduced to review the continuing need for posts; that all post descriptions are kept up-to-date and that post grade be considered for parallel posts which are likely to exceed two years duration. Perhaps the Secretariat would like to comment. In the area of job classification, we also like his suggestion that the FAO carry forward its initiative, begun in 1986, to develop its own master standards for the General Service category; and that the FAO step up its assessment of Professional positions against the International Civil Service Commission standards. This would be a useful measure which would assist in strengthening the UN Common System to which my government attaches importance. We welcome the assurances given to the Finance Committee that the Director-General intends to implement the auditor's recommendations in this area. We would appreciate an update at our next session.

On the administration of trust funds, the Canadian delegation is drawn to the external auditor's conclusion that greater use of UNDP standards for project design would result in improvements to project design and execution. The trust fund donors are urged to consider the merits of this conclusion. We noted with appreciation that the FAO is reviewing the UNDP guidelines with a view to possible standardization of field project procedures.

It is discouraging to note that few of the projects studied met all of their targets. A need has clearly been identified to strengthen the administrative function within large projects and FAO should insist that donors make adequate provisions.

We have noted that the UNDP requires more detailed project reports on planned and actual activities and that, in the external auditor's view, this would allow more effective monitoring of progress in the case of FAO-administered trust funds. In this regard, we share the Secretariat's hope that the introduction of the PROSYS System will lead to improved and more consistent monitoring of the field programme and projects.

My delegation noted with particular interest the sections of the report dealing with evaluation. The external auditor has found that compliance with the existing FAO system is not consistent; that the evaluation service is not fully informed of planned evaluations and reviews; that there are deficiencies in the quality of reporting by evaluation missions. We were, however, pleased to learn that the FAO is taking steps to ensure the independent appraisal of projects and the timely receipt of project reports. It would be of interest to have a progress report of this as well at future sessions.

We believe that the Council should determine and give guidance on how it would like to see these reports implemented and followed up. We acknowledge comments made in the debate under Item 13 by Mr. Crowther that the auditor's comments have been drawn to the attention of the experts engaged in the review of field operations and the consultants examining personnel matters. We would welcome assurances that the Director-General will report to the Finance Committee on the implementation of the auditor's recommendations. We clearly require some device to allow the Finance Committee and the Council to be apprised of follow-up to the reports and my delegation is prepared to support constructive proposals along these lines.

Igor MARINEK (Suisse): J'aimerais tout d'abord remercier le Président du Comité financier, l'Ambassadeur Bukhari, pour son introduction de cet important point de l'ordre du jour. J'aimerais également remercier le Commissaire aux comptes et son équipe pour leur travail considérable d'examen et pour la qualité de leur rapport.

Permettez-moi de souligner d'emblée l'importance que mon pays attache aux fonctions du Commissaire aux comptes pour ce qui est d'assurer une certaine évaluation permanente et extérieure en matière de management.

Une première remarque concerne les états financiers. Nous ne remettons pas du tout en cause leur exactitude mais il nous est quand même difficile d'en tirer tous les enseignements voulus, par exemple par rapport à la solvabilité de l'Organisation. L'utilisation de termes comme "engagements non liquidés" ne dit rien sur le degré d'engagement ni sur le moment attendu du paiement probable. Un projet est-il seulement signé ou est-on en train d'engager du personnel? Y a-t-il du matériel commandé? Les engagements se transformeront-ils en dépenses dans un mois, dans six mois, dans deux ans ou même plus? Nous n'en savons rien. Et pourtant, il serait intéressant d'en savoir plus, surtout dans la situation financière critique de l'Organisation.

En ce qui concerne l'examen portant sur le contrôle des effectifs, j'aimerais faire les remarques suivantes. Tout d'abord, nous saluons l'examen effectué par le Commissaire aux comptes et nous nous félicitons du fait que plusieurs de ses suggestions ont été déjà acceptées par le Secrétariat. Cependant, nous ne comprenons pas la réticence de l'Organisation devant un examen indépendant de l'utilisation du personnel, réticence qui est exprimée au paragraphe 23 du document à l'examen. Nous le comprenons d'autant moins que, ce matin, nous avons entendu M. Shah dire que les rigidités dans le domaine du personnel semblent être parmi les obstacles principaux à une application des priorités dans les décisions prises pour ralentir les programmes, ralentissement imposé par la situation financière de l'Organisation. Nous espérons que le fait de s'être engagé dans l'examen de la gestion de l'organisation, et notamment du secteur du personnel, marque une ouverture du Secrétariat sur ce point important.

J'ai une question à poser concernant le paragraphe 46: le Secrétariat peut-il nous donner plus d'informations sur le nouveau système informatisé de gestion de personnel appelé PERSYS?

Quelques remarques maintenant concernant l'examen de l'administration des projets financés par des fonds fiduciaires. J'aimerais tout d'abord rappeler que mon pays est un important donateur de fonds fiduciaires. Nous y contribuons pour environ 5 millions de dollars par an, et cela depuis une quinzaine d'années.

J'aimerais faire une remarque au sujet du paragraphe 61 du document. Quant à l'harmonisation des descriptifs de projets à partir du nouveau modèle du PNUD, ma délégation est très favorable à la consultation proposée par M. Régnier, ce matin, en utilisant à cet effet le CCQF et le CAD de l'OCDE afin que l'harmonisation souhaitée porte sur toutes les institutions spécialisées et tous les donateurs à la fois. Au paragraphe 83 nous saluons la mise en application du système PROSYS et espérons qu'il répondra aux attentes liées à l'Introduction de ce nouvel outil.

A propos de l'alinéa b du paragraphe 104, j'aimerais souligner l'importance d'une liaison claire.. entre apport, activités, résultats et objectifs dans les projets. Au sujet de l'alinéa f du même paragraphe, j'aimerais souligner l'intérêt primordial que représente un "feedback" systématique des enseignements tirés des évaluations.

Au paragraphe 105, il est question de l'examen préalable des propositions de projets effectuées par des experts n'ayant pas participé à leur formulation et cela seulement quand les ressources le permettent. A notre avis, cette étape ne doit pas être conditionnée par les ressources; il faut lui réserver systématiquement une fraction appropriée des ressources disponibles.

Enfin, nous soutenons les conclusions du Commissaire aux comptes contenues dans le paragraphe 107.

Laissez-moi terminer en tirant la conclusion suivante du rapport du Commissaire aux comptes, et notamment de son travail d'évaluation: l'examen des deux sujets - contrôle des effectifs et fonds fiduciaires - montre clairement les avantages d'une meilleure organisation du travail à l'aide de procédures appropriées et la nécessité d'appliquer celles-ci avec rigueur. Les experts de l'examen en cours de la FAO voudront sans doute examiner et commenter ces aspects du travail de l'Organisation.

Pour ce qui est du Conseil, nous proposons qu'il soit tenu également au courant du suivi donné aux recommandations du Commissaire aux comptes.

Raul LOPEZ-LIRA NAVA (Mexique): Déjeme saludarlo y congratularlo porque está usted dirigiendo los trabajos en esta oportunidad. Quisiera aprovechar también para saludar al Sr. Bukhari y felicitarlo por su amplia exposición del tema.

Mis comentarios sobre este punto van a ser muy concretos, por lo cual deseo preguntarle si pudiera hacer yo una intervención general al término del punto 15 tocando muy brevemente los puntos n.º 1 y 2, ya que se centrará mi intervención sobre el último punto del Programa. Es una pregunta que le hago, Sr. Presidente, porque no quisiera tomar la palabra tantas veces.

James AITKEN (United Kingdom): I would like to begin by congratulating you on your assumption to the Chair and also thank Ambassador Bukhari for his presentation of this item. We would like to compliment the External Auditor on the quality of his report. We find this a very helpful and revealing document and perhaps one of the best we have seen from them for a number of years.

However, before commenting on the Audit Report may I comment on the format of the accounts as given in C 89/5, the accounts of the Regular Programme. These accounts show quite clearly one of the weaknesses that we have talked about on previous occasions in the presentation of information about FAO's financial activities, FAO's finances and their spending. The problem we have yet again with this presentation is that there is no clear indication of actual expenditure as distinct from expenditure and commitments. I make no apology for stressing this point again because obviously this information must be available in a separate form and it is aggregated for the purposes of the accounts. We would hope at some point Council or the Finance Committee could be given a disaggregation. If I understood him correctly yesterday, Mr. Crowther said this information would become available and that it would be available in the form of a budget presentation. Perhaps he could confirm this at the end of the debate.

The reason I raise this again is partly because I would like to do so in conjunction with some remarks made by Mr. Shah earlier this morning when he spoke about the problems of managing cuts and managing the programmes because, from the other side of the platform, one of the problems for us is understanding where the cuts fall and what programmes spend as distinct from what programmes are committed and then not spent. I will return in more detail to Mr. Shah's remarks later on, but I particularly welcome his remarks about protecting the operational programme. It would help us all to understand the very difficult task of the Secretariat and the successes in it if we had some cash spending figures for, for example, the Technical Cooperation Programme which would enable us to see exactly what had been spent as distinct from what had been committed and whether, in fact, the cuts had fallen heavily on the Technical Cooperation Programme. If this information could be available

to us just now in the sense that we could have some feel of this in terms of the accounts, we would be very grateful. Falling this, this will come out when a statement is made to the Finance Committee. I dwell on this because it provides a good illustration of what we find to be the problems of dealing with the accounts in their present format.

Turning to the actual audit of the Regular Programme, we would like to confirm our endorsement of the Summary and Conclusions of the External Auditor given in paragraph 97 of C 89/5. I would like to highlight one or two items in the Audit Report. We note the comments of the Auditor on project delays and the role played in project delays by the procurement process. We were therefore rather concerned to learn from paragraph 79 of C 89/5 that measures to improve procurement procedures are under consideration but no decision has yet been taken on their introduction. If I remember rightly, these measures to improve procurement have been under consideration for some time and I think arose at one time when we commented on the previous report from the External Auditor.

My first question on this to the Secretariat is: can they tell us when the new procedures will be introduced and whether they will involve the amalgamation of any of the existing departments within the Organization which deal with procurement?

Turning now to one of the main parts of the Audit Report dealing with the control of manpower, here both the member states and the Secretariat have to thank the Auditor for his study which we see as an extremely useful contribution to our knowledge of the Organization. Equally important in our view, it provides the Secretariat with a basis for taking action to improve personnel management within FAO. By this I mean that the Audit Report provides a number of pointers on how the rest of FAO can help the Personnel Division to fulfil its tasks. You will be aware that in the past at previous Councils we have made a particular point of stressing the importance of the Personnel Department and providing it with the resources to fulfil its role effectively. We are also aware of the onerous task which it has at present because of the weight of the problem of retrenchment.

One aspect of the Summary is of particular concern to us. That is the procedures for the review of the continuing need for posts dealt with in paragraphs 18 to 23. This point has already been touched on by our Swiss colleague. I make no apology for returning to it because it seems to be central to our discussions and symptomatic of the problems that we have in actually having a meeting of minds with the Secretariat on the important issue of where retrenchment falls, where the savings are made. Mr. Shah this morning referred to the problem of making savings and how it was not possible to do it simply on the basis of ranking priorities. There were practical limitations to this. We accept that there are practical limitations to this sort of action, but it seems to us to be rather odd that ranking of the priorities seems to have less importance than some other practical limitations in the Organization. In effect, Mr. Shah was saying, "Well, we have these staff and they have these particular skills and therefore as an Organization we have to do those tasks which reflect the skills of the existing staff." One can understand this up to a point, but there are some other elements. One of these elements is that over the past decade the ratio of contract staff to permanently employed staff in FAO has increased. In other words, more people in the Organization are now serving in short-term contracts. We have certainly supported this trend because we were under the impression that it gave management considerable flexibility and enabled them to avoid being locked into a particular set of skills. Therefore, it comes as something of a surprise to us to hear from Mr. Shah that management finds itself committed to and locked into a particular set of skills despite the fact that so many staff serve on the contract basis.

The other thing that concerns us in this is that we feel that in pointing to the value of the review of posts the Auditor has, in fact, given senior management a very useful tool to enable it to trim the operations of the Organization to enable them to meet priorities and to redirect efforts. It therefore comes as a considerable surprise to read of the very informal nature of the review process referred to in paragraph 20. Apparently, it does not seem that records are kept of these in a form that could perhaps be used - these decisions on how to review existing staff. This is paragraph 20 of C 89/5. It also comes as a particular surprise to learn that the people who would be responsible for reviewing posts and thus advising the Secretariat on where they could find savings and redirect resources, that that group of people - the classifiers in Personnel Division - have less than half the full strength of their complement. I see from paragraph 21 that in April 1988 Personnel Division had one and a half classifiers in post against its authorized complement of three and a half. We were equally surprised to read the comments in paragraph 23, given what we have heard from the Secretariat about the difficulty of finding areas for economies and redirections, "Accordingly, the Organization stated, it could not support a proposal for further strengthening of the review of staffing needs." This was because the FAO told the Auditors they had no demonstration that a further independent review of the use of manpower would strengthen the present system. This does sound rather odd in view of the circumstances we were told of earlier.

This leads me to draw everybody's attention to the comments made in sub-paragraphs b and c of paragraph 97 of the report concerning the process of classification and the absence of any regular systematic independently planned review of posts. Therefore, there will be no guarantee that all

posts will be reviewed over a period of time". These are not my words, they are the Auditor's words. I repeat "no guarantee that all posts will be reviewed over a period of time," - no regular systematically planned review of posts. I submit that this procedure is not really good enough for an Organization faced with the problems that FAO currently has. In our view it weakens the quality of the answers that we have been receiving from the secretariat on the question of how the cuts in the programme are arranged, and the problem of assessing priorities.

We very much welcome learning that the views of the Auditors will be given to the group of experts advising the Programme and Finance Committees and will also be made available to the consultants undertaking the various management studies. We certainly endorse the view given by at least one distinguished delegate, that the Director-General should present the Programme and Finance Committee at its next meeting with a report on progress and implementation of the Auditors' recommendations.

Finally, I should like to associate my delegation with the comments on evaluation made by the distinguished delegate of Canada.

Premanandu TRIPATHY (India): Very useful comments have been made by the External Auditor in paragraph 106 of document CL 89/5 relating to the regular programme of FAO for 1986/87. Paragraphs 4.39 to 4.41 of document CL 94/4 make it clear that the Finance Committee has already reviewed the findings and recommendations of the External Auditor and has observed that FAO plans to take action to implement the tests recommended by the Auditors for control of manpower. The Finance Committee has also observed that FAO is reviewing the guidelines for monitoring the activities and output of projects with a view to effecting possible standardization of field project procedures. Against this background we recommend the acceptance of the accounts for the year 1986/87.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Sr. Presidente, Sr. Vicepresidente, distinguido colega y amigo Bashir Said de Libia: Ud. sabe la satisfacción que nos causa verle dirigiendo los trabajos de nuestro Consejo esta tarde. Hemos asistido a una serie de comentarios detallados y posiblemente competentes sobre los cuales preferimos abstenernos, para limitar nuestra declaración a apoyar lo que acaba de decir nuestro colega de India en el sentido de que damos nuestro consenso para la aprobación de estas cuentas.

D.K. CROWTHER (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department): A number of questions have been raised on several Issues in the accounts. I shall try and respond to them collectively rather than individually, but try and address each one nevertheless. First, let me say that the External Auditor has accurately reflected in his report first the accounts and the certification thereof, and the Council has rightly noted that there are no qualifications to the statement whatsoever. Secondly, the reports that are included on both the manpower section and on the Trust Fund section are also accurate reflections of both the discussions and correspondence that the External Auditor has had with the Organization.

With regard to the manpower section there were a number of questions raised, particularly on one point which concerned the regularity of the review of posts. As can be clearly seen from the report itself, there was disagreement between the Organization and the Auditor on the original approach taken, but we did come to agreement in the end and accepted the recommendation. Without going through the complete trials and tribulations of the progress that took place, let me say that the Organization has used a system for many years in which it places the basic responsibility for review of its manpower upon the line-managers. This is a process that is used by many organizations and many governments. It is probably the most predominant type of review that is used in most large organizations. The Auditor has suggested that such a process may not include therefore, a complete review of every post over a period of time. With the financial condition that the Organization has found itself in for the last three years (and certainly by 1989 it will be four years) every manager has had to incur substantial reductions in the number of professional staff and general service staff that they have had available to them. This has caused the managers to look very carefully not only at the post, but at the people in the post and how they were contributing towards the programme. Therefore, I can certainly assure Council members that absolutely every post has been looked at. The question that the Auditor is raising is that particularly during the budget process we would prefer to see a separate independent objective review prepared or performed by an additional group.

We had a little trouble accepting the fact that we should support an additional group to review posts when we did not have the money to support the line-posts that were already expected to carry out the programme. Nevertheless, the Auditor has properly agreed to say, and the recommendation

reflects, that they understand the position taken by the Organization, and therefore have recommended a test be performed to see whether or not such an independent objective system would yield assistance and better information to management to allow us to make even more efficient decisions with regard to posts and people. We have agreed to that and have accepted that recommendation and we have implemented it. The results of that implementation will be reported to the Finance Committee.

A question has been raised concerning the lapse factor and I shall ask Mr. Shah to address that matter at the conclusion of my remarks.

An additional question was raised concerning parallel posts and the vacancies that occur, how they are staffed by means of parallel posts and the fact that some of these vacancies may occur over a two-year period and should be given consideration for cancelling. Also the suggestion is made in the External Auditor's Report that there could be as much as US\$ one million savings a year if our parallel posts were always graded and filled at a grade less than its parallel. This bears some degree of explanation for parallel posts were used primarily as a mechanism to allow the Organization to continue to operate its programme while we were filling a particular vacant post.

In the last few years that has been less of a problem because we have not filled that many vacant posts. Nevertheless it is still a very viable, functional process that is used not only by FAO but most of the UN organizations. The process is that once you receive notification that an individual will be vacating the post either at the end of a fixed term, retirement or just termination, if it is decided that the post is to be filled, a vacancy announcement is put out and the process goes forward. Depending on the specific skills required, and certainly taking into account geographical representation requirements that the Organization certainly adheres to, it is easy to envisage that that post will take somewhere between three to six months to fill and sometimes longer. During that period of time, if the programme must continue in that specific area, as most of our present posts should, we set up a temporary parallel post to what I shall refer to as the "mother post". Sometimes we can move a person in a different post that is less critical and give them additional duties and have them serve in the parallel post for a period of time while we are filling the mother post. However, we cannot always do that. Sometimes the post must just remain vacant.

During this process the recruitment function goes forward, advertisements are put out, contacts with Governments are made, interviews are performed and people are brought to Rome for interview. After several turndowns, as is the case in many instances, we finally fill the post. If there had been a parallel post the parallel post is then cancelled and the mother post is filled. The notion that every time we are filling the post we set up a parallel post at a grade less to create savings, does not include the full thrust of what we are attempting to do. Quite frankly, we are attempting to fill posts not entering into a way of finding additional savings during the vacancy process. We are more interested in saving money than most organizations are and we have looked at every possibility. Nevertheless, having said that we accept the Auditor's recommendation and it shall be implemented. I do not want to have the Council misled on the term and the use of the word "savings" in filling parallel posts.

A number of delegates who took the floor made suggestions that consultants meet with or be provided information about the External Auditor's reports. We have accepted that recommendation and have made reference to that in a prior session. I should also confirm that in the case of the personnel review by management consultants we have already provided both the External Auditor's reports as well as the specific recommendations included with a request from us to the management consultants to look into that technique for finding ways of implementing the recommendations. So we wish to confirm that.

Some questions were raised concerning the financial report. The United Kingdom delegate raised a question as to whether or not in future reports information could be included separating out expenditure from obligations. There again, we confirm to the delegate that this information will be regularly reported to the Finance Committee, but with regard to what information may be reported in future reports to the Governing Bodies, we would like to reserve position on that until the management consultants have had full and complete time to review this aspect. It is in their charter, they have been asked to review it, and they will take into account suggestions that have been made.

I would like to explain, however, that there may be some confusion in the minds of some of the delegates, I do not think in the case of the United Kingdom because they have looked at this question very carefully, but the question of commitments versus obligations may not be clear in everybody's mind.

The question was raised by another delegate concerning the length of time that commitments can be outstanding before they are paid. It is indicative in the Basic Text that appropriations made for the Regular Programme expire at the end of the biennium unless a legal obligation has been entered into at that point in time, other than the TCP programme - I will explain the TCP exception. But first let me say that if an obligation has been entered into, let us say on the last month of the biennium, then the Basic Text provides that that obligation must be concluded within the next 12 months and payment issued. Now, what is legal obligation? It is either that a contract has been entered into to hire a consultant, expert staff member, etc., or a purchase order or contract has gone forward for the purchase of goods or services. If a legal commitment therefore, in our terms an obligation, has been entered into within the time of the biennium, before the biennium expires, the Organization is committed to conclude that legal obligation and carry it forward. We would expect to have the services delivered and then paid for. The Basic Text does foresee this and it allows for a 12 month period. That is why it is necessary for us properly to reflect into accounts at the end of the biennium, the amount of legal obligations that we had entered into, and while we do not have a problem separating that out from cash expenditure, it is still important for the Organization to identify that those legal obligations exist and must be satisfied.

With respect to the TCP programme the Basic Text specifically makes an exception that the appropriation made for the specific biennium is allowed to expand over two biennia before it is finally expended. At the very end of the second biennium that TCP appropriation then is required to be fulfilled by the same rules as any other obligation - that is if an obligation has been entered into within the second biennium it must be satisfied within 12 months following. But it cannot be just a whim in someone's mind: it must be a legal obligation. That means that a document has been signed, contracts entered into, purchase order exchanged or a specific contract for employment has been entered into. So the same rules govern TCP at the end of the second biennium as govern regular obligations but nonetheless I pointed this out because I think it is very important that the accounts of the Regular Programme properly reflect all the expenditures, because we use the term expenditures to include both cash disbursements and legal obligations that have been entered into. It is very important for the Organization to understand and certainly for the Member Governments to understand.

There is one point left on the procurement process. In the Auditor's report reference is made to an ongoing review of our procurement process to find ways of streamlining it, and the question was raised as to when they can expect a conclusion to that review and whether or not it would include amalgamation of two of our existing procurement units. The answer is that the matter has been under review for some time, decisions have been taken periodically during that period of time, and this past year we extended the local procurement authority - that is, for both local purchases on projects as well as within certain FAOR offices. Where they had \$10,000 purchase authority to be made locally it has been increased to \$20,000. That was a major aspect of the procurement. It gave us a great deal of concern because of the question of control that must be exercised over those. That step has been taken. An Administrative Circular has been issued and auditors have recognized that that has taken place.

There are some other aspects of that that have not been completed including an inventory process as part of the purchasing system. It is under review and, as shown in the Auditor's report, it will be implemented in the third quarter of next year. It means very substantial change in a number of things that we are doing. We have a process, people have been assigned and they are working on it now.

With regard to the two units, however, we have looked at that carefully again. Our Contracts Branch, and our Purchasing Branch are both reporting to the same division director and there are good reasons for keeping them separated, so we have already concluded at this point that for internal control purposes we are much better off to keep the two units separate at this point in time.

I think that concludes the questions that were raised except those that Mr. Shah should address.

V.J. SHAH (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): A number of questions and comments made reference to the lapse factor, whether this was of the right level, whether there was over-budgeting and all this in the light of the information submitted in the External Auditor's report, and in particular reference was made to the number of vacancies.

I should like to point out that the number of vacancies such as given in the table on page 13 of the English text of the document, which shows the vacancies in December of each year, both for the Professional posts and the General Service posts, is a snapshot; it gives the number of vacancies at

that date but if you want to look at the savings involved of those vacancies it is not snapshot which would help, but of course taking into account the duration of each individual vacancy.

In terms of 1986-87, the biennium which has been examined by the External Auditor, he found that in fact there was a saving over and above the lapse factor, but this should come as no surprise and the Secretariat should not have to apologize for it or defend it because this is precisely because of savings that had to be made. So I hope there is no misunderstanding on that score.

The question of the lapse factor also requires the explanation that the lapse factor is applied by all organizations in the TIN system to take account of the fact that the complement of staff in an organization has an annual rate of renewal through resignations, retirements, and the replacement of those staff requires some time, so the posts should not be funded for 12 months. In our case the lapse factor is five and a half percent, so for all the posts which are provided for in the budget the budgetary provision is reduced by five and a half percent, by what it would be as the total annual cost. To my knowledge there is no other organization in the UN system which has a higher rate - to my knowledge. I would want to look into this but I believe that FAO is among those which has the highest rate, or we are still in line with others. When it comes to changes there are indeed organizations such as the UN, where discussions are under way. They have not been concluded, so I should not say what they would be, but discussions are under way because the Secretary-General has proposed for the next biennium 1990/91, that the lapse figure for professional posts be reduced to three and a half percent, and that for General Service posts there should be no lapse factor deduction at all. I think that these are all matters which will have to be followed by Member Nations for whatever position that they want to take in each Governing Body but I think for the time being this is all I need to say by way of explanation.

Some comments were made by the delegates of Switzerland and the United Kingdom questioning whether what I said this morning on the approach to cuts and savings was Inconsistent with what appears before you, and I understand of course that what I had said was only at the end of your debate this morning and you have not had an opportunity of seeing the Verbatim Record but I trust that when you see the Verbatim Record there will be no reason to find any inconsistency. What I have said was that we found that we could not make the cuts and savings purely by starting on a ranking of priorities, and I still say that. I still say that in making these cuts we had to look at the staff posts that were vacant, which were about to be vacant, to see what the flexibility was to make savings and then to see in programme terms what keeping a post vacant would involve, in not doing certain work, carrying out certain priority activities.

The delegate of the United Kingdom said that the fact that there is an increasing number of fixed-term posts, or shorter-term posts, increases the flexibility. I cannot deny that, but I think that this is something that is for the evident improvement for flexibility, that to the extent that posts are filled by long-term contracts so that the Organization does not have the possibility of reducing its staff complement without breaking those contracts, it certainly makes it easier for the Organization to adjust whenever posts are filled by people with shorter-term contracts or when the posts are vacant.

The last point I would like to refer to is with regard to evaluation, and a number of comments were made about the advance planning of evaluation missions. There I think, as the document shows, and as we agreed with the External Auditor, in fact there is no perfect system of advance planning of evaluation missions. The ideal would be to have evaluation mission plans fully a year in advance, but in practice units are not able to give these advance plans because of the requirements of projects and governments themselves, both the donor governments and the recipient governments. Therefore, I stand by what we said, that we will make every effort to improve these plans and to increase the participation of the evaluation service in these missions.

Regarding the last point, which was with reference to the quality of participation in evaluation missions, there again I do not wish to sound defensive. Evaluation missions involve usually three parties, and what we are saying is that the quality of the evaluation mission report depends very much on the most suitable level of participation from all parties.

D.K. CROWTHER (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department): Other delegations had to do what we referred to as "grade creep". The indication has shown that the average grade levels, particularly for professional staff, is gradually getting higher and higher over time and the auditors have rightfully pointed this out. This is reflective of a position we find ourselves in from a recruiting and pay and emolument standpoint. As you know, the professional staff has not had an increase in their base pay since 1975. No increase whatsoever. Secondly, the post-adjustment system has been frozen in the base city New York for the last three years and was only released on June 30 with no substantive retroactive increase in post adjustment. This causes a substantial difficulty to the Organization in recruiting. From many countries we have

a number of people who are interested in positions that are advertised and, when they receive the salary quotation, the emoluments and understand the cost of living here in Rome, we have turndowns. The rate of turndowns is so significant, as soon as you find someone who is interested and think they can live with the pay, it is always one of the in-grade steps at a higher level than step one. It is almost a demand that if we are to recruit people we can no longer recruit at the lowest level of the professionals, P-1 and P-2.

The general service salaries have now reached a point where they overlap professional salaries in several categories. In fact, the highest level of our G-1 is the lowest pay that we can make to someone entering the Organization in the G-series, but they have ten steps in their grade G level and if they are at the highest step the pay for that step now comes very close to overlapping the first step of professional in P-1.

It has reached a point now where it is almost very difficult to recruit anyone at the P-1 and P-2 level. If you have someone who has just graduated from college, from many places around the world, it is very difficult to recruit them at those levels. The geographic representation problem comes in there as well, because the demand from the under-represented countries creates a great deal of pressure on the Organization to hire more nationals from their countries. Some of our major donors are well under-represented but we cannot hire people from those specific countries because of our pay levels and our pay structure and compensation.

That is the reason we are beginning to see pay creep. There is no question that we are paying more than step one in the respective pay scales, which shows overall the average is creeping up. I am sorry; that is the explanation. Until some changes are made in the base compensation there will probably have to continue to be some type of an Increase of that nature.

Igor MARINCEK (Switzerland): I wish to speak regarding an answer by Mr. Crowther to a point raised by my delegation. My delegation did not question at all the financial statement, nor the utilization of a term like "obligation", nor its accordance with the Basic Texts. That was not the question raised. The question expressed rather a wish from the point of view of my delegation to have a better insight through the Auditor's report into the cash and cash-flow situation of the Organization. So we ask in fact if it is possible to differentiate a little bit this term of "obligations". We ask the question: are there different degrees of obligation? You answered that projects must be signed. That was certainly an answer. However, there is another question: are the obligations for the full amount of the project which is signed, or are they for some element, and how do you consider them in the whole cash-flow situation?

If there are elements of payment that are not immediately effective, a differentiation could help our understanding. The question was presented against the background of the difficult financial situation and of our concern for the Organization, really for our desire to better understand the situation. I just wanted to add that.

D.K. CROWTHER (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department): I am sorry, I either did not fully understand or did not fully answer the question. I would like to add just a few very brief comments on that. In making the point that an obligation must be entered into by the end of the biennium, or the cash will lapse, perhaps I did not differentiate there as sufficiently as I should between the TCP programme and the regular obligations.

If I can review that very briefly. At the end of the biennium, the first two years of any biennium, regular obligations will expire unless they are legally committed by 31 December of that year, no further degrees of obligation. They are either an obligation or they are not. But we do have twelve months following that date to liquidate that obligation, and then the appropriation will certainly expire.

With regard to the question concerning amounts, there may be some small variation in the amount because, if you enter into a purchase order for a delivery of a piece of equipment for six months later, let us say, to a project, and while you will have a firm quote in the equipment itself, the cost of delivering insurance probably will not be firm until the equipment is actually delivered. Therefore the estimate of the amount of insurance and transport cost will have to be adjusted to actual, usually a fairly minor adjustment.

Finally, the TCP programme does extend for an additional four years, but the rules governing the conclusion of those obligations are identical to that of the Regular Programme. I hope that helps clarify a little bit the question. I am sorry I misunderstood.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): That bring us to the end of our examination of the Regular Programme 1986/87. Thank you for your co-operation. Your contributions were most constructive, and useful. Obviously we are not here and now about to change into a drafting committee, because of the very many issues raised. The Secretariat in fact have answered your questions, and I think provided the additional information you have asked for.

I have some general remarks, however, I should like to make. I would say that, as a whole, the Council welcomed the excellent evaluation provided in the report by the Auditor, and also the Director-General's report on the audited accounts, as we see in the Secretariat document. The Council also noted that the Auditor has put forward a number of conclusions and constructive recommendations, especially regarding improvement, implementation of projects. Indeed, some members of the Council stressed the need to pay special attention to any measures aimed at a greater integration of women-in-development projects and programmes.

The Council has also noted with satisfaction the fact that FAO is studying the guidelines concerning the implementation of projects, operational projects. Several members of the Council also drew attention to the fact that the Auditor's report should be submitted to the expert group asked by the Finance and Programme Committees to carry out their special task, and the Secretariat have promised that they will make this report and all the other necessary documents available to the experts so that they can carry out the work that is expected of them. We would, therefore, warmly thank the Organization for this.

Attention has also been drawn to the need to consolidate efforts in order to increase the rational use of manpower. Request has been made for progress reports on the basis of the Auditor's report, and the Secretariat in this context has provided adequate information. The Drafting Committee will take into due account all the remarks and questions that have been voiced by distinguished members of the Council. I trust that the conclusions or work of the Drafting Committee will reflect this debate.

15.2 UNDP 1986-87

15.2 PUND 1986-87

15.2 PNUD 1986-87

Giesberg GRAF VON WESTPHALEN (Germany, Federal Republic of): I could state some words on the external auditor's report on UNDP, if that is acceptable.

Given the fact that FAO is the largest implementing agency for UNDP, according to the note of the Secretary-General on comprehensive statistical data on operational activities for development for 1986 comprising 19 percent or \$129 million of total UNDP delivery, we are grateful to the external auditor that he has looked into the procedures of the administration of the UNDP projects by FAO.

One of our major concerns in the relationship between UNDP, to which we contribute 130 million Deutsche marks in 1989 and the agencies which implement projects on behalf of UNDP, is the question of accountability. We have expressed this concern in the General Assembly and in the Governing Council of the UNDP. The background to this is that our budgetary regulations would hardly allow us to allocate funds to an institution such as UNDP, which forwards the bulk of these funds to other organizations, while not being in the position to hold them responsible should the necessity arise to do so. We have examined the existing standard and agreements between UNDP and the agencies and found them, at least in this regard, not sufficiently legally binding. We do express our conviction again at this Council that this matter deserves urgent attention.

I raise this point because some of the observations of the auditor relating to the quality of project feasibility, paragraph 11, appraisal within FAO; paragraphs 14, 15 and 17, documentation; paragraph 15, lack of coordination between outputs, objectives and activities; the obvious concern with mere technical questions, paragraph 16 and above all the absence of poor definition of output targets in 64 percent of cases examined by evaluation obviously do support our view. The auditor's observations in fact give us the impression that more attention should be paid by FAO in the implementation of UNDP projects. The Federal Government has stated at the ECOSOC what we expect from UN organizations in the implementation of operational activities and I reiterate, we are convinced relevance in project performance can be achieved if project objectives are precisely

defined and subsequently thorough project preparation and tight monitoring are done. Lessons have to be drawn from results and have to be applied to new projects. The key to produce success, according to our experience is the establishment of the feasibility and the responsible preparation of projects. Both imply that a thorough assessment of needs has to be done.

James AITKEN (United Kingdom): I would like to make some brief comments on the audited reports of the UNDP. Most of the points my delegation were going to make have been subsumed in the comments made by the delegate of the Federal Republic of Germany. We would simply summarize this and say that it does appear to us that there are still a number of areas in which FAO's management and implementation of the UNDP projects could be tightened up and we look forward to receiving a report through the Finance Committee on how the Secretariat intends to carry out the recommendations of the auditor.

On one specific issue, it would be helpful I think if we could have some more details, because it may be that the figures are actually wrong, but it is misleading, but It is paragraph 24 on Document C89/6 and this refers to problems in project planning and it refers to a project in oil palm breeding, where there was initially a budget according to the paper, this is on page 14 of C89/6, in this project there was originally a budget of \$5 000 for germ-plasm. After two years when the activity fell behind schedule, we now see that the estimated costs are now in excess of \$200 000. These figures seem to us to be a little bit peculiar. Perhaps there is some printing error here. Alternatively, that sort of increase does seem rather large. Perhaps we could have some sort of explanation. It may be that the \$200 000 refers to the cost of the whole project rather than the cost of the germ-plasm but it would be helpful if somebody could comment on this.

Paul R. BRYDEN (Australia): I listened with interest to the comments of our colleague from the Federal Republic of Germany. Clearly FAO's administration of UNDP projects represents a substantial portion of FAO activities. My delegation considers it is important that FAO is effective in its administration of UNDP projects and we would hope that FAO takes account of the auditor's recommendations in developing more efficient administrative procedures with respect to UNDP.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): If there are no other speakers on this sub-item, I shall give the floor to Mr. Rinvile.

F. RINVILLE (Sous-Directeur général du Département du développement): En réponse au Représentant du Royaume-Uni, je dirai qu'il est exact que les chiffres concernant la fourniture de matériel prévu initialement ont augmenté en cours de projet, les besoins ayant augmenté pendant l'exécution de ce dernier.

James AITKEN (United Kingdom): As I understood It, it was confirmed that the project costs increased from \$5 000 to \$200 000 and we have just been told that the figures are correct and it is because the needs increased. Does this mean that the whole increase was taken account of in an increase in needs, in other words instead of one piece of germ-plasm at \$5 000, we needed 40 pieces at \$5 000 each? In fact, was there a price increase? The other question that seems to come from this: do you actually have time-based estimates and spending profiles as part of your general management procedures on UNDP?

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): Representative of the Secretariat, do you have any further light to shed on this?

F. RINVILLE (Sous-Directeur général du Département du développement): En cours de projet, les besoins de celui-ci ont été modifiés; il ne s'agit pas d'une augmentation du prix. A la demande du gouvernement, il y a eu une modification de la méthode adoptée pour parvenir aux fins du projet et les besoins en matériel végétal se sont avérés plus importants que ce qui avait été prévu initialement.

James AITKEN (United Kingdom): I apologise for coming back on this but there were two parts to my question. One was the part about whether this is a unit cost increase or an overall increase, which has been accurately answered by the representative of the Secretariat. The second part was simply to ask if as a matter of course you have a system of time base spending profiles for all your projects as part of your tools of project management.

F. RIWVILLE (Sous-Directeur général du Département du développement): Je ne comprends pas bien cette deuxième question. Ma réponse à la première, c'est qu'effectivement, en cours de projet, il peut y avoir une modification dans le cadre de cette discussion tripartite qui est menée de bout en bout entre le Représentant du PNUD, le Représentant du gouvernement et la FAO.

Sur le plan de l'échéancier des paiements, je ne vois pas comment je peux donner une précision. Je ne vois pas comment le problème de l'échéancier des paiements peut-être impliqué dans cette opération particulière.

D.K. CROWTHER (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department): Let me assure the delegate of the United Kingdom that in each project, trust fund or otherwise, there is a spending plan that begins with a multi-year budget and an individual year budget that projects the procurement requirements, the staffing requirements, the day they both should come together when the experts should be there, and finally when the review and evaluation should take place. Most of that information is also included in the project document itself before the government even signs, but from that the implementation plan that must occur and the in-house responsibilities that we have with the project control do include time base spending plans. I can confirm and reassure you that that is part of the normal ongoing management responsibilities, project by project.

It also triggers a number of other things, including calls for funds and related types of things. The hiring that goes on and the procurement that goes on have to be coordinated both among divisions as well as between the field and Headquarters and with the donors. It is rather a complicated process but certainly it does include those.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): As regards the UNDP section of item 15, I think we can say that the Council has noted with satisfaction the fact that the Secretariat will take into account the whole set of the Auditor's recommendations.

15.3 World Food Programme 1986-87

15.3 Programme alimentaire mondial 1986-87

15.3 Programa Mundial de Alimentos, 1986-87

James INGRAM (Executive-Director, WFP): In relation to the World Food Programme, the Council has before it the Report of the External Auditor on the accounts of the Programme, document C 89/7 as well as the relevant sections of the Finance Committee's Report of its Sixty-third Session contained in document CL 94/4. The relevant section of the Committee's Report begins on page 20 and covers paragraphs 4.43 to 4.56 inclusive.

The first part of the Committee's report, paragraphs 4.43 to 4.52, are concerned with a statement made to the Committee by the representative of the Director-General in relation to the submission of material on the accounts. Since the Finance Committee has decided to consider this matter at its 1989 spring session, I will not comment on the substance. However, I would like to say that the matter having been raised, WFP welcomes the Finance Committee's decision. I do so particularly since the Committee's review is intended to encompass "the manner in which the Member Nations intended the Joint Report to be interpreted." It is governments which must ultimately decide how they wish these questions to be resolved. The CFA will no doubt take into account whatever comments the Finance Committee wishes to make. The ACABO - that is to say the Finance Committee of the United Nations which was closely involved in the events leading up to the appointment of the task force and has taken a keen interest in the implementation of its recommendations - will also no doubt wish to advise the CFA.

The second part of the Committee's report, that is paragraphs 4.53 to 4.56, relates to the External Auditor's comments on the Programme's management of development projects. I stress that these comments relate to management and not to the financial accounts which have not been commented on or qualified by the External Auditor. The External Auditor's detailed scrutiny of project management is a fairly recent phenomenon, and you may recall that it was this Programme which encouraged him to do this. Indeed, his project management investigations began with WFP. The reason why I encouraged the External Auditor to undertake such audits is because, as the person responsible for the management of the Programme, it is of great help to me to have as much information as possible about.. aspects of the running of this very large and very complex operation. Inevitably, such investigations turn up problems - that is their purpose. In this same sense, WFP's own evaluation reports of projects, which are candid in revealing shortcomings as well as successes, are seen by many as a model within the United Nations system. Indeed, the External Auditor has relied heavily upon them and on internal WFP working documents in preparing his analysis.

I therefore welcomed the findings and conclusions of the External Auditor as a useful tool to help me in the continuing task of making WFP more effective and efficient. In this regard, I am sure that, if asked, he will attest that in receiving his findings the Programme was cooperative and in no way defensive. This is, of course, consistent with my policy of openness on all financial and management issues.

I would not have felt impelled to say this or make this intervention if it were not for the possibility that there could be some misunderstanding of the import of the External Auditor's findings. As those professionally concerned with such matters know, it is a common problem in any form of evaluation or assessment to achieve a balance between favourable comments and criticisms. Criticisms tend to absorb an undue proportion of comments and the impression can so easily be given, because of this, that the operations under consideration are generally unsatisfactory. It is, therefore, quite easy for a general reader - that is someone with no detailed knowledge of how this Programme works - to be unduly influenced by the apparent preponderance of critical comments in the External Auditor's findings. The External Auditor realized this. Thus, he informed the Finance Committee that he did not consider his report on the management of WFP development projects to be unduly critical or indeed significantly different from his comments on the management of FAO and its Trust Funds. He also pointed out that most of the weaknesses that he had indicated had already been identified by WFP itself, and action had already been taken to counteract them.

Further, the External Auditor has also stated in his report that in his review of 26 selected projects - out of some 300 operational projects altogether - the implementation of food-for-work and direct feeding schemes was generally satisfactory. Most objectives were being achieved or likely to be achieved. The focus of his criticisms was on projects involving the utilization of funds from the sale or exchange of commodities. Indeed, this matter was raised in the discussion yesterday on the WFP report. Overall, however, these account for less than 15% of development expenditures. Thus they constitute a disproportionate share - namely 50 percent - of the sample examined by the External Auditor.

The fact that much of his report dealt in detail with problems arising in these projects - that is to say those involving the utilization of funds from the sale or exchange of commodities - tends to obscure the overall success of our operations which he himself attests to. I am personally convinced that WFP as a development agency is encountering exactly the same problems in project implementation that virtually all other development agencies - whether multilateral or bilateral - are facing. For example, the great difficulty of ensuring that project achievements match project goals. I will go further and say that our own problems are compounded because WFP is a high-poverty orientated agency with 80 percent of our operations concentrated in low-income and food deficit countries who are facing serious economic and financial difficulties. Indeed, WFP faces an additional problem inherent in the very nature of food aid distribution direct to beneficiaries. The distribution sites for WFP food aid are often numbered in the thousands and scattered widely throughout countries, many of which are bigger than Europe's largest countries.

As I mentioned yesterday, the new WFP project cycle, which is now in full operation has contributed a great deal to more rigorous project preparation. The results of this have already been seen in the project documents prepared and presented to the CFA for approval. I am convinced that they will also, in due course, be reflected in improved implementation, for example, a better match between project achievements and goals.

Moreover, unlike most other agencies in the United Nations system, which execute their own projects, recipient governments themselves are the executing agencies for WFP projects and it is the governments who are responsible for reporting to WFP on them. With shortages of staff, of funds, of vehicles, of fuel and of money to pay travel allowances, and so on, many governments today find it virtually impossible to ensure that reports are promptly prepared and transmitted to the capital for consolidation before being presented to WFP. Other UN agencies either produce reports themselves or provide the funding for them.

As the External Auditor has mentioned, WFP is indeed undertaking a comprehensive review of project reporting requirements. In recognition of the difficulties being faced by governments and I am convinced that it is essential to ensure in the future, that reporting responsibilities laid upon governments are within their personnel and logistic capability to deliver.

As regards the External Auditor's specific comments about the delayed submission of audited accounts on projects, I should explain that in each WFP, Plan of Operations the recipient government is required to submit annually to WFP audited accounts in respect of project implementation and also at the termination of WFP assistance to the project. These accounts, which have normally to be audited and certified by the Government Auditor, are quite separate from - indeed in no way connected with - the WFP accounts before you. They show the quantities of each commodity received by the governments from WFP, losses and stock balances at each storage centre, the quantities distributed and the number of beneficiaries to whom they were distributed. Such audited accounts are expected to be provided by governments within 90 days of the end of the accounting period. For the reasons given already it has proven difficult in practice for Government Auditors, who are invariably under-staffed and often preoccupied with parliamentary obligations, to devote attention to WFP's requirements. The result is that many governments provide these audited accounts late or not at all, in spite of constant urging and reminders by WFP country offices. However, as noted, we are giving careful attention to this matter in order to work out more realistic reporting requirements.

To come back to the problems regarding utilization of funds from sale or exchange of commodities, these problems were, in fact, identified in detail several years ago by WFP through detailed questionnaires to our country offices. However, in many cases, these generated funds cannot be effectively used without availability of foreign exchange to finance particular inputs, as I explained yesterday morning to the Council. This is indeed another aspect of the formidable problems that developing countries, particularly the poorest, find themselves in as a result of the current economic climate, the debt crisis, and so on.

I should add that in the current situation, where many beneficiary countries face serious economic and financial difficulties, a continuous exercise of judgement is required by WFP management to strike a balance between, on the one hand, insistence on the application of very stringent rules and, on the other, reasonably satisfying ourselves that food is reaching intended beneficiaries and that project objectives are being attained. To take an inflexible stand could lead the Programme to have to suspend a good many projects. The poor, whose circumstances are worsened by their current situation, could be put in an even worse plight.

Clearly, we cannot be parties to placing even further burdens on developing countries especially low income, food deficit, ones. If we insisted too rigidly on the fulfilment of reporting requirements in circumstances when governments really cannot meet them, we would leave ourselves no option but to suspend our aid. Clearly this must be a last resort.

However, the Council may be assured that our field staff are instructed to give close attention to monitoring food distribution and project implementation. There is no complacency in WFP about the importance of this vital function.

I apologize for having taken up the Committee's time on this matter. But I wanted to reassure anyone who may have had doubts about our efficient management of project food aid and our deep and continuing sympathy for the plight of developing countries. I also wanted to underline that we are not resting on our laurels and that we remain committed to improving our management performance. Of course, the CFA has yet to examine the External Auditor's report and I will be able to give further information on all of these matters, at that time, including of course, progress on implementing his findings and conclusions.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): I thank Mr. Ingram, the Executive Director of the World Food Programme, for his valuable statement. I am quite sure that this statement will certainly help a great deal of you in your own statements. I should like to appeal to you to be brief because we still have a great deal of items to deal with before the end of the day.

Raúl LOPEZ-LIRA NAVA (México): Antes de nada, quisiera agradecer al Sr. Ingram su exposición. Será muy breve. En lo que respecta al documento C 89/5, mi Delegación apoya las opiniones del Auditor Externo. En relación al tema 15.2, documento C 89/6, igualmente mi Delegación apoya las sugerencias escritas en dicho documento.

Sobre el punto 15.3, Sr. Presidente, permítame señalar que México siempre ha insistido en la necesaria coordinación de actividades entre las agencias de las Naciones Unidas, particularmente en el ámbito de la agricultura y la alimentación. La disciplina absoluta de agencias co-patrocinadoras, como el PMA, es una exigencia que debe respetarse al pie de la letra. En épocas pretéritas, notamos con gran preocupación el intento del PMA de lograr una autonomía de tipo político de la FAO, y entonces insistimos en la inconveniencia de tales propuestas y en nuestra oposición a ellas. Por el contrario, México insistió, y hoy lo reiteramos, que el PMA debe regirse por una política de ayuda alimentaria estrictamente congruente y coordinada con el concepto, el pacto y estrategias de seguridad alimentaria determinadas en la FAO; y que en el seno del CSA debía evaluarse la coherencia y eficiencia de las políticas de ayuda alimentaria aplicadas por el PMA a la luz del contexto de la seguridad alimentaria mundial. Todo esto, sin demérito del CPA, que era el órgano rector en materia de ayuda alimentaria, pero que por razones obvias no podía estudiar el vínculo de ese asunto con otros planteados en FAO.

Respecto a la transferencia de otras funciones de carácter administrativo y de personal, México ha sido muy escéptico; pues, independientemente de aquellas cuestiones relativas a traslapes y a eficiencia administrativa, podría cruzarse fácilmente la frontera de la independencia total y, por lo tanto, de la indiferencia respecto de la "función paraguas" coordinadora y rectora de la FAO en materia alimentaria.

Por todo lo anterior, nos preocupa mucho el tipo de incidentes como los descritos en el documento CL 94/4, en los párrafos 4.43 a 4.52, y damos nuestro pleno apoyo al punto de vista del Director General y de la Secretaría de la FAO. No consideramos ni útil ni conveniente que a estas alturas se transfieran al PMA nuevas funciones relativas al personal y a la administración. Exigiríamos, eso sí, la pronta y eficaz respuesta del PMA a las preocupantes observaciones hechas por el auditor externo, como se recoge en el párrafo 4.53 y que, como se pide en el 4.56, en su siguiente informe, el auditor externo incluya los progresos hechos por el PMA en la aplicación de las recomendaciones hechas por dicho auditor.

Por otro lado, apoyamos el párrafo 4.57, a fin de que las cuentas comprobadas a las que se refiere sean presentadas a la Conferencia de 1989.

John COOK (United States of America): We have a few comments on the External Auditor's Report on the World Food Programme. The USA assigns high priority to the establishment of a fully operational and effective system for project identification, design, monitoring and evaluation within the World Food Programme. We note that the Finance Committee requested that the External Auditor include in his next report an update on the World Food Programme's progress towards implementing his recommendations on the World Food Programme, project preparation and implementation.

In this connection, we plan to suggest in the CFA that a thorough review of WFP implementation of project cycle reforms be conducted in 1989, and that the results of the review be presented to the CFA at its session in May 1990.

This review therefore would be available for the External Auditor's report. Although we note that the implementation of Food for Work and direct feeding projects was considered as generally satisfactory by the External Auditor, it is incumbent upon the WFP to correct the shortcomings identified in the Auditor's report. Many of the shortcomings are not unique to WFP projects. Our own bilateral feeding programmes at one time or another addressed these same problems, such as slow project start-up, delays in counterpart funding, and underaccomplishment of project objectives. These are not easy problems to resolve but if they are not resolved it will be the poorest people of the poorest countries who suffer, and this is unacceptable.

At the same time our experience tells us that the problems identified by the External Auditor can be corrected and we believe that many of the operational changes necessary to correct the problems have already been set in motion by WFP management.

We especially note the problems identified by the External Auditor in the implementation of projects involving the sale of commodities, and the project cycle review we will suggest to the CFA should certainly address these problems.

We are particularly concerned about the continuing failure of recipient governments to submit progress reports and annual audited accounts on a timely basis, and we would appreciate a full report on the results of the World Food Programme's Review of Reported Requirements which was initiated in November 1987.

We suggest that WFP project evaluation documents and requests for project expansion include a section on the recipient countries reporting performance and action taken to correct deficiencies.

We are pleased that the WFP Operations Department has undertaken an expanding programme of management review and appraisals to supplement the work of the evaluation service, and we strongly encourage continued progress in the implementation of an enhanced monitoring evaluation system for development projects.

We are especially pleased by the greater emphasis being given by WFP to broader sectoral and thematic reviews and suggest that such reviews include information on project impact derived from systematically conducted ex-post evaluation of projects.

We look forward to a follow-up of the recommendations in the External Auditor's report and we will pursue this both in the CFA and with the External Auditor when he gives his progress report to the Finance Committee.

Amin ABDEL MALEK (Liban) (langue originale arabe): J'ai pris connaissance du document C 89/7 concernant le Rapport et les états financiers du Programme Alimentaire Mondial pour la période biennale 1986-1987. J'ai également étudié le document CL 94/4 et plus particulièrement le passage concernant la session du Comité financier ainsi que celui concernant les comptes certifiés du PAM pour 1986-1987, à savoir les paragraphes 4.43 à 4.56; et j'ai également écouté l'intervention du Directeur exécutif du PAM, Monsieur Ingram, et compte tenu de tous ces éléments, je voudrais faire les remarques suivantes.

Monsieur Ingram se dit ouvert aux critiques relatives à l'ensemble des projets du PAM. Je voudrais rappeler à Monsieur Ingram qu'il a été dit dans le Rapport du Commissaire aux comptes que neuf projets sur dix ont échoué; ce pourcentage nous paraît considérable, et cet état de chose n'est pas rassurant. Je ne pense pas que l'on puisse justifier un tel taux d'échec.

Il est toujours facile de se jeter la responsabilité de l'échec sur une tierce partie, et c'est exactement ce que Monsieur Ingram fait lorsqu'il rend les pays bénéficiaires responsables de cet échec.

M. Ingran s'est également plaint de procédures de mise en oeuvre et d'élaboration trop lentes, de ralentissement dans les décaissements des fonds assignés aux projets; il s'est plaint de certains retards dans les rapports faisant état de la mise en oeuvre des projets et de leur évaluation.

Que Monsieur Ingram veuille bien prendre mes remarques dans un esprit tout-à-fait ouvert: j'ajouterai que le Directeur général n'a pas signé les comptes vérifiés du PAM; il semble qu'il y ait divergence de vues à ce sujet la raison apparente étant que le Directeur général n'a pas été saisi des rapports qui aurait dû lui être soumis par le Directeur Exécutif du PAM. Nous savons qu'un accord a été conclu en 1985, dans lequel on précise les règles à suivre en ce domaine. Outre le règlement financier, nous avons à notre disposition le règlement général de l'Organisation, et d'après ces textes - notamment l'article 7 du règlement financier du PAM - le Directeur général est le "gardien" des finances du PAM. Or, nous savons que le Directeur exécutif n'a pas communiqué ses rapports au Directeur général bien que ce dernier lui ait écrit à ce sujet.

L'autorité déléguée au Directeur exécutif par le Directeur général, implique plusieurs conditions, notamment celle, selon laquelle le Directeur exécutif du PAM doit tenir le Directeur général de la FAO au courant de la façon dont cette autorité a été utilisée afin d'éviter tout abus.

Or, cela ne s'est pas fait si le Directeur général s'est montré tolérant pour éviter de gêner la transmission de ces rapports au Conseil. Il ne faudrait pas que cela crée un précédent qu'il soit interprété comme un abandon par le Directeur général de son mandat et de ses prérogatives.

La réaction de la Conférence à la non signature par le Directeur général de ces rapports nous paraît tout à fait normale. Nous réitérons notre confiance en ce Comité qui envisage d'étudier à fond cette question à sa prochaine session et d'en faire rapport au Conseil en sa session de juin 1989.

En conclusion, la Délégation du Liban réaffirme la nécessité de voir le Directeur général exercer ses prérogatives et son mandat sans concession.

Hans-J. HERMENS (Canada): In our statement yesterday on agenda item 9.1 my delegation dealt in a comprehensive way with Canada's objectives regarding the need for the WFP to continue to seek improvements in the quality of its development projects. We note that the External Auditor has made similar comments and his examination is detailed in document C 89/7. To be objective we must

stress, however, that the projects examined by the External Auditor were approved by the CFA and initiated by the WFP before the improvements in planning implementation, monitoring and evaluation as reflected in the procedures of the new project cycle had been put into practice. The External Auditor states this clearly in paragraph 13 of document C 89/7.

We were of course pleased to hear Mr. Ingram's comments yesterday which confirmed WFP's intent to apply all elements of the new project cycle on all project developments as quickly as possible. In this connection we note the request of the Finance Committee in paragraph 4.56 of document CL 94/4 to the External Auditor, and I quote "to include in his next report WFP's progress towards implementing his recommendations made over the past few years". While we do not consider this to be an unreasonable request we wish to support the proposal of our USA colleague on this matter. His suggestion, as I recall, was that the CFA request the WFP Secretariat to undertake during 1989 a thorough review of WFP's implementation of project cycle reforms and that those results be presented to the CFA at its May 1990 session. This review would then be available for consideration by the External Auditor when he prepares his report.

Another matter which is raised in paragraph 4.51 of CL 94/4 implies action on the part of the Finance Committee which is not particularly clear to us. I do not wish to engage in speculation on the substance of discussion on this matter between the Director-General of FAO and the Executive Director of WFP. I would like to emphasize, however, that it is our hope that the heads of the two organizations develop as soon as possible a satisfactory and lasting solution to the problem that is being cited.

Concerning the involvement of the Finance Committee the Canadian view is quite clear. Members of this Council will recall that the report of the UN/FAO Joint Task Force on WFP relationship problems was submitted to WFP's Governing Body, the CFA. Furthermore, reports on the implementation of the recommendations contained therein have been dealt with in the CFA in three successive sessions. My delegation therefore is of the view that any further follow-up of the recommendations of the task force or the issues raised in its report to the CFA should in the first instance be dealt with by the CFA.

I would like to make one more comment, and perhaps I was not following the translators quickly enough when the delegate of Mexico made his suggested comments. If I recall, he suggested that this Council undertake a review of food aid policies which should guide the operations of WFP. We do not wish to diminish the importance of this body in areas of food and agriculture but it is our view that it is the CFA that deals with operational and policy issues as they relate to the World Food Programme.

James AITKEN (United Kingdom): We would like to welcome document C 89/7 as a good, informative piece of work. We particularly welcome that part of the Auditor's Report which deals with the administration of development projects. We were very pleased to see, from paragraph 42, that the Auditor concluded that the programme operates many diverse and innovative development projects and has taken action to remedy identified procedural weaknesses. On the evidence of the report we believe this is a true and accurate assessment, and we endorse the report and the accounts.

Some issues still require further follow-up action. Clearly WFP has taken energetic steps in other areas to improve things. We also endorse the Auditor's statement that the presentation of project documents has improved. We note observations were based on the examination of 26 projects, i.e., less than 10% of the total active projects. We would be interested to learn how these were selected and whether the auditors were satisfied that they were representative.

We recognize some delays in planning and appraisal of projects are inevitable (these are referred to in paragraphs 8 and 9) but an average period of 22 months between initial requests and the start of commodity distribution seems a very long time to us, particularly since in some cases 14 months is sufficient. We ask the Executive Director to do what he can to speed up the process. In this connection, we regret the CFA rejected a proposal to consider projects three times a year instead of twice.

On the question of overall resource allocation, referred to in paragraph 15 of the report, we find that paragraph 15 is not altogether consistent with the fourth paragraph of the Executive Director's statement. If WFP policy is to give priority to projects in sub-Saharan Africa - a policy we fully endorse - it is disappointing that only 37.5% of WFP's assistance goes to this region. It is also difficult to see why some 80% of the Programme's resources can go to the least developed food-deficit countries when, according to the Executive Director, 79% is directed to low-income food-deficit countries.

Most food aid donors have also faced problems of slow utilization of counterpart funds referred to in paragraphs 21 and 22. We are pleased that steps have been taken to draw the attention of the

field staff to the importance of this aspect of project control. However, since some delay is almost inevitable, what has been done to ensure that such funds are held in interest-bearing accounts? I would be grateful for an answer to this point (referred to in paragraph 22).

We would like to stress the importance of completing the review of reporting requirements as soon as possible. It is important that these are kept to a minimum, but are then enforced with vigour.

We would also be grateful for explanation of reduction of professional staff in the Evaluation Service. We stress the importance we attach to the broader social and climatic reviews, and the difficult question of feed-back to project planning and policy formulation and development.

Turning to administrative matters, we consider it entirely appropriate for an Executive Director to sign a certification of financial statements and the letter of representation to the External Auditor regarding the WFP accounts. It is right, in principle, that the person who is responsible for the implementation of the Programme should also assume full responsibility for financial matters. We would be prepared to consider possible amendments to the additional financial procedures in due course if these are felt necessary to regularise the position.

Finally, we would like to join with other delegations who said that the proper forum for detailed discussion of WFP issues is, of course, the CFA.

Thomas YANGA (Cameroun): Monsieur le Président, nous sommes particulièrement heureux de prendre la parole à ce moment du débat, alors que vous présidez nos travaux.

S'agissant du point que nous examinons, la délégation du Cameroun considère que le satisfecit délivré par le Commissaire aux comptes après examen des états financiers du PAM constitue une preuve supplémentaire des capacités de gestion améliorée aussi bien sur le plan administratif que financier. La délégation du Cameroun s'en réjouit vivement et tient à féliciter le Directeur exécutif du PAM ce sujet.

S'agissant des rapports entre la FAO et le PAM, il est de notre avis que les responsables de ces deux institutions qui jouent un rôle primordial pour des millions de personnes doivent continuer la collaboration qui a toujours existé entre eux, dans le sens constructif, pour une plus grande efficacité du PAM lui permettant de remplir sa mission, qui s'est traduite dans des domaines autres que financiers, par des ententes qui sont allées au-delà des dispositions contenues dans le rapport conjoint du Secrétariat des Nations Unies et de la FAO.

Cela dit, le Cameroun se félicite de la disponibilité du PAM et de son Directeur exécutif à mettre tout en oeuvre pour répondre aux observations relativement négatives à notre avis que le Commissaire aux comptes a mentionnées dans son rapport.

Nous accueillons, par ailleurs, avec intérêt l'appel à la flexibilité lancé par le Directeur exécutif aux représentants du PAM sur le terrain concernant l'annulation des procédures réglementaires dans l'exécution des projets. En effet, les situations sur le terrain concernant les projets d'aide alimentaire sont si diverses et si imprévisibles que cette flexibilité est absolument indispensable.

Joao Augusto de MEDICIS (Brazil): I promise to be very brief, as my delegation would like only to endorse the statement of the delegate of Mexico in what concerns the political relationship between the World Food Programme and FAO. My delegation deems it is of the greatest importance that those links remain intact and untouched, irrespective of the occasional response from the administration of those institutions. That does not imply any change in the role of CFA, in the opinion of my delegation, although we believe its membership could be reviewed to reflect better active distribution among various geographical regions.

Akbar Mirza KHALEELI (India): I do not want to prolong the discussion, but I think it is necessary to refer to two different aspects of this particular item. One relates to what the report itself says regarding the functioning of the WFP, and we have heard with great interest and, on the whole, agreement what the Executive Director has mentioned. The other is about the relationship between WFP and FAO and, more specifically, the responsibilities to be shared between the Executive Director and the Director-General of FAO.

The extremely constructive suggestion by the distinguished delegate of the USA, backed by Canada, regarding the project cycle and the other points for improving the functioning of the WFP would be agreed by most people. In any case, no organization is perfect, and every organization has to keep improving its performance along with the evolutionary situations it faces. So, we do not wish to do anything but commend the performance of WFP though, here and there, there may be some occasional reservations.

What concerns us here is that the WFP evolutionary relationship is not only with FAO; it is with: the situation it has to deal with. WFP was created because it had a very specific action-oriented role and, if it has to develop greater powers and flexibility in dealing with the situation on an emergency basis, certainly it may require additional powers. However, as things stand, while we may wish to regularise certain powers, it does not look as though that is exactly the case. Therefore, if we go by the letter of what has been agreed to, there appears to be some need for the Director-General to see these things and sign these certificates.

We do not want this to become an inter-departmental or inter-organizational problem. Both are doing excellent work, and we have great respect for their respective heads. However, I think, whether it is for the Finance Committee or the CFA to discuss these matters, we should place on record our interest in seeing that, in the interest of co-ordination between two very important UN organizations, these matters are sorted out amicably.

We do not wish to take sides on these matters, except that if something has to be regularised, it has to be regularised. So far, it has not been regularised. In terms of the letter of the law, I think the Director-General has certain custodian responsibilities which he is not able to discharge, unless there is that mutual accommodation between two sides.

Gonzalo BULA HOTOS (Colombia): A pesar de algunas tendencias afortunadamente superficiales, tendencias desalentadoras, los Representantes del Gobierno de Colombia, seguimos creyendo en que se van a mantener y fortalecer los resultados que se obtuvieron a través del Grupo Mixto de Acción Naciones Unidas/FAO. En reuniones pasadas de este Consejo y del CPA sobre todo, hemos hablado de la luna de miel que empezó a partir de 1985 y siempre expresábamos el deseo de que esa luna de miel no fuera coyuntural, sino que se consolidara hasta convertirse en permanente.

Parece, Sr. Presidente, que todo funcionaba muy bien hasta abril de 1988. Se autorizó la firma de las cuentas, se prometió espontáneamente considerar la delegación de nuevas facultades y no sabemos qué es lo que ha podido motivar algún cambio de actitud, pero a esto es necesario que no se le dé mayor trascendencia. Pensamos que corresponde a todos nosotros como miembros del Consejo contribuir a que esas dificultades se solucionen en un clima de serenidad. La posición del Gobierno de Colombia, no sólo en esta oportunidad, sino en tantas otras ocasiones, Sr. Presidente, queremos confirmarla hoy en el sentido de que toda controversia entre organismos a los cuales pertenecen nuestros mismos países, controversias entre organismos que usan los mismos recursos para la cooperación, son desafortunadas, porque hacen siempre víctimas a los países en desarrollo, cuyo mejor servicio es el objetivo común de todas esas organizaciones. De manera que pensamos que no conviene echar leña al fuego sino por el contrario, conciliar oposiciones, contribuir a que se superen controversias; y pensamos que este Consejo debe hacer la recomendación fundamental -ya lo ha dicho con elocuencia admirable el distinguido Embajador de India- la recomendación fundamental de que la FAO y el PMA, ambos organismos, superen las diferencias, traten de analizar en un clima de serenidad y objetividad los problemas reales o aparentes que hayan podido surgir y que sigan cumpliendo todos los elementos que obligan a una y otra Organización a la luz del resultado del Grupo Mixto de Acción Naciones Unidas/FAO.

Los Representantes de Colombia, como siempre, hemos recibido con gran atención y oído con mucho respeto las palabras del Sr. Ingram, Director Ejecutivo del PMA. El Sr. Ingram habló de manera clara, objetiva y ampliamente informativa. Y queremos apoyar lo que dijo el colega Embajador de la India.

El PMA es un organismo sumamente importante; lleva a cabo una tarea valiosa y compleja, de magnitud y significación considerables. Es por lo tanto apenas natural que se puedan cometer humanos errores. Lo esencial está en la voluntad y el propósito de rectificar los errores, y en eso confiamos plenamente, en cuanto ha manifestado el Director Ejecutivo, con honestidad y franqueza.

Desde el punto de vista procedimental, Sr. Presidente, creemos que todo está claro. A nuestro juicio el Auditor firmó las cuentas; luego no hay ningún problema en su contenido. Esperamos que el PMA presentará el Informe que se le ha solicitado sobre la manera progresiva como cumple las recomendaciones del Auditor Externo, y que el Consejo tiene su propio Comité de Finanzas que en abril de 1989 se volverá a ocupar de este asunto.

Queremos apoyar lo que dijeron los colegas de Canadá y de Reino Unido, entre otros, en el sentido de que se han planteado aquí algunas cuestiones que solo podrán ventilarse de manera adecuada y competente en el seno del CPA que es el organo rector del Programa Mundial de Alimentos.

Paul R. BRYDEN (Australia): We thank Mr. Ingram for his informative and clear introduction.

Regarding the Auditor's report, in our view the report is not very critical or significantly different from other financial reports considered by the Finance Committee though such an impression was in fact heightened by the precision of the figure quoted and the emphasis on problems rather than on successful aspects of performance. We note that this was only a very small proportion of the total of WFP's operational projects which were diverse and innovative, and the conclusions arrived at must be seen in perspective; not all factors were totally within WFP's control and the projects were mature and had been approved and initiated before the new procedures had been put in place.

We are pleased with the new project cycle and have already noticed the improvement in project formulation. We believe this will resolve any problems arising in previous practices, as noted by Canada in drawing attention to paragraph 13 of the Auditor's report.

We consider that studies of food aid should be carried out by the CFA as our responsible body for such issues.

We support the reference to the Finance Committee as regards the issues regarding the signing of the accounts suggested in paragraph 4.51 of Document CL 94/4.

Finally, the WFP works in some of the least-developed countries and in the least developed parts of those countries; the environment is difficult, the need is overwhelming and adherence to strict and formal procedural guidelines is problematic.

Bernard LEDUN (France): Contrairement à ce que j'ai dit hier, je souhaite aujourd'hui dire l'accord de notre délégation sur les propos qui viennent d'être tenus par le distingué représentant de la Colombie, et je souscris entièrement aux paroles qu'il a prononcées. Ma déclaration sera donc très brève.

Namukolo MUKDTU (Zambia): The Zambian delegation wants to associate itself completely with the comments and the views expressed by Cameroon, India and Colombia.

Sra. Miriam INZAULGARAT GARCIA de PEREZ (Cuba): Vamos a ser muy breves pues en el día de ayer, el Jefe de mi Delegación se pronunció sobre el Programa Mundial de Alimentos resaltando la eficiencia, capacidad y atención del Programa a las necesidades de los países en desarrollo.

En la tarde de hoy, hemos escuchado a varias delegaciones y la mía quiere asociarse a las palabras pronunciadas por los embajadores de la India y Colombia, esperando que la capacidad y experiencia de los máximos dirigentes de la FAO y del PMA contribuya a despejar este malentendido transitorio.

Sra. María Eulalia JIMENEZ (Observador de El Salvador): En mi calidad de Observador y como representante de un país que sufre mucho, que se enfrenta día a día con grandes dificultades, como Representante de un pequeño país que necesita de toda la ayuda que puedan proporcionarle Organizaciones como la FAO y el PMA, permítame decirle cuánto lamento situaciones como la que estamos observando.

Mi delegación se une a la esperanza planteada por el Delegado de Canadá en el sentido de que se encuentre a la mayor brevedad posible solución a las divergencias existentes. Esto redundará más que todo en beneficio de los países en desarrollo. En el tema anterior se habló mucho sobre la coordinación. Esta hay que lograrla a todos los niveles.

Assefa YILALA (Observer for Ethiopia): Our delegation would like to thank Mr. Ingram, the Executive Director of the World Food Programme for the exhaustive introduction that he provided on the item being considered, the item on Document C 89/7. As we were members of the Finance Committee, we have discussed the matter when it was presented to the Finance Committee during its last session.

As was indicated by the Executive Director, the Report of the Finance Committee could be categorized into three parts and namely those parts referring to the reporting of the custodian issue, paragraph 4.43 and downwards, and parts referring to the response of the World Food Programme, paragraphs 4.48 to 4.51, and the last part referring to the discussion by the Finance Committee on management and we agree with categorizations that were set by the Executive Director and feel that the Finance Committee during its spring session in 1989 will consider the issues of the two parts, namely the issue of the custodian and also referring to the responses of the World Food Programme. I feel this should be kept until the exhaustive and detailed discussions are held by the Finance Committee and the Council will have a chance to examine it at a later date.

With regards to the comments of the auditors, it was reported that steps are being taken to overcome the shortcomings indicated and it is not long ago and long enough to evaluate the outcomes of these improvements and moves taken by the Programme. The new project cycle is just one of those steps taken by the Programme to alleviate some of the shortcomings that are prevailing in the auditor's report that we have before us.

Having said that I would like to say that our own views are similar to the views that were expressed by Colombia, India, Cameroon and others.

Masuhla LETEKA (Lesotho): The importance my Government attaches to both FAO and WFP cannot be overemphasized. Their services to the developing countries, and mostly to the low-income and food-deficit countries, including my own, are commendable. In the same breath, we wish to associate ourselves with the comments of India and Colombia.

Atif Y. BUKHARI (Chairman, Finance Committee) (Original language Arabic): As Chairman of the Finance Committee most certainly I have to speak during this discussion and there are a few points I would like to specify if I may in order to remove certain misunderstandings and to dissipate certain erroneous interpretations. As to the interpretation of our Committee's Report, the report of the external auditor was an ordinary report, such as we very often receive from the external auditors. We thanked the auditor for the report which we considered to be very clear and at the end of our deliberations and discussions we entertained the opinions and the views of the World Food Programme and we took into consideration all of the various opinions expressed.

The report as such is an ordinary straightforward report and there were comments relative to that report. On the report itself comments were tabled, were voiced, so that was the normal way of doing things as established. The Auditor had to take all that into consideration otherwise he would not be a true External Auditor.

However, a certain number of points have been raised. Certain questions have been asked. For example, on paragraph 4.34 all the way through to 4.52, it was observed that the audited accounts were not signed by the Director-General according to the expected procedure and as is laid down in the general rules of organization and in the general rules of WFP. It is quite natural that the Finance Committee would make a comment on that state of affairs because it represented a certain rather important change in procedure, a somewhat different procedure from that ordinarily followed. Hence, it was at that point that we began to discuss that specific matter very closely and attentively. We listened to the representative of the Director-General and then we listened to what the representative of the Executive Director had to say on that. We had to do that. That was our responsibility as the Finance Committee. We listened to the two sides of the story, as they say, and we learned that there had been reports relative to the accounts which stipulated that the Executive Director was to submit certain documents to the Organization - something which he had not done. According to certain texts, the Executive Director has to submit reports to the Organization. The Finance Committee was not totally convinced of everything that it had heard, and as you know so very well the Finance Committee in so far as being in permanent and constant dialogue with the various parties concerned, obviously only takes into consideration the facts, the realities and the figures. We keep to that logical line. We were not entirely convinced on what was before us. Therefore, we asked that discussion on that point be terminated. We asked that the pertinent documents be submitted to us. We asked for the pertinent documents relative to this whole issue of the actual signature of the Executive Director on the accounts instead of the signature of the Director-General.

The reports would then be submitted to the Finance Committee during the later session. At that time the Finance Committee would be able to look deeper into the whole question and delve into its investigation. We did not really discuss this whole question. The Finance Committee did not just sit there and discuss things. All we did was entertain the comments of the representative of the Director-General. We entertained the comments of the representative of the Executive Director. Therefore, the possibility of discussing all of this in depth was something that the Finance Committee did not actually have. We postponed it until later.

I do not think it is necessary to be that pessimistic. I have the distinct impression that this type of matter can be dealt with in a very natural way. We will find a solution to this.

The Finance Committee noted another anomaly. It noted something which had to be considered as well, but I do not think the Director-General has a prerogative which allows him to transfer a responsibility assigned to him by the member states to any type of body or organ without reporting back to the member states. I do not think the Director-General can delegate authority or a prerogative that has been assigned to him without making a report thereon to the member states. We spoke about this in paragraph 4.51, at the end of the paragraph if I am not mistaken. Since we invited the Director-General not to take any measures geared or designed to delegate that authority to any other body, in the final analysis I would ask delegates if they would be so kind to understand things distant from any spirit of tension, pessimism or polemics. We are fully convinced that the Directors of the two Organizations will be able to come up with an auspicious solution, with an appropriate solution, which will place things back in a natural order.

That is all I wanted to say, Mr. Chairman, and through you I wish to thank the Executive Director.

Janes INGRAM (Executive-Director, WFP): Apart from the fact that it is late, perhaps some of the problems in understanding what WFP actually does and the nature of some of our problems are revealed a little by the fact that I see in front of me a somewhat different cast of characters than I addressed yesterday. In some ways that is a pity because if you had been here yesterday, those of you who were not, you would have formed an impression of very considerable - indeed almost overwhelming - support for the Programme and the work it does to help developing countries. We had very generous tributes yesterday from many developing countries, as we have had, I suppose, for every meeting I have been to whether it be in FAO, whether it be in the United Nations or whether it be the CFA. I was a little disappointed that that note, which has been so evident, was lost through some interventions this afternoon which somehow seemed to suggest that WFP was some sort of hardhearted taskmaster which was always putting the blame on developing countries.

I am not going to burden you with a long recital of our benefits and what we do and what we do not do, but of course if delegations actually read the three reports of the External Auditor and compare precisely what is said about WFP, for example, on project achievement, on delays in reports from recipient governments, you will find - and I have all the quotations here and I will not go through them - that the External Auditor made precisely the same sort of criticisms. As I said, we welcome them but we also expect delegations to accept that this Programme operates entirely in good faith. Our record shows it. Our record of support for all developing countries without fear or favour is known to all. I will not name some of the countries which receive more assistance from the World Food Programme which, shall I say, are politically controversial, than they get from the rest of the United Nations system combined. This is a programme which by its record has demonstrated its unwavering support for the principles of the United Nations and for the interests of the developing countries.

There were a number of detailed questions raised. As I said at the end of my opening intervention, this report of the External Auditor and the Finance Committee has yet to be considered by the CFA. It will be considered by the CFA, and it seems to me that the people who are most directly concerned with the work of WFP will be able to be informed at that time in so far as they do not already know the substance of our position. But if I can just single out, as I say, one or two things that struck me as quite important, the priority to Sub-Saharan Africa is absolute. But again, as I explained yesterday, we face - as every agency faces - very great difficulties in preparing projects for Sub-Saharan Africa for all the reasons I have given. These governments are under such strain. There is no contradiction between what is said by the External Auditor and the actual position of the Programme. We provide 80% of our assistance to low-income, deficit countries with an absolute priority to the least developed countries and to the food deficit countries of Sub-Saharan Africa. Approximately 20% goes to the middle-income countries in keeping with our mandate of focusing on the poorest people. We try to concentrate on the poorest regions of middle-income countries. This has been so for years. There is a great stability in the respective shares. They go up a little bit from year to year. Generally speaking the division reflects the interests of the member states. It is not something that the Programme is manipulating or changing. It is something that has general and indeed wide acceptance everywhere.

The variation from the average in terms of the time taken for food to reach beneficiaries of some projects is quite wide. There is a big variation between the average and most extreme cases, but if you look at each individual case you will always find very good reasons. Even the donors, of course, sometimes cause delays. We have to call forward the food from donors. We do not own the contributions. It may happen that there are delays in actually finding a donor with the commodities we need for the particular project. The whole thing is a very intricate operation. Our average time is, we feel, very hard to beat over time and certainly compares well with any other development institution.

In truth, the actual recommendations of the External Auditor are few. The main one really relates to asking us to pursue as energetically as possible the review of reporting. As I said in my answer, we are completely committed to that. We are completely committed to trying to make the reporting requirements more realistic in terms of the burdens placed on developing countries by the present system.

If you look at the rest of it there are really not very many recommendations, none that are very clear as such, because in effect he is saying that the Programme has in fact noted these problems and has already done something about it. Of course, over time we will see if what we have done about it is sufficient. By all means, we are very happy at any time to report on the progress made in improving our whole project cycle - there is no problem at all

Our goal is one of continuous improvement and our practice has always been to inform the CFA in detail of the progress made. My intervention in relation to the issue that has been referred to at some length by some delegates, that is, in relation to the signature of the accounts, eschewed entirely any comment in substance, absolutely. All I said was that I welcomed the decision of the Committee to look at it again in April. Of course, I pointed out that the Finance Committee has no absolute rights as regards to these issues. This is a Joint Programme, it is not an FAO Programme, it is not a United Nations Programme it is a very unique institution, different from either. This means that other bodies, and I mentioned the Finance Committee of the United Nations, will also have to look at this matter as will the CFA. But, I made no comment whatsoever on the substance because I thought it would be inappropriate to introduce into this evening's discussion any disharmony. So, I was really very surprised indeed that, notwithstanding that restraint on my part, some very tendentious interventions were made.

Let me mention very briefly the actual situation. The actual situation is readily documented and has been supplied subsequently to the Members of the Finance Committee. Because the accounts were prepared in agreement with FAO, entirely by WFP - these financial accounts were prepared entirely by WFP. It was apparent to the accountant staff (the practical people of both Organizations) that it would not be practicable or desirable for the Director-General to sign them. I put this position in writing to the Director-General in a letter of 31 March which has been given since to the Members of the Finance Committee, and I suggested that I should sign the accounts under delegation from him. The Director-General agreed to this, namely, that I should sign them. Subsequently, he wrote to me on 7 April confirming he would rely on my certification for the 1986/87 accounts. He did not say that he would rely on my certification for all time. However, he said that he would rely on it for the 86/87 accounts and he went on to say that he would consider further delegation.

Let me quote from that letter of 7 April, he will "give serious consideration to possible additional delegation of authority with respect to oversight and certification of WFP accounts" indeed the FAO Representative informed the Finance Committee that "The Director-General had authorized the Executive Director to sign the accounts." Well, if he has authorized signature of the accounts, granted it was not a blanket delegation for all time, one has to wonder, and ask oneself as to why this issue was raised at all. It was certainly not WFP that brought it up. It came as a great and total astonishment to WFP that it was brought up.

On this related issue of the provision of reports, the WFP has provided all the Financial Reports required except for the audit working papers which the Director-General in his letter of 7 April agreed not to require. It seems to me, now that I have suggested it, that it is the result of some misunderstanding, therefore, I fully support (and so indicated to the Director-General) that these issues should be sorted out. But, for some reason it was dumped - if I can put it that way - in the laps of Governments in what I feel is a way which misrepresents the actual situation. I am equally in agreement with all those who have called for resolving these problems between the two of us. That has been my policy throughout. The distinguished representative of Colombia this evening referred to the honeymoon. I do not know how many of you were present at this meeting last year, or present in the FAO Conference, or in the CFA, but you will have heard me say at every meeting that the relations with FAO were excellent, that is what I said on every occasion. They were very harmonious indeed. The honeymoon did not end in April. In April the honeymoon was still going, that is when I got this letter of delegation. The honeymoon ended in July in fact when an issue arose which came up yesterday in this Body - some of you were here some of you were not - in relation to the provision of headquarters for WFP. I will not go into that matter again,

but negotiations which were on the verge of finality, were suspended at a day's notice without any consultation with me at all, without any advice direct to me. There was no notice just suspended when they were on the point of finality. That seemed to me to be an extraordinary step to take. Since then, there have been other things including this, in a sense, nonsense in the Finance Committee which need never have happened.

I regret all this. I am a person who believes in solving issues by consent. I have shown my good will, through the whole of 1987 and the first part of this year, and that remains my position. I wish to resolve these matters and work them out. They waste a lot of your time and they certainly waste a lot of our time. Indeed, I have put a concrete proposal to the Director-General which he said he will consider and which I hope will obviate any future fuss about the signature of accounts, or related issues.

Mr. Chairman, you and the Committee have been extremely patient. I came this evening not intending to say any of this. The intervention I made cast no blames or aspersions on anyone. I regret having to say all this, but let us heed the advice of those voices of reason that we have heard this evening and let us work all these things out like sensible grown-up men.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): I would like to thank the Executive Director very much. I would ask you ladies and gentlemen not to reopen the discussion on this matter.

Amin ABDEL MALEK (Liban) (langue originale arabe): Je remercie particulièrement Monsieur Ingram pour l'éloquence avec laquelle il a répondu aux questions posées et relatives au sujet sous considération. Je n'ai pas dit que le Directeur général ne lui avait pas donné de délégation de signature, j'ai dit que cette délégation était conditionnée et que le Directeur exécutif devait préciser au Directeur général la façon dont il entendait l'utiliser, afin qu'il n'y ait pas d'excès; c'est exactement ce que j'ai dit; je ne veux rien dire de plus.

D.K. CROWTHER (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department): I also regret that it was necessary to get into the substance of this issue in this Body, because the Finance Committee had already agreed that it would go into the matter in detail in its Spring Session. Certainly, the report of the Finance Committee and the External Auditor's Report will be provided to the CFA, to the ACABQ and the relevant sessions of the Council.

Having said that, I have to indicate that WFP basic documents establish a responsibility of the Director-General, which is unique and is a very responsible one. In the basic document itself it calls for the Director-General to set up the original Trust Fund for the World Food Programme. Secondly, it calls for him to remain the custodian of that Fund. As such he is responsible for reporting to this and other bodies.

When an issue of the relationships between the Organization and WFP came up, originally in late-1984, and a Joint Task Force was established to resolve that and a report was subsequently issued in 1985, it was placed before the CFA, before Council as well as the Finance Committee and the ACABQ. The question of the WFP accounts itself is dealt with in the report before you and was considered in the Finance Committee. As indicated therein, the organization had to explain why the WFP accounts and the Letter of Representation were for the first time in history signed by the Executive Director and not the Director-General as foreseen in the basic legislation governing the World Food Programme.

Under this legislation, and particularly, general regulation 27 of Article 7 of the additional financial regulations, the Joint Report of the Secretary-General approved by the CFA and Council in 1985, the Executive Director is obliged to send certain reports to the Secretary-General and the Director-General. There is a considerable number and they are listed and contained in the report. As can be seen from the Annex to this Joint Report these are not long complicated reports which require a great deal of time and effort to prepare especially for the purpose, but for the most part they are routine lists, many of which would be prepared in any case and a mere copy would serve to satisfy the responsibilities to be carried out by the Director-General.

The purpose of the provisions for such a report is that the Secretary-General and the Director-General should have the minimum information to enable them to exercise the general responsibility and oversight which the basic texts of WFP accord to them, and in particular, as regards the Director-General to enable him in good conscience to make his signing of the accounts more than a mere act of rubber-stamping. This does not in any way infringe upon the responsibilities or efficiency of the World Food Programme.

In this connection, may I recall that the decisions of 1985 brought about a comprehensive change in the previous arrangements giving the Executive Director much greater authority and flexibility than had been held by any of his predecessors. For the first time, WFP could purchase equipment and supplies, obtain contractual services, make decisions on personnel, including recruitment, appointment, promotion, transfer, termination, and establishment, and have its own internal audit as well as carrying out many accounting operations. The granting of such wide and full extensions of the authority of the World Food Programme to conduct its own affairs, did not, however, alter the ultimate or immediate responsibilities of the Director-General. On the contrary, it reinforced the need for at least a modicum of reporting, particularly in the financing and accounting sectors. Nor was there any explicit or implicit agreement that provision of the agreement would be progressively relaxed and certainly not by the World Food Programme unilaterally. Since 1985 FAO has scrupulously observed the terms of this Joint Agreement. Indeed, since then further authority has been granted to the Executive Director for example, to appoint DIs without consultation with the Secretary-General or the Director-General and to procure non-food items.

However, I regret to say that since the agreement was decided upon the Executive Director has not rendered to the Director-General the reports which he was required to provide. As a result the Director of Finance did not feel that he was able to advise the Director-General that the Director-General was in the position he need to be to sign the accounts or the letter of representation to the External Auditor. Furthermore, the WFP made it clear that failing to provide these reports was not an oversight which could be corrected but was a deliberate end as a result of a unilateral decision by the Executive Director. The position taken by the Director of Finance was not that the accounts were necessarily wrong or that there was any wrongdoing, but that he was not in possession of the reports which should have been provided and as a result he did not have the material upon the basis which he could properly advise the Director-General to sign. That the Director-General then delegated the authority to sign to the Executive Director was not, as was suggested to the Finance Committee, part of a mutually agreed evolutionary process but an act forced upon us, if we wished, as we did, to avoid holding up the process of the external audits and approval of the World Food Programme accounts.

We look forward to discussing this matter further at the spring session of the Finance Committee and we are as anxious as the members are to resolve the issue. The Director-General must carry out his full responsibility in this regard and it does require the submission of a number of reports by the World Food Programme to the Director-General and the Executive Director.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): Mr. Executive Director, you have the floor, and I hope that we shall not continue indefinitely with this discussion.

James INGRAM (Executive-Director, WFP): No, Mr. Chairman, I will not take up a lot of time. Just to repeat what I have said, that WFP has provided all the documents relevant to the issue of the signing of the accounts, except the working papers of the Internal Auditor which as far as I am concerned were specifically exempted in the letter of 7 April that I read from - that is, all documents relevant to the accounts have been provided except for one which is the one which is exempted.

What Mr. Crowther has done now is to move from the particular to the general and he refers to a great list of reporting requirements. Indeed, as far as I am concerned the World Food Programme has complied substantially with all those requirements also by mutual agreement. Some of them are really not needed or they are available if you just press a button on the FAO computer, they pop out on you. They have to be introduced, for example, into the payroll system in order for the staff of WFP to be paid.

I go on and say this is absurd really. There are some of this incredibly long list of reporting requirements that FAO does not in fact comply with. It has just become silly. It is simply no way to be trying to conduct relations between two organizations. The WFP is a billion dollar a year operation. Who is held accountable for its work? It is the Executive Director of WFP. He does have indeed the responsibility, he has most of the authority, and the Director-General made a delegation of further authority, agreed to make a delegation, said he would consider making further delegations.

Mr. Crowther, before 20 or 30 people, said only in June - I said the honeymoon ended in July - in June Mr. Crowther said in my presence and I followed him as a speaker and I quoted what he said, he said there must be an evolutionary relationship between FAO and WFP. So I leave it at that. As I say, I think this is a totally inappropriate place for discussing this kind of thing. It was not my idea. I have not got any text to read. I came in a spirit of goodwill.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): I would like to thank all those who took the floor on this item. Of course, quite a few questions were asked. A lot of positive suggestions were made about this important report. Of course it is very difficult to sum up everything that was stated during this session. However, in a very general manner I can say that the Council has reviewed the report of the auditors after having listened to the very important statement made by the Executive Director of the WFP.

The Council takes note of the fact that the auditors reports are excellent. They contain many suggestions about the preparation of projects. The Council, as I have understood, congratulates the fact that the programme Implemented all the recommendations made. Various delegates spoke about the relationship which exists between FAO and the World Food Programme and the importance of having excellent relationships between the two organizations, since this has been official to developing countries.

We hope that all the relevant bodies, be it the Finance Committee or Council, during future meetings will arrive at recommendations which will serve the common interest.

I would like to reassure Mr. Ingram of the fact that certain statements by some delegates are far from being critiques: they are just requests for clarification on the part of governments. I would like to reaffirm to Mr. Ingram that this does not mean in any way that member countries, be they developed or developing, do not acknowledge the very effective role played by the World Food Programme in hunger and malnutrition control throughout the world.

All delegates have paid tribute to the role played by WFP in favour of developing countries and I think I speak on behalf of the Council when I say that the Council wishes to appeal to all specialized agencies within the UN family and especially to FAO and the World Food Programme to strengthen their collaboration within the framework of their mandate. Therefore on your behalf I would like to express my most sincere thanks to Mr. Ingram for the clarification he has given to us.

After this summary, I would like to bring an end to the review of item 15 of the agenda and I would like to invite you to deal with the following agenda item which is item 16.

Lassaad Ben Osman, Independent Chairman of the Council, took the Chair.

Lassaad Ben Osman, Président indépendant du Conseil, assume la présidence.

Ocupa la Presidencia Lassaad Ben Osman, Presidente independiente del Consejo.

16. Examination of the Proposal made by the Nineteenth Regional Conference for the Near East on the return to the Region of the Regional Office for the Near East
16. Examen de la proposition formulée par la dix-neuvième Conférence régionale pour le Proche-Orient, en vue du retour dans la région du Bureau régional pour le Proche-Orient
16. Examen de la propuesta formulada por la 19 Conferencia Regional para el Cercano Oriente sobre el retorno a la Región de la Oficina Regional para el Cercano Oriente

S. JUM'A (Assistant Director-General, Regional Representative for the Near East) (Original language Arabic): Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegations, ladies and gentlemen: At this late hour after a long and difficult day of discussions, I am duty bound to be as brief as possible on this subject. I shall attempt not to take up too much of your time and I will proceed immediately by introducing the document under discussion, document CL 94/17. This document, submitted by the Nineteenth Regional Conference, is entitled Examination of Proposal Regarding Regional Office for the Near East and concerns the resumption of that Office's operations from the region itself.

I would like to recall here that the General Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization in 1979 had adopted a resolution concerning the FAO Regional Office in Cairo, closing down that Regional Office. The Conference gave the Director-General far-reaching powers to proceed with the implementation of the programme and regional activities from regions and locations outside Cairo, be it from the region itself or at the Organization's Headquarters here in Rome.

Since that, a decision was adopted by the Twentieth General Conference in 1979. The Organization proceeded with the Implementation of regional programmes and projects for the Near East from Headquarters here in Rome. The Regional Office proceeded with such activities through cooperation with the various branches and divisions of FAO. This has been the situation for the past nine

years. During that period the countries of the region on various occasions had pointed out that they wished for the Regional Office to return, commence its operations and be operated from within the region itself.

The last request was the one made at the Nineteenth FAO Regional Conference for the Near East that was held in Muscat, Oman, in March of this year. The delegations at that Conference unanimously expressed their desire that the FAO Regional Office for the Near East be returned to the Region and be operated once again from within the region.

Since the countries of the region are aware that such a decision must be taken by the General Conference of the Organization, as it is the sole authority and the only one responsible for such decisions, the Regional Conference therefore requested the Director-General to include on the agenda on the forthcoming General Conference, (the Twenty-fifth Session, which will be held in November of next year), therefore an item related to the Near East Office and its return to the region.

The Director-General has responded to this request and has agreed to include on the agenda of the forthcoming Session of the General Conference in 1989 an item related to the question of the Near East Regional Office and its return to the region.

In order to pave the way for such a step, the Director-General has requested the preparation of a preliminary document, which is being submitted to you today, to inform you of those steps and the latest developments on this subject, on the one hand; also, to have the matter discussed and debated here, and for Council to address any special requests it may find necessary to the Director-General when he is formulating a more precise request that will be addressed to the Ninety-fifth Session of the Conference to be held next year.

The Director-General has also received a formal letter from the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt. This letter was forwarded by the Egyptian Embassy here in Rome, requesting the Director-General to seek to transfer the Regional Office back to its original headquarters in Cairo. The Egyptian authorities have expressed their full preparation to provide all the necessary facilities to achieve this end.

In response to this request, I went to Cairo on the basis of the request of the Director-General, met with the officials there, and informed them of the possibilities related to the adoption of such a decision in the future. I also examined with them on a preliminary basis the preparations and the steps that will need to be taken once such a decision is formally adopted with a view to facilitating the transfer of the Office back to Cairo. This, of course, is on the basis of the General Conference approving such a step next year at its session.

Therefore, we have started to prepare some preliminary assessments and estimates of the cost of such a transfer; that is to say, if the Regional Office were to be returned to the region. As you note, some expenses are to be incurred, but they are one-time only expenses, one-time costs which will cover the transfer of staff members who work in the Near East Office from Rome to the future headquarters of the Near-East Office, be it Cairo or another city.

These one-time costs will also cover the necessary equipment - typewriters, photocopying machines, office furniture and other office requirements - for the new office to start operations. I would like to stress that this is a preliminary statement. It may exceed or in fact be less than the original costs, which represent about US \$ 750 000. In addition to this, if this relocation does take place, it will also entail the appointment of a number of general staff members, and the expenses incurred by such appointments have not been assessed or estimated yet, even though we are planning to take such costs into consideration when the next detailed document is prepared on the subject.

The forthcoming Session of the Conference of the Organization, when it examines this item, will have to choose between or, rather, consider three options. The first one is to retain the Regional Office in Rome or maintain the status quo, that the Regional Office therefore remain where it is at present. The second option is to relocate the Regional Office in Cairo. The third option is that the Regional Office be relocated elsewhere in the region, providing that a host country comes forward and undertakes to provide all the necessary facilities for such a relocation.

It is quite normal and natural that the Conference will, when choosing one of these three options, have to take into account all the comments and requests and proposals that you may make either now or at one of the future sessions of the Council, before the whole subject, with your recommendations, is submitted to the Conference by the Director-General to help the Conference itself take the appropriate decision.

Therefore, in summary form, this is an outline of the contents of the document submitted to you. The purpose of submitting the document at this Session is, first and foremost, to inform you of the

latest development on the subject, and to find out whether there are any special instructions or special measures to be taken by the Council which the Secretariat must be taking into account when it prepares the detailed full document for the forthcoming Sessions of the Council.

This is, therefore, a summary of the contents of the document, and the subject is now submitted to you to be discussed in the manner you deem fit.

LE PRESIDENT: J'ouvre la discussion sur le point 16.

Ms Hoda EL MARASSY (Egypt) (Original language Arabic): Before I make a few clarifications on document CL 94/17, I hope you will allow me to express a special word of thanks to the Director-General for the attention he has accorded to the request made by my country for the relocation and the reopening of the Near East Regional Office in Cairo. I would like to thank the Director-General for the positive and practical steps he has taken so far.

First of all, and as far as paragraph 1 of document 17 is concerned, I would like to inform you of the following. The Conference decision adopted in November 1979, closing and removing the Regional Office from Cairo, and in fact moving the administration of that Office from Cairo to Rome, pending the adoption of another decision, that Conference decision was taken for political reasons relating to the breaking off of diplomatic relations between Egypt and a number of countries of the region. This in fact gave rise to the belief that it would reflect negatively on the performance of the Office and its ability to provide the necessary services to the other countries of the region. This, therefore, led member countries to request the closing down of the Office and transferring its activities to the Headquarters of the Organization.

That decision was therefore made on the basis of a request of the member countries of the region and not upon the initiative of the Egyptian authorities. Neither was it taken for reasons related to some shortcoming or failure in the Office's performance of its duties or in the services it provided to the member countries of the region. It is also worth noting that, since June 1980 until March 1988, no decision was made by the General Conference to transfer the Regional Office to any other country of the region. The more so as that previous decision of 1979 had closed down the Office without, in fact, abrogating the Headquarters agreement concluded between FAO and the Arab Republic of Egypt on the hosting of the Near East Regional Office and which, in my opinion, is still valid.

Those political reasons that led to the member countries of the region requesting the removal of the office from Cairo no longer exist and diplomatic relations have been restored between Egypt and most of the countries of the region.

As far as part 2 of the document is concerned, the Nineteenth FAO Regional Conference for the Near East held in Muscat Oman in March 1988 expressed its desire that the Regional Office for the Near East be returned to the region. The Arab Republic of Egypt in March 1988 had expressed its desire and welcomed the return of the Regional Office to Cairo on the basis of the letter I personally presented to the Director-General at the time. It would appear to be quite logical to link up between what happened in Muscat and what happened in Egypt as one wish or desire has been expressed and been met halfway by a desire expressed by another part and this would lead to a study as to the practicality of the implementation of this decision.

When Egypt expressed the desire of the return of the offices it did not do so on a personal basis but in response to what it had been informed of by officials in most of the countries of the region as for their country's desire for their office to return to Cairo and their desire that Egypt express its welcoming of that decision. I need not point out here the desire expressed by Egypt and the decision of the Muscat Conference does not mean or preclude the right of any other country in the region in requesting to host the Regional Office if it deemed so fit.

As far as Part 3 of the document, as far as the former Headquarters of the Regional Office in Cairo and the deterioration of the building to its closure for nearly ten years, I would like to point out that the Government of Egypt is quite ready and willing to provide all the facilities and material facilities necessary and available locally to restore and recondition the building in order that the Regional Office may undertake its duties appropriately.

As for Part 6, the conclusions of the Document point out the need and the importance of the Regional Office resuming its activities from the region and the need for the General Conference to examine the subject on the basis of the request made by the Arab Republic of Egypt. It goes without saying that the Council will have before it the three options set out before it in this part of the

document and this in the light of the estimates of the costs of relocating the office in Cairo or relocating it in any other country of the region should any country come forward with such an offer to host the Regional Office.

Here I would like to point out that the decision to transfer the Regional Office contained references to sums submitted for covering the expenditure of closing down and relocating the office. Therefore, it may be appropriate for the Director-General to examine the possibility of using the remaining funds to cover the expenses of reopening and relocating the office. Of course, this will have to be discussed with the countries that originally donated the sums and this will, in addition to the sums put forward by the Egyptian authorities, help the Organization in its present dire economic circumstances.

I would therefore, like to request the Council to recommend to the Director-General to include the question of the reopening of the Regional Office and its relocation to include this question on the Agenda of the Conference and refer to the request made by the Arab Republic of Egypt. Of course, the Director-General will also have to take all the necessary measures to examine and determine the necessary costs that will cover the costs of reopening the Regional Office. We also hope the Director-General will also inform the Conference of any other country offering to host the Regional Office in addition to the Egyptian authorities.

Atif Y.. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (Original language Arabic): I would like first of all to express my thanks and gratitude to the Director-General for the attention he accorded to the request expressed by the member countries of the Organization and those attending the Nineteenth FAO Regional Conference for the Near East held in Muscat, Oman on 17 March 1988. It goes without saying that the relocation of the office in the region itself is an important matter. We have stated this and I believe all the member countries of the region have pointed this out, that is to say the need for the office to be operated from the region itself. We therefore support this move, that is to say, that the Near East Office be relocated in the Near East Region itself.

The Ambassador for Egypt referred to several major and important points and it goes without saying we fully support all the points she set out in her statement. I would also like to point out here and stress that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will not object in any manner to the relocation of the Office in the Arab Republic of Egypt but as the Ambassador stated Egypt's request for the relocation of the Regional Office does not in any manner preclude the right of any other country in the region of offering to host the Regional Office. Therefore, with all due respect and appreciation, we wish to request the Director-General to contact all the member countries of the Near East Region to determine their desires and opinion on the matter and request him that the matter be very carefully examined and studied from all its social, technical and practical aspects so that we may ensure that the office will return to the region and be operated most actively and appropriately.

We would also like to request our colleagues, the members of the Council, to support and endorse the Director-General's request for the inclusion of this subject in the forthcoming session of the General Conference and that he undertake an in-depth study of the matter.

Tawfik A.H. AL MESH-HEDANI (Iraq) (Original language Arabic): We wish to express our appreciation for the attention the Director-General accords to the matters related to the Near East. I may not be as eloquent as the Ambassador for Egypt, however, I wish to point out in my statement the following points: the Headquarters of the Near East Office in Cairo was closed at the time on the basis of a request by the majority of the member countries of the region due to the highly complicated and difficult circumstances prevailing in the region and in the Arab region specifically. On that same basis, and for the same reasons, we had to transfer the office to Rome. That decision was a sound one.

We wish to express our esteem and appreciation for the efforts undertaken by the various divisions here at Headquarters for having helped in assuming the tasks and duties of the Regional Office and we wish here to commend the efforts of Mr. Salah Jum'a who supervised the implementation of those programmes. However, on the other hand, we must also admit and point out that the implementation of programmes and projects would be far better to be undertaken from the region itself.

A great deal of change has occurred in the circumstances prevailing in the region and they may be described as being more positive and therefore in our opinion, it would be more conducive for the Regional Office to return to the region in order that it may perform its task in a better manner and help the member countries of the region.

For this reason, we wish to express our support for the request made by the Nineteenth FAO Regional Conference for the relocation of the Near East Office in the region of the Near East.

The closing down of the office in Cairo was not meant as a punishment for Cairo but the main purpose was to help the Cairo authorities to overcome the difficult conditions prevailing in the region and now considering that the circumstances have changed and that a number of the obstacles have been overcome and considering that the Cairo authorities have put out a helpful hand, a friendly hand, we wish to express our support for the request and the offer made by the Egyptian authorities in fact to host once again the Regional Office and we are convinced that the Egyptian authorities will be as generous as they have always been.

We therefore, formally support the return of the Near East Office to the region and support the request of the Director-General to include this item in the forthcoming session of the Conference Agenda and we are awaiting for his report that will be submitted to the Council at the forthcoming session. We also support the request made by the Egyptian authorities for the reopening of the Regional Office in Cairo.

Bashir EL MABROUK SAID (Libya) (Original language Arabic): First of all I would like to express my gratitude to Mr. Salah who is the Director for the Regional Office. I would like to thank him for what he said about the Regional Office for the Near East. Since the Headquarters of the Regional Office was moved to Rome, the delegation of my country has never ceased to ask for a return of this Office to the region since we felt that this situation was not normal and had no reason to be. We believe that the Regional Office is just a link in the chain which links us to the Organization and therefore, we believe that the Regional Office should be in the region. This is the normal situation if we want to develop the region and its agriculture. This is something we always said. This is what we said during the Regional Conference in Muscat, Oman. The delegation of my country believes that the introduction of this item on the Agenda of the forthcoming Conference is a positive step and therefore we thank the Director-General for this.

We recognize that the region has suffered quite a lot from the transfer of the office to Headquarters in Rome though this office has certainly been able to benefit from the experience here in the Headquarters.

Many efforts were made by Mr. Jum'a and his co-workers, but all this was done against the wish of the Organization that has always called for decentralization. This was supported by the General Conference.

The wish that the Regional Office for the Near East be relocated in the region is the unanimous wish of all the countries in the region, and that is why we would like the Council to adopt a recommendation urging the Director-General to introduce this item on the Agenda of the forthcoming Conference and also ask the Director-General to consult the countries in the region so as to relocate this office in one of the countries in the region, one of the countries that have given their views on this point.

Premananda TRIPATHY (India): The Indian delegation would support the proposal for relocating the Regional Office for the Near East in the region itself. We know that FAO's financial position is not very good. However, we would suggest that the proposal be put before the forthcoming FAO Conference and the decision be implemented expeditiously with FAO mustering the necessary funds for the purpose.

Taghi SHAMEKHI (Iran, République islamique d): Au nom de Dieu, je remercie Monsieur Salah Jum'a de sa bonne introduction du document et pour avoir respecté le désir exprimé à la dix-neuvième Conférence de Mascate; nous sommes reconnaissants à Monsieur le Secrétaire général de donner cette importance aux désirs des pays de la région.

La question est que la réinstallation de ce bureau régional dans la région implique des frais importants; pendant sept ans cette organisation a été installée à Rome et le processus de déménagement demandera des changements importants. Et tout cela se ferait dans une période où la réforme du programme et des finances de l'Organisation est en étude et où le résultat de ce travail devra définir l'organisation du travail à la FAO.

Il me semble donc logique d'attendre le résultat de cette étude et, une fois la nouvelle ligne approuvée, de soumettre la question de l'installation du Bureau régional à la discussion.

Sra. Harían INZAULGARAT GARCIA de PEREZ (Cuba): Mi Delegación ha examinado el documento CL 94/17 y ha escuchado al representante de la región del Cercano Oriente y a la estimada Embajadora de Egipto. Teniendo en cuenta la importancia que revisten las oficinas regionales de la Organización para una adecuada coordinación y apoyo a los países y que, a su vez, los representantes de la región del Cercano Oriente han manifestado su interés de reabrir su oficina regional durante cierto tiempo, después de que otros representantes de esa región han hablado, mi Delegación apoya ese interés, así como el de la Delegación de Egipto por acoger la sede, y finalmente, que este tema se incluya en la agenda de la próxima Conferencia.

Hamukolo MUKUTU (Zambia): Zambia enjoys most cordial relations with all our Near East brothers and sisters. We therefore have no difficulty in supporting in principle a return to Egypt of the Near East's FAO Regional Office if the political reasons which led to its movement have now been resolved. If all member states in the Near East agree on the subject, the matter should be endorsed for decision by the next FAO Conference.

The Zambian delegation believes that the incremental financial costs are minimum and will be outweighed in the long run by indirect cost savings.

Ray ALIEN (United Kingdom): The proposal in paper CL 94/17 to include on the Agenda for the forthcoming Twenty-fifth Session of the Conference the relocation of the Regional Office for the Near East is, in our view, premature. We support the comments made by the distinguished delegate of Iran. We think that any decision to relocate the office should be postponed until after Conference in 1989. This should enable Member States to give full consideration to the proposal, taking full account of the review of FAO. The review may well have implications for the role of regional and country offices and we think this principle should apply to all such proposals.

We have heard a lot at this Council about the financial difficulties facing FAO. We are told that the preliminary estimate to relocate the office in Cairo would be US \$ 730 000. In addition to this, would be the cost of major restructuring of the premises.

The comments made by the Administrative Committee on Coordination of the Report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Field Representation of Organizations of the United Nations System: Structure and Coordination", circulated as paper CL 94/LIM/13, mentions in paragraph 6 that all engaged in operational activities are particularly aware of the need in the present circumstances of financial stringency to ensure that administrative costs are kept to a minimum, so that the largest possible share of their resources is directly devoted to programmes and projects that benefit developing countries.

Paul R. BRYDEN (Australia): I will confine my remarks in what is essentially a preliminary discussion of this issue to two points, both of which have been raised by previous speakers.

Firstly, I think it would be sensible if in our report of our brief preliminary discussion at this Council we did reflect that there is a review going on which will be discussed, of course, and considered fully at the next Conference. We are not being asked to take a decision here, of course.

Secondly, with regard to the question of financing the move, we wonder whether there could be some cost-sharing arrangement, perhaps a trust fund arrangement as set out in Resolution 20/79, whereby the region be assisted by FAO at that time in the winding-down process; or perhaps it could be set as a priority activity in the allocation for the Near East Regional Programmes.

The point here is that the closing of the office has nothing to do with the FAO but has to do with members of the region. We have heard that. I do feel that in this time of financial restraint on our Organization perhaps they should at least assist in sharing the burden perhaps more than equitably.

Abdoul karia camra (guinea): La Délégation guinéenne remercie vivement le secretariat général pour l'introduction de ce point important à l'ordre du jour de notre conseil. Il est inutile d'insister sur l'importance de cette question eu égard au rôle considérable que joue le Bureau régional dans cette région.

Etant donné que la dix-neuvième session tenue à Mascate avait décidé du retour de ce Bureau régional dans cette région, la Délégation guinéenne demande que cette question soit inscrite à l'ordre du jour de la Conférence générale de 1989.

Omer ZEYTINOGLU (Turquie): Nous avons accueilli favorablement la proposition formulée par la dix-neuvième Conférence régionale pour le Proche-Orient, en vue du retour dans la région du Bureau régional pour le Proche-Orient.

Je tiens également remercier M. Jum'a de son introduction ainsi que Mme. l'Ambassadeur d'Egypte pour les explications détaillées qu'elle a données ce sujet.

Avec le retour du Bureau dans sa région, une situation exceptionnelle va disparaître. Comme vous le savez, tous les autres bureaux régionaux opèrent dans leur région. Il ne fait aucun doute que le retour du Bureau dans la région va faciliter énormément les choses. Je ne veux pas dire que le Bureau ici ne fonctionne pas efficacement, au contraire.

Bien sûr, il y a le coût de ce transfert mais je crois que l'on peut envisager ce coût qui, par la suite, entraînera des économies.

A la lumière de ces considérations, nous appuyons l'inscription de ce point à l'ordre du jour de la vingt-cinquième Conférence générale.

Issam Eldin M. EL SAYED (Observer for Sudan) (Original language Arabic): First and foremost, I would like to thank the Director-General for the interest which he has manifested with regard to the wish and the desire on the part of the countries in the region to bring about the relocation of the Regional Office for the Near East in the region itself. Sudan is part of the Near East region and does feel that the Regional Office could work in a much more effective way were it located in the region itself, and in that way ensure a better coordination of the agricultural- and food-oriented activities undertaken by the countries in the region.

Therefore, we would support what was said by the Ambassador from Egypt, and we feel that since circumstances have changed, the Regional office for the Near East should ordinarily return to its premises in Cairo. Therefore we are in favour of including this item on the Agenda of the next general Conference.

Jaime GARCIA T BADIAS (España): Muy brevemente, en aras del tiempo en que estamos quisiéramos hacer un par de precisiones a lo que estamos discutiendo, en el sentido de que no hay duda de que la proximidad de un técnico o de una oficina regional al sitio donde se producen los problemas siempre reduce y aventaja la solución de estas cuestiones en grado máximo, ya que si la oficina que atiende estos problemas se encuentra lejos de la ubicación donde se producen, nunca la eficacia podríamos decir, que sería máxima u óptima. Somos concientes de que una oficina regional puede significar un aumento de costos y que la situación de la Organización pasa por unos momentos en los que no puede permitirse según que situaciones. Somos concientes también, de que una nueva oficina regional en su sitio originario disminuiría los costes en la Sede central en Roma, ya que aquí en estos momentos es donde se asume la responsabilidad de la oficina.

En consecuencia, nosotros creemos que si se hiciera un pequeño análisis, no pretendemos un gran estudio, de la disminución de costes en la Sede central, el incremento de costes que podría significar la nueva oficina regional, posiblemente la diferencia económica no fuese elevada. Digo, posiblemente, desconozco con exactitud el importe que podría significar el ahorro de la oficina actualmente en la Sede central de Roma. Si efectivamente esta diferencia de costes es baja, pequeña o no muy significativa nuestra delegación cree que, en aras al beneficio que podría reportar la oficina en la proximidad a los problemas y en la eficacia que esto significaría, daríamos nuestro apoyo a la nueva ubicación, o a la ubicación en su antigua sede en El Cairo.

Mohamed ABDELHADI (Observateur de Tunisie) (langue originale arabe): Je serai très bref pour dire que nous appuyons totalement le principe du retour du Bureau régional pour le Proche-Orient dans la région car il y a tout à gagner, en efficacité, avec ce retour et les pays de la région en bénéficieraient grandement.

Il est tout à fait batyrek que le Bureau régional pour le Proche-Orient oeuvre dans la région et c'est pour cela que nous appuyons tout ce qui a été dit par notre collègue, le Représentant du Royaume d'Arabie Saoudite.

D.R. KAMAU (Kenya): The Kenyan delegation observed that the closure of the Near East Office in Cairo arose from reasons which were peculiar to the region at the time. It is appreciated that the factors which gave rise to that position have changed substantially, and that the majority of the members within the region now support the relocation of the office to the region. The Kenyan delegation supports the proposal that this issue should be referred to the Twenty-fifth Session of the Conference. The resultant initial financial implications, if found to be beyond the ability of the host government, could be shared along the lines suggested by the distinguished delegate of Australia.

S. JUM'A (Assistant Director-General, Regional Representative for the Near East) (Original language Arabic): First of all, I should like to thank all the distinguished delegates who have taken part in the discussion on this Agenda Item. I should like to assure them that we will take into account all of the comments which they have made when we draw up the final report. These comments and observations will also be taken into consideration when the Director-General prepares the definitive document, a detailed document which will be submitted to the Council during its June meeting, or during the meeting scheduled to take place on the eve of next year's General Conference.

On this occasion I should like to say once again that we will establish contact with the countries of the region itself, the countries which still have assets in the capital and we feel that these contacts will be most fruitful. In the very near future you will be informed of the outcome of such contact and discussions. When we prepare the final memorandum for your consideration we will also establish contacts with all of the countries in the region in order to know whether or not any of those countries would be willing, or would want, to host the regional office, if the General Conference adopts such a recommendation and resolution. All of that information will also be contained in the final document.

Some delegates who have spoken, raised the problem of including this Item in the Agenda, because it was pointed out there might be certain difficulties from a procedural point of view. Perhaps we should not examine that question as such because if we envisage the whole question of the Regional Office during the review of FAO, then that would not necessarily mean that we are going to deal with the Regional Office for the Near East. Therefore, I do not think that we have to wait for the end of the review process to deal with this very timely issue. I do not think we have to wait for the next General Conference of FAO.

With regard to the financial facts of such a relocation, one of the delegates said it is also a question of the restoration of the premises. If we were to go back to Cairo, such a refurbishment of the premises would be conducted in very close cooperation and collaboration with Cairo. As her Excellency the Ambassador for Egypt pointed out, it would be the Egyptian Government which would assume the expenditure for restoration work, it would not be FAO who would have to pay, nor would it fall on the FAO budget. If the General Conference were to decide to re-install that office in Cairo the restoration work on the premises would not be a cost to FAO.

On this occasion we would like to say it is up to the General Conference to decide the whole matter. The General Conference is the supreme Governing Body which can decide in this area. However, we considered it good and proper to speak with you now about this matter to bring you up-to-date on the recent developments in this field. We will then clarify our thoughts in the light of what you have said by knowing exactly what you feel. In that way we would also receive some guidance in our efforts. In any case I am of the opinion that the final decision is up to Conference.

In conclusion, I should like to state that with regard to expenditure, the costs and expenses which would be incurred as a result of such a relocation exercise. I think certain facilities were granted to that office when it was established at Headquarters here in Rome, especially with regard to transfer costs, and the general service staff, a certain amount of savings were made. US\$3 - 4 million were actually saved (at the rate of \$400 000 a year) due to the fact that the office was relocated here at the Headquarters of FAO. However, from the point of view of the countries in the region this is rather an abnormal situation. It was due to a temporary political situation and at the present time the situation has changed. It is no longer necessary to keep the Regional Office for the Near East here at headquarters. It is quite natural that a Regional Office works in the region itself. It would be most appropriate to bring the Regional Office back into its own region and it is quite legitimate for the countries of the region itself to want to see their Regional Office physically returned to the Near East.

It is quite evident that this decision is not up to the countries of the region. I have said a number of times that the decision is one which falls upon General Conference. That is all I have to say. I beg your forbearance if I have omitted any points. If you have any other comments I am at your disposal to field those comments and I could speak again if were you to consider it necessary.

Paul R. BRYDEN (Australia): On a point of clarification, in my very brief intervention, I spoke about the costs. Of course I was referring to the costs of relocation of dependents and so on. Perhaps had I expressed my delegation's appreciation of the generous offer of the Egyptian delegate to refurbish the building that might have been clearer.

LE PRESIDENT: Je crois que les explications données par M. Jum'a sont claires. On peut dire qu'une majorité des membres se prononcent en faveur de la proposition tendant au retour dans la région du Bureau régional pour le Proche-Orient et à la préparation du document qui sera élaboré par le Conseil, à sa prochaine session, en vue de l'inscription de ce point à la vingtième Conférence générale.

Bien entendu, nous attendons les résultats de l'enquête que fera l'Organisation auprès des pays de la région pour avoir un document plus charpenté qui nous permettra de faire une proposition définitive à la prochaine Conférence.

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Nous nous basons sur la décision du Conseil d'inscrire la question à l'ordre du jour de la prochaine session du Conseil, puis de la Conférence. Nous allons prévoir, dans le Programme de travail et budget, les dispositions nécessaires pour que, lorsque la Conférence décidera du transfert de ce Bureau, celui-ci puisse avoir effectivement lieu. C'est tout ce que je voulais dire.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous avons achevé nos travaux pour aujourd'hui.

The meeting rose at 19.30 hours.

La Seance est levée à 19 h 30.

Le levanta la sesión a las 19.30 horas.

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CL

CL 94/PV/15

Ninety-fourth Session

Quatre-vingt-quatorzième session

94º período de sesiones

FIFTEENTH PLenary MEETING
QUATORZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
15ª SESION PLENARIA

(23 November 1988)

The Fifteenth Plenary Meeting Was opened at 9.45 hours,

Lassaad Ben osman, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La quatorzième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 45,

sous la présidence de M. Lassaad Ben Osam, -Président Indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la 15ª sesión plenaria a las 9.45 horas,

bajo la presidencia de Lassaad Ben Osam, presidente Indépendant del Consejo

V. CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS (continued)

V. QUESTIONS CONSTITUTIONNELLES ET JURIDIQUES (suite)

V. ASUNTOS CONSTITUCIONALES Y JURIDICOS (continuación)

19. Report of the Fifty-first Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters

19. Rapport de la cinquante et unième session du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques

19. Informe del 51 periodo de sesiones del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos

LE PRESIDENT: Honorables délégués et observateurs, je déclare ouverte la 15ème séance plénière de notre Conseil.

Avant de commencer nos travaux, je voudrais informer les membres du Conseil que notre Comité de rédaction a encore beaucoup de travail. Hier soir il a travaillé jusqu'à minuit. Il doit continuer ses travaux et les compléter le plus tôt possible. Compte tenu de cette considération, je me permets de vous demander un effort supplémentaire pour être concis dans vos interventions. Nous

devons terminer les travaux du Conseil le plus rapidement possible, de préférence au cours de la séance de ce matin, de manière à pouvoir libérer les membres du Comité de rédaction qui ont devant eux une journée très dure et très longue. Je suggère donc que nous puissions avoir des délibérations efficaces et rapides de manière à libérer les membres du Comité de rédaction et leur permettre de

préparer leur rapport pour demain, car c'est demain que nous devons analyser et approuver, après modifications éventuelles, le rapport du Comité de rédaction.

Ceci étant, nous devons attaquer notre ordre du jour qui comprend quatre points. Le 1er point inscrit à l'ordre du jour est le point NQ 19. Ce point est intitulé: Rapport de la 51ème Session du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques.

Avant de donner la parole au Président de la Commission, l'honorable délégué de la Colombie a demandé d'intervenir.

Gonzalo BULA BOTOS (Colombia): Estamos muy agradecidos por la información suya acerca de como marchan los trabajos del Comité de Redacción. Sin embargo, hasta ahora no hemos recibido ningún primer documento, ningún primer REP de esos trabajos. Como estamos dispuestos a acoger su llamado para que en la mañana de hoy terminemos los temas de fondo, muy respetuosamente pido a la Secretaría, por conducto suyo, que si fuere posible distribuya los primeros REP que estén disponibles en el curso de la mañana para que esta tarde podamos dedicarnos a estudiarlos.

Sobre el resto del calendario, esto también para que Ud. medite y nos pueda informar, si el Comité de Redacción logra hacer disponible para mañana en la mañana lo que les falta de su trabajo, podríamos entonces tal vez comenzar nuestra reunión de discusión del Informe mañana por la mañana, con la esperanza de terminar a la una o dos de la tarde. En caso contrario, pudiese ser que a lo mejor tuviéramos libre la mañana del viernes y toda la tarde se la dedicas a la discusión del Informe. Esto es flexible, sólo para su meditación e información.

LE PRESIDENT: Je répondrai au délégué de la Colombie que dans la mesure où le Comité de rédaction aura terminé son travail nous pourrions peut-être travailler demain à partir de 10 h 30. Mais nous sommes tributaires du calendrier du Comité de rédaction.

Je donne maintenant la parole à son Excellence M. Fotis Poulides, Ambassadeur de Chypre auprès de la FAO et Président du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques.

Fotis POULIDES (Chairman, Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters): The Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters held its Fifty-first meeting on 14 and 15 June 1988. The Committee had before it only one substantive question, the interpretation of Rule XXVII-8 of the General Rules of the Organization. The issue of the interpretation of Rule XXVII-8 had arisen following receipt of a number of requests by various Member Nations of the organization for the convening of a session of the Finance Committee by the Director-General. Several of these requests had specified time limits within which the session should be convened.

The pertinent part of Rule XXVII-8 reads as follows: "The Finance Committee shall hold session as often as necessary. B) On the call of the Director-General acting on his own initiative, or in pursuance of a request submitted in writing to him by five or more Member Nations." Following an informal meeting between the Director-General and representatives of the interested Member Nations,

held in March 1988, to discuss the convening of the Session, the Director-General decided to refer the matter of the interpretation of Rule XXVII-8 and its possible improvement to the CCLM under Rule XXV-3, with a view to clarifying the position for the future.

As three of the requests which had specified time limits had been withdrawn, the immediate issue with respect to the convening of the Session was no longer in question. In its consideration of the issue placed before it, the Committee had the benefit of the views expressed on the matter by the 62nd Session of the Finance Committee of May 1988. The Committee noted that the rule did *not* refer to the possibility that Member Nations could specify a date in their request for the convening of a session, although it did seem implicit that Member Nations could, in making their request, also express the wish that the Session be convened within a specific period of time. The legal implications of the specification of a date for convening the meeting by Member Nations was a matter of interpretation. Any such interpretation would have to be based on the principle of what was reasonable in the light of the particular circumstances of any given case.

The Committee considered two possible approaches for clarifying the matter for the future. On the whole it preferred the solution of inserting a new provision in the rules of procedure of the Finance Committee, to the alternative of amending Rule XXVII-8(b). This would be a simpler and more flexible solution not requiring action by the FAO Conference. This was also the approach favoured by the Finance Committee itself. The Committee felt, at the same time, that it would be desirable to expand the scope of the provision to include the analogous situation of the convening of a Session of the Finance Committee on the call of the Chairman acting in pursuance of a request submitted by three Members of the Committee under paragraph A of Rule XXVII-8. Therefore, the Committee recommended a new form of words to be inserted in the Rules of Procedure of the Finance Committee. The form of words, which is set out in the report of the CCLM now before you, incorporates the following concepts: 1) that when faced with such a request the Chairman and the Director-General should consult each other and the Members of the Committee with a view to meeting the deadlines specified, ii) that they would however, need to take into account pertinent facts such as the availability of the Chairman and the majority of the Members of the Committee, conflicting meeting schedules as well as the context and urgency of the requests; and iii) that any Session called pursuant to the request should, in any case, be convened within 50 days of the operative date of the request.

With respect to the minimum number of requests required for convening a Session of the Finance Committee, the Committee felt that it would be premature for it to make any definite proposal at the moment. If the Council is in agreement with the approach adopted by the CCLM in its report, the Council may wish to endorse the report of the Committee and refer the matter to the Finance Committee for the appropriate action with respect to the amendment of its Rules of Procedure.

LEGAL COUNSEL: I should like to make two points. First, a matter of clarification only. As the • Chairman of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters has indicated in his introduction, the Council, if it is in agreement with the recommendations of the Committee, is being asked to endorse those recommendations and to refer to the Finance Committee the matter of the amendment of its Rules of Procedure. The matter would then be put on the Agenda of the next Session of the Finance Committee.

I confirm that the Finance Committee has the power to adopt and amend its own Rules of - Procedure under Rule XXVII.7 (d) of the General Rules of the Organization.

The second point is that the Director-General has asked me to convey to the Council his views on the recommendations of the Committee with respect to the interpretation of Rule XXVII.8(b) of the General Rules of the Organization and the action that could be taken to clarify the situation in the future. The Director-General is in agreement with the recommendation of the Committee that a new provision be inserted in the Rules of Procedure of the Finance Committee setting out the procedure to be followed by the Director-General and the Chairman of the Finance Committee in the event of future requests specifying time limits for the convening of Special Sessions of the Committee. The Director-General would like to point out that adequate time should be left to the secretariat in order to prepare for the Special Sessions of the Finance Committee convened under Rule XXVII.8. In this connection, he feels that the suggested maximum time limit should be not less than 50 days.

With respect to the comments of the Committee regarding the minimum number of requests required for convening a Special Session of the Finance Committee under Rule XXVII-8 the Director-General would agree with the Committee that it might be premature to make a definite proposal at this time.

Jean-Luc GRAEVE (France): J'aurai peu de choses à ajouter à l'excellent exposé fait par le Président du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques, l'Ambassadeur PoulIdes, ainsi

qu'aux précisions données par le Conseiller juridique de l'Organisation; je voudrais simplement indiquer que les travaux du Comité, dont j'étais membre se sont déroulés dans une très bonne atmosphère et qu'un accord de l'ensemble des membres s'est très vite dégagé sur les solutions que l'on pouvait proposer à ce Conseil.

Notre Comité s'est efforcé d'apporter une solution juridique simple et souple à la question très légitime qui avait été posée par certains des Etats Membres qui demandaient une convocation extraordinaire du Comité financier. Cette solution simple est réalisée par la proposition de l'insertion d'une clause dans le Règlement intérieur du Comité financier. Ainsi que l'a rappelé Monsieur Moore, le Comité financier a compétence pour modifier son propre règlement intérieur. La souplesse est assurée par la fixation d'un délai raisonnable pour la convocation effective du Comité financier, une fois reçu le nombre minimal de demandes de convocations fixé par le règlement général de l'Organisation.

Il est certain qu'un délai est nécessaire, à la fois pour préparer le document et pour s'assurer que tous les membres sont disponibles.

Au total, Monsieur le Président, le Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques avait à faire face à un problème simple et limité; il a apporté une réponse souple et me semble-t-il, assez pragmatique à notre Conseil.

Atif Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (ORIGINAL LANGUAGE ARABIC): First, I should like to express my thanks and appreciation to the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters. My thanks and appreciation go especially to my friend, His Excellency Ambassador Fotis Poulides, the Ambassador to Cyprus, for this document. The document in fact reflects the seriousness of the efforts made by this Committee in order to clarify the situation for the future and to eliminate any ambiguities which prevailed during this year in Rule XXVII-8 of the General Rules of the Organization concerning the convening of the Finance Committee Sessions.

The Chairman of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters said that the Finance Committee had dealt with this issue in May. Document CL 94/3 clarifies the position of the Finance Committee on this matter. We feel that the considerations that the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters based its analysis on are extremely logical and clearly reflect the ambiguity in Rule XXVII.8 of the General Rules of the Organization. We would like to confirm here after having examined the issue, that the recommendations and conclusions of this Committee are perfectly acceptable and practical. They constitute a flexible and logical solution to this matter, although we did have some doubts as to paragraph 12 of this document which concerns the amendment of sub-paragraph (a) and stipulates for the convening of a session by its chairman in pursuance of a request submitted by three members of the Committee to the Chairman of the Finance Committee. At the beginning we felt that a request from three members would not be enough. However, after having read paragraph 13 of document CL 94/5 we were quite reassured, since we felt quite satisfied with the new text to be inserted in Rule II of the Rules of Procedure of the Finance Committee.

Finally, I would like to repeat the thanks of my delegation to the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters and its Chairman for helping us to overcome this problem by suggesting acceptable and logical solutions.

Amador VELASQUEZ (Peru): Nuestra Delegación, igualmente, quiere agradecer el informe del 51° período de sesiones del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos así como reconocer la concreción y profundidad de este informe, que permite a nuestras delegaciones expresarse y seguir el deseo mencionado por usted, Sr. Presidente, en el sentido de manifestarnos en la forma más sintética posible. La exposición del Sr. Presidente del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos es, a su vez, bastante concreta; nos da una idea amplia del modo correcto que en forma y fondo laboró el Comité mencionado.

Nuestra Delegación está de acuerdo con la propuesta, que, a su vez, ha merecido el comentario y opinión favorables del Sr. Director General. Cree conveniente señalar que la interpretación fundamental en la que se basó el Comité - a falta de un texto explícito sobre la materia puesta en cuestión, respecto de basarse en el principio general de la razón y lo razonable en relación con los hechos y circunstancias particulares en un determinado caso - fue, efectivamente, lo más acertado.

Asimismo, nuestra Delegación quiere felicitar al Comité mencionado, porque no solamente se limitó a la materia puesta en consulta, sino a que, al encontrar que el literal a) merecía una precisión del mismo aspecto, amplió su recomendación y su propuesta en este mismo sentido, lo cual merece, efectivamente, un reconocimiento, porque quiere decir que el Comité acometió en la forma más profunda su labor.

Asimismo, y para terminar, apoyando esta propuesta del Comité, nuestra Delegación también hace propio el párrafo 15, en el sentido de que cualquier cambio que se introdujera en los procedimientos para convocar a períodos de sesiones del Comité de Finanzas, tendría repercusiones en otros órganos estatutarios de la Organización.

Namukolo MUKUTU (Zambia): Document CL 94/5 has been extremely well presented by Ambassador Poulides, Chairman of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters. The information provided by Legal Counsel is also very useful. We agree with the recommendation of the Committee for the adoption of the approach which would obviate having to go to Conference, and instead adopt a new provision in the Rules of Procedure of the Finance Committee.

The Zambian delegation agrees with the form of words recommended to be inserted as a new paragraph 1(bis) in Rule II of the Rules of Procedure of the Finance Committee as indicated in document CL 94/5, paragraph 13.

With regard to the minimum number of requests from Member Nations to the Director-General to convene the Finance Committee, my delegation is of the view that we should maintain the status quo. The minimum number of requests from Member Nations required for convening the Finance Committee should not change, at least for a while. The question should, however, be kept under review in the event that requests for meetings may get out of hand in the future.

Premanamda TRIPATHY (India): The point for consideration before us is whether Rule XXVII.8 of the General Rules of the Organization should be amended to prescribe a time limit during which a meeting of the Finance Committee requested for in writing by five or more Member Nations under paragraph (b) of the Rules is to be called. Normally it is advisable to indicate a time limit in the Rules to avoid any confusion in the matter. The CCLM has already gone into the question and has suggested a time limit of 50 days. They have suggested a simpler procedure of an appropriate amendment to be carried into the Rules of Procedure by the Finance Committee itself instead of an amendment of Rule XXVII.8 of the General Rules of the Organization by the Conference. The time limit suggested appears to be reasonable, as also the simpler procedure suggested. Since the purpose of the amendment is to give due witness and respect to the wishes of the Member Nations the Indian delegation fully supports the proposal. As regards the minimum number of requests of Member Nations, who should file the requisition in view of the increased membership of the FAO, this matter may be gone into separately later.

Sra. Margarita LIZARRAGA (México): En primer término deseamos agradecer la presentación hecha por el Presidente del Comité, el Embajador Poulides, y las complementarias del Sr. Moore.

La Delegación mexicana desea apoyar la inserción del texto propuesto por el Comité de Finanzas como nuevo párrafo 1 bis en el artículo II del reglamento respectivo. Asimismo, quisiera manifestarse en favor de elevar proporcionalmente el número de peticiones exigidas para convocar a un período de sesiones del Comité de Finanzas, en relación al número de nuevos miembros, tanto del propio Comité como de la Organización. Creemos que el plazo, como ya se ha expresado, debe tomar cuenta tanto de los elementos requeridos para su convocación como las repercusiones en otros órganos estatutarios de esta Organización.

LEGAL COUNSEL: It does appear that there is general agreement in the Council regarding the appropriateness of the recommendations of the Committee for the amendment of the Rules of Procedure of the Finance Committee and in accordance with the wish of the Council this matter would then be put on the agenda of the forthcoming session of the Finance Committee so that they can take the appropriate action to amend the Rules of Procedure of their Committee.

I have noted some comments regarding the extension of the procedure suggested to cover paragraph (a) of the rule in question - in other words, the call by three members of the Finance Committee for the convening of a session - and that generally everybody seemed to be in agreement with this.

I have also noted the question of the increase in the minimum number of requests in order to convene a session, and the fact that this probably could be taken up later, but certainly not at the moment.

LE PRESIDENT: Si je peux me permettre d'intervenir, je crois que le Conseil est d'accord avec la recommandation du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques relatives la modification d'un paragraphe de l'article II du Règlement intérieur du Comité financier par l'insertion d'un nouveau paragraphe 1 bis.

Quant à la question relative au nombre nécessaire de demandes pour convoquer le Comité financier, certains délégués ont demandé une étude supplémentaire à ce sujet. Nous pouvons le consigner au procès-verbal de la séance. Cela correspond-il au vœu du Conseil ?

Avant de passer au point suivant de l'ordre du jour, je tiens à remercier l'Ambassadeur Poulides de l'excellent travail réalisé par le Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques sur ce point de l'ordre du jour.

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

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

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

17. First Report on Unscheduled and Cancelled Sessions in the 1988-89 Biennium

17. Premier rapport sur les réunions hors programme et les réunions annulées pendant l'exercice 1988-89

17. Primer informe sobre las reuniones no previstas y las reuniones canceladas en el bienio 1988-89

V.J. SHAH (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation);,As

distinguished members of the Council will recall, this is a document which is presented essentially for information, and we do it on an annual basis. The document lists the number of unscheduled sessions approved, indicates which they are, and indicates the reasons for which they were convened. The document also lists similar information about scheduled sessions which have been cancelled. It may be of interest to the Council to indicate how the number of unscheduled sessions have been drastically reduced for the evident reasons of financial and budgetary stringencies.

In 1984/85 there were 64 unscheduled sessions approved; in 1986/87 there were 45; in 1988, as the document indicates, there have been 11. In this connection I must orally report that the number of 11 should be increased to 12, and that one additional session, which I now orally submit, is a Conference for the Adoption of a Draft Agreement for the Establishment of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission.

The Indian Ocean Fishery Commission agreed at its last session that a Plenipotentiary Conference should take place in the spring of 1989. The UNDP has agreed to provide some funds to facilitate the participation of 10 Indian Ocean countries in the group of the least-developed countries to participate in this diplomatic conference.

The outcome of such a conference, whatever the instrument which would be recommended for adoption by Member Nations, would then of course come to our governing bodies for endorsement. Therefore, there is no prejudging of what the action of that conference would be. I submit that this be an additional meeting to be added to the list of unscheduled sessions.

As regards the forty-five cancelled sessions, out of that forty-five, forty-three are related to the programme adjustments, and there were only two meetings which had to be cancelled for other reasons, as given in the document.

I will be ready to respond to any clarifications which may be required, and I thank you.

Gonzalo BULA HOTOS (Colombia): Limitaremos nuestras observaciones a la parte dos del documento CL 94/7, sobre reuniones aprobadas canceladas, para expresar la insatisfacción del Gobierno de Colombia por esta situación. Sin embargo, no es el momento de entrar en nuevas recriminaciones, por ello proponemos que el Consejo diga que lamenta que la crisis financiera de la Organización, haya determinado la cancelación de 43 reuniones importantes, cuyo resultado seguramente sería en beneficio de los países en desarrollo.

Es lamentable, Sr. Presidente, y es la primera vez que esto ocurre, que sobre un número tan alto de cancelación de reuniones, casi el 100%, 41 sobre 43 se hayan tenido que cancelar por reajustes del Programa. Esto no tiene antecedentes y es de lamentar.

Raul LOPEZ-LIRA NAVA (México): Mi delegación lamenta también que se hayan cancelado las 45 reuniones señaladas en el documento CL 94/7, sobre todo por razones ajenas a la propia Organización, como consecuencia de la crisis financiera causada por la mora del pago de las obligaciones del principal contribuyente. Por tal motivo, instamos a este país para que a la brevedad posible cumpla con sus promesas. Asimismo esperamos se realicen aquellas reuniones que fueron diferidas para el próximo año, sobre todo las importantes reuniones en la región de América Latina y el Caribe.

Michel MOMBOÛLI (Observateur du Congo): Nous voudrions à notre tour remercier le Secrétariat de l'exposé qui vient de nous être fait sur le point à l'examen. Nous ne vous, cacherons pas qu'au regard de ce document, comme ceux qui nous ont précédés, nous avons été fortement frappés par le nombre extrêmement élevé de réunions qui ont été annulées.

Nous nous sommes efforcés de voir dans les détails mais assez rapidement aussi, la nature des réunions qui avaient été programmées puis annulées et nous nous sommes aperçus que beaucoup d'entre elles étaient des réunions de support de programmes essentiels de l'Organisation. Nous citerons simplement, à titre d'exemple, le Groupe de travail de la commission de la FAO des ressources phytogénétiques, qui est une commission assez jeune, dont la réunion prévue s'est vue annulée, ce qui est une façon d'étouffer ce nouvel instrument pour les pays concernés par la question. Il y a également d'autres questions d'une grande importance, notamment celle qui touche à la santé animale. Je vois, par exemple, la Consultation technique sur la trypanosomose, le Séminaire sur la lutte contre la fièvre aphteuse et l'éradication de la maladie, en fait, toute une série de réunions essentielles qui, en raison de la crise imposée à l'Organisation de l'extérieur, ont été purement et simplement annulées. Cela donne la preuve de ce que nous a dit hier le Professeur Mazoyer dans son exposé lorsque, rendant compte de la dernière session du Comité du Programme dont il a la charge, il a dit que la crise imposée à la FAO était lourde de conséquences pour les programmes essentiels de l'Organisation.

Comme tous ceux qui nous ont précédés, nous déplorons profondément cette situation. Bien sûr, ce ne sont que des récriminations après coup mais il y a lieu de souligner que c'est une situation à laquelle il faut mettre fin. Comme tous ceux qui nous ont précédés, nous suggérons que cela soit consigné au procès-verbal des travaux de cette session, à savoir que nous déplorons tous que des programmes essentiels aient été purement et simplement annulés. Nous exhortons tous ceux qui en sont la cause à s'exécuter et à respecter leurs engagements en versant leur contribution afin que l'Organisation retrouve toute sa dimension et les moyens de remplir sa mission.

LE PRESIDENT: Le Conseil a pris note avec regret de la réduction d'un certain nombre de réunions pour des raisons d'ordre budgétaire et formule le voeu qu'il ne s'agisse que d'une situation transitoire et qu'une situation normale sera rétablie dans les plus brefs délais possibles.

18. Revised Calendar of 1988-89 Sessions of the Council and of Those Bodies which Report to the Council

18. Calendrier révisé des sessions de 1988-89 du Conseil et des organes qui lui font rapport

18. Calendario revisado para 1988-89 de los periodos de sesiones del Consejo y de los órganos que le rinden informes

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Le document CL 94/14 donne une version révisée du calendrier des sessions 1988-1989 depuis son approbation par le Conseil à sa séance du 27 novembre 1987, après la Conférence.

Afin de fournir un cadre plus complet du schéma du biennium tout entier, les sessions pour 1988 y sont inscrites avec les dates effectives auxquelles les réunions se sont tenues. Pour ce qui est des dates du Conseil, il y a lieu de rectifier notre calendrier pour une session qui se déroulerait du lundi 12 au vendredi 23 juin 1989, le lieu étant le siège de la FAO. La réunion du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale est maintenant prévue du 3 au 7 avril 1989. Des changements mineurs ont aussi été apportés aux dates de réunion du Comité de l'agriculture ainsi qu'à celles du Comité des produits.

Pour ce qui est du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques, trois sessions sont prévues pour le moment en 1989 car, comme vous le savez sans doute, il n'y a eu en 1988 qu'une seule session de ce Comité, la deuxième session ayant été reportée à 1989.

En ce qui concerne la session conjointe du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier, ses dates seront insérées dans le calendrier après la décision finale du Conseil.

Je signale que je reste à la disposition du Conseil pour répondre à toutes questions éventuelles.

LE PRESIDENT: J'ai noté que la session du Conseil aura un jour de plus, c'est-à-dire qu'elle reviendra à sa durée habituelle, afin de permettre aux délégués de travailler d'une manière approfondie sans séance supplémentaire systématique.

John COOK (United States of America): I would like to address two matters in the 1989 schedule. First of all, as was just mentioned for January, we are awaiting the final report and decision concerning the joint meeting of the Programme and Finance Committee but as far as the time, if that meeting is in fact to take place, the time that would be allocated to that, I think that we would propose with a meeting such as this that has not taken place in the past, as there therefore will probably be a need to have sufficient time to discuss this important document so we would propose that we would need five days for that meeting in January.

Another suggestion that I would like to offer is in regard to the Programme and Finance Committee meeting in May. It is on the schedule here for 8-19 May. We are aware that at that meeting there will be discussion not only of the review of FAO which will be studying the report from the experts, also the reports from the management consultants and the Programme and Finance Committee will be drafting their own report on the review of FAO, but in addition the Programme and Finance Committee will be giving consideration to the budget, and I believe, if I remember correctly, Mr. Mazoyer himself mentioned the other day when he was addressing the Council that he would consider a need for three weeks. I would have to agree with that; with such a heavy workload it would be wise to extend the meeting of the Programme and Finance Committee for an additional week so I would offer that suggestion and, in conjunction with that, I think we would need to take a look at the schedule dates for the Council because we must remember that the decisions are taken by the Programme and Finance Committee; they will write a report; that report will have to be translated and made available for the members of the Council to take adequate time to give consideration to it and, of course, there is also the budget that will have to be prepared for the Council, budget documents reflecting the Programme and Finance Committee decisions. So I would suggest if we extend the Programme and Finance Committee meeting for an additional week, that in conjunction with that the June Council session would meet a week later than the presently scheduled date. So I offer these suggestions and I would like to hear other views on this matter.

Raul LOPEZ-LIRA NAVA (Mexico): Aprobamos el calendarlo contenido en el documento CL 94/14, pero hacemos notar que entre enero y mayo, que es cuando se reúnen los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas, se reunirán varios de los Comités principales de FAO. Como habíamos hecho notar en el punto 14, los comentarlos de dichos Comités sobre el nivel presupuestario y las características del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto, son constitucionalmente indispensables para que el Director General prepare dicho Presupuesto y Programa que revisarán los Comités en mayo. Esta es una de las razones por las cuales en el punto 14 cuestionamos la utilidad de la convocatoria de una reunión extraordinaria por una sola vez de los dos Comités. Por otro lado, no vemos que tal reunión extraordinaria de una sola vez aparezca en este calendario. Preguntamos a la Secretaría de qué manera se va a plantear este asunto y si estamos en lo correcto cuando advertimos que los Comités principales de la FAO deben hacer sus observaciones a fin de que el Director General las tome en cuenta para integrar su propuesta a los Comités de Programas y al Comité de Finanzas.

Además pensamos, después de haber visto los textos básicos, que la reunión de enero debe considerarse como reunión extraordinaria de los Comités del Programa y Comité de Finanzas por una sola vez.

Gonzalo BULA HOTOS (Colombia): Apoyamos lo que acaba de decir nuestro colega de México sobre la sesión especial de los dos Comités en enero de 1989. Se ha cumplido lo que habíamos anticipado cuando discutimos el tema 13, o sea que se proponen cinco días, un día por cada página.

En relación con la extensión de las reuniones de los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas en el mes de mayo, esto no nos causa preocupación. Pensábamos que será necesario y ya el Profesor Mazoyer, como se ha anotado aquí, planteó esta inquietud. Sin embargo, quisiéramos preguntar a la Secretaría si el cambio de la reunión del Consejo de junio como se ha propuesto de una semana, o sea del 13 al 20 de

junio, ofrece dificultades o no. Porque sabemos que este calendarlo se prepara a la luz de las disponibilidades, condiciones, etc., y también en relación con reuniones en otros Organismos, e igualmente con el clima, con la temperatura que hará en Roma a fines de junio.

John Redman GOLDSACK (United Kingdom): The United Kingdom supports this suggestion of the delegate of the United States that the joint meeting of the Programme and Finance Committee should be allotted five days in January. We also support the United States proposal to alter the dates of the Council Session presently scheduled for June. In addition to the reasons given it would also fit better with the sequence of United Nations meetings elsewhere and we in fact consider that the delay in the meeting should be considered for the first week in July when it would certainly fit better with other meetings.

Amin ABDEL MALEK (Liban) (langue originale arabe): Nous sommes tout à fait d'accord avec ce qui a été dit par le délégué des Etats-Unis concernant la Session conjointe du Comité financier et du Comité du Programme en janvier 1989, quitte à ce que la réunion se tienne en cinq jours.

Nous ne voyons aucun inconvénient, par ailleurs, à ajouter une semaine à la session conjointe du Comité financier et du Comité du Programme en mai.

Cependant, nous ne sommes pas d'accord avec les Etats-Unis quant à l'ajournement d'une semaine pour la session de juin du Conseil, car il faut qu'il y ait au moins 120 jours entre la Session du Conseil et la Session suivante. C'est une période constitutionnelle, il faut qu'il y ait absolument 120 jours entre les deux sessions.

Joao Augusto de MEDICIS (Brazil): I wonder whether we could not have a compromise for the January joint meetings for the Committee. I wonder whether we could consider it for three days with the provision that if the need arises we could increase the number of days. I really hope that we do not need the five days. I think perhaps we could settle for three days so we can perhaps have a compromise for it, have it for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday so that if the need arises the Secretariat will be prepared to continue it for another two days.

As far as the change in the three weeks for the joint session of the meetings of the Programme and Finance Committee I think we are prepared to accept the proposal by the United States of America and the United Kingdom delegations and suggested here by the Chairman of the Programme Committee himself that we have a three-week session rather than a two-week session.

As far as the postponement of the June session of the Council, I wonder would that be useful or not. I think it has been shown here, both by the Chairmen of the Committees and by the members of those Committees, the Finance and Programme Committees, that it would be impossible for us to have the report on the review process ready for the June session so is there any use in postponing the session? It is my understanding that the June session will not be discussing the reports of the Finance and Programme Committees, which are the reports that have to be sent to the Council and the Conference and only the reports of the final document to the Conference and the Council will only be ready for the early meeting of November before the Conference. I wonder if there is any use in postponing for one week the meeting of the Council.

V.K. SIBAL (India): We were thinking almost on the same lines as our colleague from Brazil. Of course, we do not yet have a proposal as to what the length of the meeting in January is going to be. We expect that the time to be allotted for it would be adequate. At the moment we do not see any reason for predicated a certain number of days for it and I think the approach should be flexible. The proposal made by Brazil is very reasonable, that we can have three days, but with the idea that if necessary we can extend it.

I would in fact say the same of the meeting of the Council because it has really to be tailored to the agenda that you have and we are anticipating an extension straight away so it may be perhaps useful not to consider any changes there and the postponement of the Council may also not be very preferable, keeping in view the Constitutional provisions that have just been referred to and also the important point that most likely the review is not likely to come before this Council. This has been gone into at great length in the earlier, part of this session so we do not see the necessity for that.

Insofar as the additional week in May is concerned, this is again a matter of the Agenda. If we can cover the Agenda in two weeks, fine. However, we should think of flexibility. If need be, we can extend.

Why I say this is that a number of members of the Council come from outside. They hold fairly important positions in their own areas; we have to think of their convenience too. A three-week session is very daunting and very gruelling. We are not against it. I am not saying we are against it, but we definitely plead for some flexibility.

Mile Faouzia BOUMAIZA (Algérie): La délégation algérienne n'a pas de problèmes particuliers en ce qui concerne les dates. Cependant, nous avons un peu la même position que le Brésil et l'Inde. Nous pensons que pour la Session spéciale de janvier, trois jours seraient amplement suffisants. D'autant plus, si nous avons bien compris l'intention des délégués qui ont demandé cette session spéciale, que le problème principal qui sera abordé sera le niveau de budget. Donc trois jours seraient amplement suffisants. Pour le reste, c'est-à-dire la réunion conjointe du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier ainsi que pour le Conseil, nous n'avons aucun problème.

Masahiko YASUMURO (Japan): Having heard the proposals for amendment of the 1989 calendar made by the distinguished delegate of the United States of America, my delegation considers they are reasonable and would like to support them - especially the postponement of the date of the next session of the Council.

Rndolf de POURTALES (Suisse): Ma délégation est d'avis qu'il faudrait laisser suffisamment de temps à la session conjointe du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier de mai prochain pour faire un travail vraiment sérieux et approfondi, tant sur le Programme de travail et budget que sur la revue de l'Organisation. Je ne veux pas me fixer sur la durée nécessaire, c'est très difficile à dire, mais il faut que nous garantissions une certaine flexibilité pour cette session, et au besoin l'augmenter d'une semaine.

Eh ce qui concerne la réunion du Conseil de juin prochain, je crois que nous devrions être cohérents dans l'approche générale du problème. Ce Conseil devra discuter du Programme de travail et budget. Il ne peut pas le faire de façon cohérente sans tenir compte des résultats de la discussion sur l'examen de l'Organisation. C'est une donnée essentielle pour discuter de façon cohérente le Programme de travail et budget. C'est pourquoi je pense qu'un léger décalage de cette réunion devrait *être* possible. J'ai vérifié le calendrier. Le texte de base dit que 120 jours doivent s'écouler avant la Conférence. Or nous avons 140 jours avant le début de la Conférence, il y a donc un léger battement possible. La question devrait donc pouvoir s'arranger.

Sra. María Josefina FERNANDEZ ALWAREZ DE ARDIZONES (Cabs): Nos parece muy juiciosa la propuesta de Brasil en cuanto a que la reunión se celebre en enero. Sobre el Consejo del mes de junio, tenemos dudas en cuanto a las razones para su aplazamiento, y por tanto consideramos que se debe mantener en la fecha prevista. No tenemos objeción en cuanto a la duración de las reuniones conjuntas de mayo.

Stanley Munkindia GUANTAI (Kenya): My delegation feels that the issues that will be discussed next year beginning with the special session in January, require careful consideration and deep discussion. Therefore, we feel that there should be flexibility in allowing sufficient time both for the January session and also for the Joint Session to have proper discussions in order to be able to reach proper agreements.

Similarly, for the Council session that is already scheduled for June, it should be scheduled in such a manner that the reports of the Joint Session will be available to that particular Council session. If there is need to adjust by one week, or postpone for one week, or something of the sort, I would agree with that as long as the reports are available.

We would also wish to point out that the changes should not be such that they will be interfering with schedules of our other meetings or other sessions. They are also as important.

John COOK (United States of America): Forgive me for asking for the floor once again but as I more or less began this consideration of change I would just like to add a couple of comments.

I entirely agree with the notion put by a number of members that the meeting in January could be conducted in three days. Nevertheless, it has been my experience that it is much easier to curtail a meeting than it is to extend it because the persons attending the meeting normally are going to allot on their calendar the amount of time that is scheduled. They are not going to schedule other important undertakings during that time. If the time allotted is the shorter period, on the fourth-and fifth day they may already have other meetings scheduled because they will anticipate being free on those days.

That is the reason why I consider it would be safer to schedule five days, with the idea that if the work can be completed in three days, then it will only take three days and the meeting will be curtailed after those three days.

I would also like to comment on the suggestion of extending the meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees to three weeks. A number of members have thought that this would be wise. If that is adopted, the important point here is the interval between the two meetings of the Council and the Programme and Finance Committees, because we want to keep that constant. As it is set up now, there is a certain interval. If the meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees were extended, we would want prudently to keep the same interval because the amount of work will be the same. In fact, by extending the Programme and Finance Committees we are more or less admitting that there will be more work.

That is the rationale behind my suggestions and I still consider them to be the wisest ones.

Angus MACDONALD (Australia): My delegation would wish that the time allotted for the Special Joint Session of the Programme and Finance Committees in May is adequate to discuss the important issues they will have before them. From the point of view of bringing delegates in from capitals, as far as the Finance Committee is concerned there is only one who comes from outside, that being the Australian member. I am sure that he would have no trouble in making himself available for the extra two days if that were necessary.

Thomas YANGA (Cameroun): J'interviens pour dire qu'il me semble que l'important, lorsque l'on se réunit, ce sont les objectifs que l'on veut atteindre, et il faut voir dans quelle mesure on peut le faire dans le temps qui est imparti.

S'agissant de la Session conjointe du Comité des finances et du Comité du Programme, la Délégation du Cameroun n'a aucune proposition particulière à faire.

Je voudrais cependant ajouter que nombre de délégations, y compris la notre, ont eu à déplorer l'arrivée tardive des documents pour cette Session, et il faudrait que le Secrétariat puisse nous garantir que pour la prochaine session du Conseil, les choses se présenteront mieux que cette fois-ci.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Es indudable que todas las intervenciones que se han hecho están dirigidas a que este proceso se cumpla en las fechas y con las modalidades más adecuadas. Pensamos que la mejor conclusión del Consejo sobre este debate es el pedir al Director General, a usted como Presidente del Consejo, y a los Presidentes de los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas que, teniendo en cuenta las diversas opiniones expresadas aquí, decidan las fechas y extensiones más convenientes para esa serie de reuniones.

Atif Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (Original language Arabic): With respect to the January meeting, as has been stated by a number of delegates we would hope to be able to wind up in three days or perhaps even less than three days. I would have no objection to having the three-day period extended to perhaps four or even five days, depending on the way the discussions go. Then we shall be able to see whether we require more time, such as two additional days.

As far as the January meeting is concerned, I would like to know what Mr. Shah's view on the subject is because we must not forget that we also have the meeting of the Governing Council of IFAD in January and that is a very important meeting for all member states, even the FAO member states who are also members of IFAD. The IFAD meeting begins on 24 January and lasts for one week.

As regards the joint meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees, I thought that the Chairman of the Programme Committee was very clear in what he said when he raised this issue before Council. I would not like to go into a detailed discussion with respect to the various reports of the Committee. I would not like to reopen the debate on this matter. I would merely like to say that the time problem is a very delicate and complex matter. Two weeks are usually allotted for the regular session in May and, as the Chairman of the Programme Committee stated - and I fully support him on this - we might require more time. He did not say in an absolute way that three weeks would be required. He merely said that we might need more than two weeks.

At the May session it is necessary for us to bear in mind the fact that the fundamental mission, in addition to the examination of FAO activities, is to carry out the Programme of Work and Budget. I do not think that the examination will take us far from the consideration of the Summary of the Programme of Work and Budget for the Organization because this is a very delicate part of the Organization's work. We have to be very careful here. Of course, the Review is important but it is no more important than the discussion of the Summary of the Programme of Work and Budget for the forthcoming two-year period. This is the vital question; this is the decisive issue. Therefore, the Joint Session in May should examine this question which is of such prime importance, and should we really expect that the additional week - whether it be five, six or seven days - would be sufficient for us to conclude the discussion of the Review.

Can we really have a discussion in depth on this matter - is one week enough? We are called upon to examine a large number of reports, and as was stated by the Chairmen of the Programme and Finance Committees - and I support them when they say this - we have many reports before us and if we do not have enough time to devote to those reports that we are duty bound to examine in a very responsible and detailed way in view of the fact both Committees are responsible for consideration of these reports.

In turn, we are going to have to submit a very exhaustive report on these subjects. The review of FAO activities is a forward-looking study. It is a study relating to the future of our organization and if we do not devote sufficient time to this issue the report will only be partial and patchy and there will be a lack of realism and pragmatism which is necessary in such reports. I believe we will not be doing good or useful work if we do not have sufficient time to do the job.

There are some questions in the review which will necessarily remain in abeyance. It is impossible for us to reach an agreement on this subject with regard to certain questions in any event. Between these two Committees we cannot get through these tasks so we will have to have the Autumn Session in September and then at the end of September, with the aid of God, we will be able to tackle the question again and we hope to be able to overcome the obstacles and finalize the report which will be sent to Council. The postponement of the Council Session is not a helpful suggestion.

João Augusto DE MEDICIS (Brasil): Creo que si seguimos discutiendo este tema, no llegaremos a ninguna conclusión. Por esto, yo quería únicamente proponer que aceptemos la proposición hecha por el distinguido Embajador de Colombia, en el sentido de que usted, los Presidentes de los dos Comités y el Director General decidieran sobre esto.

V.K. SIBAL (India): We would like to support the suggestion.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous sommes en présence d'une suggestion de l'Honorable Délégué de Colombie, appuyé par les délégués du Brésil et de l'Inde, tendant à laisser au Directeur général et aux deux présidents des Comités financier et du Programme, le soin d'ajuster les dates, compte tenu de tous les avis émis au présent Conseil. Pouvons-nous retenir cette suggestion ? Je vous remercie.

V.J. SHAH (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): I am grateful to you and to the Council for the guidance and the decision that you have taken. Since the question has now been left in the manner you have decided I do not need to make any comments on the Session of the Programme and Finance Committees in January. But, the Council itself will have to

take a decision on its specific Session for June. If you wish, I may offer my comments when you come to that item. Or, I can do it now - I will do it now.

There are a number of elements. First, there should be a day more for that Council Session, instead of beginning on the Tuesday it should begin on the Monday, that is clear and there is no problem. Secondly, there is the suggestion that the Council session should be a week later. That is to say, instead of beginning on 12 June and ending on 23 June, it should, begin on 19 June and end on 30 June. If that is your wish also, the Secretariat would accept and comply. In that case I would only point out that you might also wish to consider the dates of the session of the Committee on Commodity Problems because the Session of that Committee is presently proposed to last from 26 to 30 June. This would then conflict with the Council Session. If the Council would kindly agree to permit the Director-General to make the necessary adjustment to the dates of the CCP, I think that this would resolve the matter satisfactorily.

LE PRESIDENT: En conclusion, l'idée semble retenue d'augmenter d'un jour la durée du Conseil; l'expérience que nous venons de vivre d'une diminution de la durée du Conseil n'a pas paru probante; on avancerait donc d'un jour, pour avoir deux semaines pleines.

En fonction du calendrier de Messieurs les Présidents des Comités financier et du Programme, aussi bien pour janvier que pour mai, nous nous adapterions à leur calendrier pour la session de juin; le recul d'une semaine ne me semble pas poser de problèmes particuliers pour le Secrétariat.

Pour la session de janvier, l'idée se dégage de laisser une souplesse aux Comités en leur laissant le temps nécessaire pour étudier de manière circonstanciée et approfondie les questions qui leur sont posées; cela dit, souplesse, oui, mais il faut toujours avoir à l'esprit qu'ils doivent terminer leur travail dans les meilleures conditions possibles; souplesse ne veut pas dire restriction de temps, mais avoir la faculté de prendre tout le temps nécessaire pour faire un travail qui est vital. Nous ne devons pas rogner sur les efforts de ceux qui doivent faire un travail constructif.

Par conséquent nous demandons aux présidents des deux Comités, au Directeur général et au Président du Conseil d'adapter le calendrier en fonction des avis émis par notre Conseil.

V. CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS (continued)

V. QUESTIONS CONSTITUTIONNELLES ET JURIDIQUES (suite)

V. ASUNTOS CONSTITUCIONALES Y JURIDICOS (continuación)

20. Other Constitutional and Legal Matters, including:

20. Autres questions constitutionnelles et juridiques:

20. Otros asuntos constitucionales y jurídicos, en particular:

20.1 Procedure for Election of Chairmen and Members of Programme and Finance Committees

20.1 Procédure d'élection des présidents et des membres du Comité du programme et du Comité financier

20.1 Procedimiento para la elección de los presidentes y miembros del Comité del Programa y del Comité de Finanzas

LEGAL COUNSEL: The document before you on this item is document CL 94/15 - the procedure for the election of the Chairman and Members of the Programme and Finance Committees. The issue of the procedure for the election of the Chairman and Members of the Programme and Finance Committees, has been before this Council on a number of occasions in the last few years. The document before you reviews some of the history of the discussions in this Council and in the CCLM.

The issue first arose in November 1985 in connection with the Finance Committee. On that occasion no member from North America was elected to the Committee. The matter was eventually resolved through the adoption of a Conference resolution in November 1987 that called on Members of the Council to bear in mind, when electing Members of the Programme and Finance Committees, the need for a just and equitable representation of the various regions, the fact that all regions should be represented if they so wish and the importance of rotation among countries in each region.

The problem has now arisen in a new form, this time in connection with the election of Members of the Programme Committee at the Session of the Council immediately following the Conference last year. On that occasion only one Member Nation from Africa was elected. In the discussions that

ensued many Council members felt strongly that Africa was underrepresented on the Programme Committee, thus raising again the issue of equitable representation. Following these discussions the Council agreed to review at this present session those parts of Rules XXVI and XXVII of the General Rules of the Organization that relate to the election of Members of the Programme and Finance Committees, in order to guarantee appropriate regional representation on each Committee. The Council also expressed the view that, in the light of the Council's discussions, CCLM should prepare the appropriate legal provisions for submission to its June 1989 session. The issues raised by the subject of the election of the Chairmen of the Programme and Finance Committees are quite complex, and sensitive, and are essentially of a political nature. In view of this fact the Director-General does not wish to make any firm proposals regarding the nature of any approach that might eventually be adopted. However, I should make it clear that the Council has already indicated last November that it does not intend to take a final decision at this Session on the approach to be adopted, but merely to refer the matter to the CCLM for further consideration and formulation of proposals in the light of the discussions in this Council Session.

The proposals made by the CCLM would then come back to this Council for further discussion and eventually recommendation to the Conference.

I would also like to make the point that the system of representation on the Programme and Finance Committees has been functioning under the present rules and understandings for many years in a satisfactory form. The immediate problems that arose on the election of the Finance Committee in 1985 seem to have been resolved by the Conference Resolution adopted last November. Council may wish to consider whether or not a similar approach to the resolution of the problem may not be even more appropriate in the present case of the Programme Committee.

Igor KIPMAN (Brazil): The points of view of my delegation on this issue have been aired more than once during Council session's since 1986, and also in Commission III of the 24th Conference in November 1987. Therefore, I can be very brief in informing Council that our opinion remains unchanged. We consider that Rules XXVI and XXVII of the Basic Texts of the Organization should remain unchanged.

Resolution 11/87 adopted by the 24th Conference seems to us to be perfectly satisfactory and we are sure that improved coordination within the regions before elections take place can guarantee that the principle of a just and equitable representation will be safeguarded.

In view of the above we deem it inadequate to waste more time in the discussion of this subject unless new issues are brought to light. My delegation cannot agree with a further request being sent to the CCLM to reconsider the matter. We think that, based on Resolution 11/87, all endeavours should be made by the regions to achieve just and equitable representation in both Committees.

Achille RAHARISON (Madagascar): La répartition équitable des postes au sein de l'Organisation des Nations Unies et de ses institutions spécialisées a constitué un souci permanent pour qui demeure à l'écoute des aspirations de chaque région et pour qui souhaiterait qu'un dialogue s'instaure dans la promotion des échanges accrus entre les nations et les hommes.

Ce problème préoccupe à bon droit ceux qui voudraient que s'établisse un véritable esprit de "partenariat" dans ce monde de plus en plus interdépendant. C'est pourquoi la délégation malgache voudrait attirer l'attention du Conseil sur quelques anomalies que nous avons relevées s'agissant de la composition du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier.

Tout d'abord, au Comité du Programme l'on se souvient que, par le fait d'une compétition inutile et d'un vote insuffisant pour son candidat, l'Afrique a perdu un siège qui lui était normalement dévolu. Rien n'a pu se faire puisque le règlement en la matière n'interdit pas la procédure qui a suivi. Loin de moi l'idée de contester les résultats des choix démocratiques faits. Tous ceux qui ont été élus sont appelés à terminer normalement leur mandat. Mais à l'avenir, ne pourrait-on pas remédier à une telle situation en optant pour l'une ou l'autre des alternatives suivantes.

Premièrement, ne pas autoriser l'élection d'un membre d'une région dans un poste réservé à une autre et augmenter à douze le nombre des membres du Comité du Programme de façon à doter d'un siège le Pacifique du Sud-ouest.

Deuxièmement, garder à onze le nombre des sièges à pourvoir mais ramener à deux ceux réservés à l'Asie, l'Amérique du Nord et le Sud-Ouest Pacifique pouvant s'entendre par rotation.

Troisièmement, ramener à deux le nombre de sièges pour l'Asie et convenir d'une rotation au sein du Groupe des 77, c'est-à-dire qu'une des régions du Groupe serait chaque fois représentée par un membre.

En formulant ces propositions, la délégation malgache a gardé présentes à l'esprit les dispositions de la résolution 11/87 de la Conférence, du 26 novembre 1987, à savoir: représentation juste et équitable des différentes régions, représentation effective de toute région qui désire être présente au Comité et assurance d'un roulement équitable entre les pays de chaque région;

Pour ce qui est du Comité financier, la ventilation actuelle par région nous semble satisfaisante; 11 suffit donc de la confirmer par un texte réglementaire et de faire respecter celui-ci. En cas de besoin, l'Asie, l'Amérique et le Proche-Orient peuvent convenir d'une rotation entre régions pour la dotation de deux postes à une région par mandat de deux ans.

Encore une fois, la répartition équitable des postes devient de plus en plus nécessaire en ce moment où tous prennent à coeur de participer au débat sur les questions d'actualité préoccupant l'Organisation. C'est la preuve de leur détermination d'être pleinement associés aux échanges de vues et aux efforts de redressement et d'amélioration des activités de la FAO.

Thomas YANGA (Cameroun): Puisque, dans le document CL 94/15 relatif à la procédure d'élection des présidents et des membres du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier, il est proposé d'inviter le Conseil à demander au CQCJ de réexaminer la question à la lumière de nos délibérations, je me vois obligé de réitérer, d'une part la frustration qui avait été la notre, en novembre dernier, lors de l'élection des membres du Comité du Programme à la suite de laquelle l'Afrique s'était trouvée sous-représentée au sein de cet important organe de l'Organisation et, d'autre part, le soutien que nous avons apporté à une proposition faite par l'Ambassadeur de la Colombie, à savoir que soient envisagées des dispositions pour résoudre définitivement ce problème qui se répète de plus en plus. Avant-hier, c'était le tour de l'Amérique du Nord, hier le tour de l'Afrique, et demain nous ne savons pas le tour de quelle région.

Les dispositions actuelles reposent fondamentalement sur une entente entre les différents États Membres composant les différentes régions telles que la FAO l'entend. Mais cette entente ne fonctionne pas à l'intérieur d'une région. Nous nous trouvons face à ce problème et, apparemment, 11 n'y a pas de solution. C'est pourquoi ma délégation est en faveur d'une solution qui irait dans le sens de la première envisagée au paragraphe 8 du document que nous examinons, à savoir une répartition précise des sièges entre les différentes régions, afin d'éviter qu'à l'avenir ce genre de problème ne se reproduise.

Amin ABDEL MALEK (Liban) (langue originale arabe): La délégation du Liban souhaite appuyer la proposition faite par l'Ambassadeur du Brésil, à savoir que les régions devraient se mettre d'accord entre elles sur le nombre de candidats qu'elles veulent présenter, lequel devrait être proportionnel au nombre de pays de chaque région.

Les membres du Conseil devraient respecter la résolution 11/87 qui demande de tenir compte de la nécessité d'une représentation juste et équitable des différentes régions.

Nous pensons qu'il serait juste que le continent africain soit représenté équitablement tant au Comité du Programme qu'au Comité financier.

En 1985, lorsque la région nord-américaine n'a pas été représentée au Comité financier une solution a été trouvée. Essayons d'en faire autant pour les autres régions.

Bien sûr, il est très facile d'ouvrir une discussion et très difficile de la fermer, mais je crois qu'il est souhaitable de le faire.

Stanley MunkIndia GUANTAI (Kenya): My delegation also agrees that this matter has been discussed for quite some time now, that while a number of resolutions have been suggested, particularly during the Conference last November, the rules still continue to be a problem. We agree that these rules have worked well over a long time, but we feel that problems have arisen during the election of the Finance Committee in 1985, and particularly in what took place during the 93rd Session of the Council election in 1987 which saw a very clear situation where Africa, having taken a lot of

trouble to negotiate among itself to ensure that they had only two candidates so that they do not cause imbalance, it was under-represented because another region which could not agree among itself ended up with more candidates and these candidates ended up being elected.

This is why we are saying there are problems, that such problems can arise. Therefore we see the suggestion that a gentleman's agreement continue to be taken as infallible does raise some problems.

We think that there should be a review to ensure equitable distribution. The first option suggested in paragraph 8 would ensure that this representation is clear. For example, in Africa we have a distinct requirement. In most committees we have to try to ensure that our two major languages of the continent are represented. That is basically the francophones and the anglophones. Basically we try to ensure that that is always balanced and when one of these is left out we tend to have problems, especially when one person has to brief the rest of the African delegates. So we do ask the Council to consider that these problems are there and they have to be improved.

Gian Luigi VALENZA (Italie): Je crois qu'il est inutile de rappeler au Conseil le rôle que la délégation Italienne a joué dans la résolution tendant à modifier la procédure d'élection des membres du Comité financier, qui a déjà été examinée à la vingt-quatrième Conférence et dont fait mention le document CL 94/15.

A ce stade, nous ne voulons pas modifier essentiellement notre position et nous nous demandons s'il est utile de transmettre cela au Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques pour qu'il en fasse rapport au Conseil à sa quatre-vingt-quinzième session.

Mlle Faouzia BOUMAÏZA (Algérie): Les interventions de mes amis du Cameroun et du Kenya vont limiter la mienne étant donné que ces deux délégations ont exposé clairement les arguments en faveur d'une révision véritable de la procédure qui régit actuellement l'élection des membres du Comité financier et du Comité du Programme.

Tous les délégués ici présents se rappelleront sans doute que, depuis novembre 1985, nous examinons cette question à chaque session du Conseil et de la Conférence, ce qui prouve bien que toutes les solutions envisagées jusqu'à présent n'ont pas été satisfaisantes.

Ma délégation se joint donc à toutes celles qui ont demandé au Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques de réexaminer cette question.

Thomas YANGA (Cameroun): Je ne reprends pas la parole sur le point 20.1. J'ai cru comprendre que nous discutons du point 20 et je voudrais dire à l'avance que la délégation apporte son appui au point 20.2.

Bashir EL MABROUK SAID (Libya) (Original language Arabic): I do not have a great deal to add on this item. However, I would like to confirm what was said by our friend the Ambassador of Brazil. We would also like to emphasize the need to ensure equitable and just representation of all regions in both the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee. We would like to insist that one of the main aims is to ensure equitable representation in the two committees. However, coordination between the countries of the region is a very vital process.

One other point that I would like to refer to very frankly concerns the members of the Finance and Programme Committees. The members of the Finance and Programme Committees when they are members of these committees do not represent their own countries, they are in their own capacity, they are representatives of the Council. Therefore they are answerable to the Council when they are fulfilling their duties. Therefore the regions which wish to be represented in these two committees should bear this in mind. Of course here I am not referring to any particular country. When the members are elected they are not elected as countries. These candidates are elected in their own personal capacity and according to their skills. We feel that the Council is the supreme body to decide who will be represented in the Programme and Finance Committees.

The Council cannot accept election of a person who is totally incompetent, and who does not have the skills to carry out his duties in the Programme or Finance Committees. This should be taken into account. We hope that no incompetent people will be chosen, However, the Council when it elects

candidates tries to ensure that they have the skills to carry out their duties in these two committees. Therefore, choosing competent persons is one vital issue. The next vital point is the need to ensure coordination between the countries of one region and between the regions.

Of course, we are not doubting that equitable representation should be ensured. Of course, if we tried to set out rules and regulations for the election of candidates, then what is the duty of the Council? We feel that the Council is the supreme body that has the last say in the choice of candidates to be represented on the Programme and Finance Committees. Of course, I am not addressing my remarks to any particular country. We cannot accept, for instance, that the Near East Region chose a candidate who does not have the skills and competence to carry out his duties. Therefore, coordination among Regions and countries of the Region is something very important.

Namukolo MUKUTU (Zambia): The Zambian delegation has studied fully document CL 94/15 now under discussion. We have the following comments to make:

(a) My delegation deplores the fact that no member from the region of North Africa was elected to the Finance Committee for the period November 1985 to November 1987. The entire North Africa region was not represented. I hope it is not implied that North Africa had no competent person as implied by Libya.

(b) My delegation was saddened and still is by the fact that the African Region has only one person on the Programme Committee instead of two. The African Region is currently under-represented in this Committee.

(c) My delegation believes in the concept of a just and equitable African representation of all committees of FAO and those of other UN organizations. It was in the light of this that we did not support the resolution submitted to the 24th Session of the FAO Conference in November 1987 on the procedure for the election of the Chairman and members of the Programme and Finance Committees. This was so because we strongly believed that the resolution so presented did not guarantee equitable geographical representation of the Programme and Finance Committees. Our objection on this issue was proved right in that in the election which followed the Conference, the 93th Council Session, one region, Africa, was underrepresented.

In the light of the foregoing, my delegation proposes that a specific number of seats be given to specific regions. This is what prevailed in the gentleman's agreement which prevailed before the problems arose in 1985 and 1987.

My delegation's proposal, in other words, calls for a mechanism which should ensure that a specific number of members from each of the FAO Regions be elected to each of the Committees. This, of course, calls for changes in the present task of FAO. My delegation therefore concurs with the recommendation that the CCLM should be called upon to look at the issues once again, and submit its illuminations to the next session of Council.

My delegation supports the view expressed by the distinguished delegates of Cameroon, Madagascar, Kenya and Algeria. Those who have spoken in favour of the status quo are those regions which are, for the moment, bereft of the current weakness. During November 1987 it is, in fact delegations which have fielded more than their share that have profited from directions.

Jean-Luc GRAEVE (France): Dans le passé récent, une certaine émotion s'est créée dans certains groupes ou dans certains pays, due au fait que les élections au Comité du Programme ou au Comité des Finances ne semblent pas aboutir à une représentation juste et équitable. Ce cas s'est présenté lors des élections au Comité financier où a été exclu tout pays d'Amérique du Nord, et lors des récentes élections du Comité du Programme où un seul pays de la région Afrique a été élu.

Devant ce type de problème, deux types de solutions sont envisageables.

La première, qui a déjà fait l'objet d'études, est de mettre au point des modifications de procédure des votes et une modification du règlement général, qui assurent certaines garanties du résultat des votes et qui donnent satisfaction à chaque région.

Les ébauches de solution que rappelle le document du Secrétariat aux paragraphes 22 et 8 notamment, les indications qui ont été données également par certains pays comme Madagascar, montrent que les solutions sont relativement complexes et qu'elles pourraient également avoir des implications pour la représentation rigide et fixe des régions dans d'autres organes de l'Organisation. Cela mérite certainement réflexion et incite à la prudence.

Une autre solution, ou plutôt une autre approche, est de ne pas modifier les modalités juridiques actuelles et même, comme l'ont rappelé beaucoup d'orateurs, de compter sur une meilleure coordination à l'Intérieur des groupes.

Ceci n'est pas un vœu pieux. L'expérience récente a montré qu'au Comité financier les problèmes qui s'étaient posés ont été résolus et que la représentation à l'intérieur du Comité financier est maintenant satisfaisante. Certes il peut exister des pannes, des accidents, des moments où la représentation d'une région apparaît à un moment donné non satisfaisante, mais cette situation n'est pas là pour l'éternité et rien ne prouve que la mise en oeuvre de solutions juridiques complexes, rigides, n'aurait pas d'autres inconvénients qui doivent être évités.

Cela dit, beaucoup de délégations, notamment des pays africains, ont exprimé le souhait de réexaminer ces questions, et la réticence que ma délégation vient d'exprimer devant la modification des règles et des procédures juridiques et de vote ne signifie pas qu'une étude nouvelle et approfondie au sein du CQCJ serait sans intérêt. Elle permettrait peut-être de mettre en lumière les implications, et peut-être les dangers, de modification trop profonde des règles actuelles.

Sra. María Josefina FERNANDEZ ALVAREZ DE ARDIZONES (Cuba): Seremos muy breves. No creemos que haya sido fácil al Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos el estudio y elaboración de propuestas de un tema tan susceptible como éste, y que además siempre termina en que el Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos, debe continuar estudiando y preparando propuestas sobre el mismo asunto pues las soluciones de compromiso no han dado resultados. Consideramos perfectamente logico y razonable que cada Reglón pretenda garantizar una representación justa y equitativa en el Comité del Programa y de Finanzas si así lo desea. Y este Consejo, una vez más, debe plantearse la problemática de brindar posibles soluciones a esta situación.

No queremos extendernos mucho en este tema que ya durante varios años se ha analizado y discutido. Por ello, mi Delegación quiere sugerir que con los propios argumentos contenidos en el Proyecto de Resolución presentado a la ultima Conferencia, se solicite al Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos que elabore una propuesta definitiva, que no modifique los Artículos 26 y 27 en cuestión, pero pudiera ser una adición a los mismos, como se hizo con el Reglamento del Comité de Finanzas, que garantice una representación justa y equitativa y una rotación equitativa entre los países que constituyen cada Región; y que el Comité informe nuevamente de ello en el próximo período de sesiones en junio de 1989, donde podría presentar un texto, una propuesta ya concreta.

V.K. SIBAL (India): When this issue came under discussion in the November 1987 Council, a view was advanced that, as there was a certain amount of excitement at that time, it would be better to let the dust settle down and deliberate on the issues raised, coolly and calmly in the next Council to see where we could go from there. Therefore, what was thought of in the last Council was somewhat tentative in nature.

We are dealing with an issue which is very delicate, very complex, and we need to approach it realistically. I think we also owe it to ourselves to be sufficiently frank so that we can look at this matter with a sense of realism. We do not think that any simple or simplistic solutions are possible. It is an old issue and we should not forget the background.

I would like to draw the attention of the Council to paragraph 6 of the document in which the CCLM's examination has been summarized. They concluded, after going into the legislative history of the concerned rules, other factors relevant to their interpretation, and also the practice established over a decade, and I quote, "that the provisions did not impose nor were intended to impose a legal obligation on the Council to allocate the seats in accordance with a strict principle that each region that so wished had to be represented". That is the point which our colleague from Libya was trying to make. This is perhaps the real reason why eventually, when the decision was taken, the matter was left to internal coordination among the groups, because what we are looking for is a just and equitable representation.

I think we should pause on that. How do you achieve that? Do you achieve it through numbers mathematically established for all time to come, or is it a process of negotiation which takes into account so many differences which enter into this process?

The regional weightage could be either in terms of population, in terms of number of countries or in terms of other such relevant factors. We also have candidates who are elected in their personal capacities, which is another complication. Therefore we can see very well as to why this problem has eluded a simple solution and has really been put back to the members of the Council themselves to coordinate better among themselves to see that the just aspirations of the regions are achieved. If

we have got to think of a mathematical solution and the proposal has been made to do so, just let us look at the first solution in paragraph 8 and allocate seats according to region. How would you, for example, do it in the Finance Committee, where you have four regions competing for six seats? I do not know how you can give one-and-a-half seats to one region and if you are not going to give one-and-a-half seats, then there is going to be, in terms of a just and equitable representation, a degree of surface under representation between one region and another and you will have to adjust to that position. I think while making this point, it is also necessary to state that the regions are also artificially constituted. They do not follow the UN System. We have said that Africa had only one seat on the Programme Committee. As a matter of fact, they have two, although there is one filled by a candidate from an African country in the Near East region. Asia has one seat on the Finance Committee. It has forty percent of the population of the world and we have not complained that we are underrepresented. We accept it. Sometimes it will happen like that. The situations in 1985 and 1987 were qualitatively different. In 1985 there was no representation for the region. In 1987, it was not the situation. In 1987, there was representation for all regions. So we are inclined strongly to think that the internal coordination is perhaps the best mechanism. This issue has been examined at length, in-depth. I think a very wise solution was suggested. We have incorporated that into a Conference decision. We should try in a spirit of give and take, and in the realization of just and equitable representation, to talk among ourselves and operate it in such a manner that no region is unrepresented. We would like to commend this. However, while doing so we are not even saying that this matter need not be sent to the CCLM if the Council wishes, although we are very clear in our minds that no simple solution is possible and we may come back to the same solution which has been given earlier.

Muhammad Saleen KHAN (Pakistan): A lot of valuable views have been expressed before us. We too subscribe to a fair, just and equitable representation on various bodies of FAO from various regions but as mentioned by our colleague from France and later from India, this is a complex issue. Going into the mechanics of this and the details would probably open up a Pandora's box.

What should be the criteria of representation? Some would say it is population but then that would create another unfair distribution. Others may say the number of countries and the third may say the economic factors. If we go by the number of countries perhaps the North American region may not get any representation. So there are so many aspects that have to be considered in this. Over the years we have been electing members to various forums, to various bodies of the FAO, agreeing between us, like the representative of Zambia mentioned, with gentlemanly agreement. Why cannot that gentlemanly agreement continue? There is always a year or two when the mishap occurs, but a year or two after something like 40 plus years. Should we try and get into all these things just because one or two mishaps may have occurred. Should we not sit together and agree between us that this will not reoccur? My delegation also has no objection if the Council agrees to send the issue to the CCLM. We will go along with this consensus, but we feel that it is better that we, as members of various nations, sit together and resolve these issues as and when they arise.

Dong QUINSONG (China) (Original language Chinese): The problem which emerged from the election of the Finance Committee members at the 89th Session of the Council and from the election of the Programme Committee members at the 93rd Council Session are evidence that the election procedures currently in force for the election of the two committees have defects to ensure an equitable regional representation. This calls for improvement. We suggest that the CCLM will make an in-depth study of the election procedures of the two committees and come back with a solution to effect equitable regional distribution for consideration at the next Council session.

Gonzalo BULA HOTOS (Colombia): Señor Presidente, como lo ha recordado algún colega esta mañana, los representantes de Colombia, en el Consejo de noviembre de 1987, inmediatamente después de la Conferencia, expresamos nuestra preocupación por esa situación, a la cual consideramos que hay que introducirle corrección. A la luz del debate de esta mañana, pensamos lo siguiente: el CACJ ha dado el máximo dentro de sus posibilidades y facultades constitucionales, pues el CACJ no se puede ocupar del fondo de la cuestión, no puede hacer propuestas que tengan contenido político, las cuales solo corresponden al Consejo. De manera que sería inútil pedirle al CACJ que de nuevo considerara este asunto, cuando el Consejo, a través del debate que hemos celebrado, no está en condiciones de dar ninguna instrucción precisa ni específica al CACJ.

Pensamos que lo mejor sería lo siguiente, Sr. Presidente: que el Consejo, en su informe de este período de sesiones sobre ese tema, afirme la conveniencia de que se busque una solución desde ahora hasta junio, y que el Consejo decida que este tema debe figurar de nuevo en su agenda para junio 89. Desde ahora hasta junio 89, los grupos regionales deberían tratar de ponerse de acuerdo para buscar algunas soluciones de compromiso que incluso podrían comprender el aumento del número de puestos en los Comités. Si fuera así, el Consejo de junio 89 podría adoptar algunas recomendaciones concretas, pedir al CACJ -quien, por ejemplo, en una reunión de otoño 89, entonces sí, tiene ya material concreto el CACJ- que presente recomendaciones específicas al Consejo de noviembre, inmediatamente antes de la Conferencia, a fin de que sea la Conferencia la que tome las decisiones definitivas.

En resumen, pensamos que el CACJ de mayo 89 no tendría nada que hacer, que no debe considerar de nuevo este asunto, sino que el Consejo del 89 debería dar instrucciones al CACJ para una reunión posterior.

LEGAL COUNSEL: As I mentioned earlier and as many of the delegates pointed out, this is a very complex sensitive matter and therefore, I think it would be inappropriate for me to make any comments on the very many proposals and observations made by the delegates; Merely to say that if, as I understand, it is the desire of the Council to refer the matter to the CCLM at one point or another, then the CCLM would, of course, be taking into account all of the observations and proposals that have been made.

LE PRESIDENT: Les opinions ont été émises dans les deux sens, aussi bien pour la transmission au Comité des Questions constitutionnelles qu'au Conseil juridique; cela dit, pour éviter des problèmes, il faut, d'une manière ou d'une autre, que les groupes arrivent à s'entendre pour limiter les difficultés éventuelles.

Un grand nombre de délégués ont demandé qu'on réfléchisse à nouveau à la question, à la lumière de ce débat et on pourrait demander au CQCG de reprendre la question et de nous donner un document complet pour la Session de juin.

Mais quelles que soient les formulations, notre base de travail est qu'il y ait entente entre les groupes régionaux et, comme cela a été dit par un délégué, une modification peut aussi apporter des difficultés; cela dit, laissons le soin au Comité de réfléchir sur la question et nous poursuivrons l'analyse au Conseil de juin. Si vous en êtes d'accord, nous pouvons passer au point 20.2.

Ce point sera présenté par Monsieur Lanly, Sous-Directeur général p.i., Chef du Département des Forêts; à cette occasion, nous aborderons la question restée en suspens sur le choix éventuel du lieu de la prochaine Conférence mondiale des forêts qui doit se tenir en 1991.

20.2 African Forestry Commission: Change of Title to African Forestry and Wildlife Commission

20.2 Nouvelle dénomination de la Commission des forêts et de la faune sauvage pour l'Afrique

20.2 Comisión Forestal para Africa: cambio de título para que pase a ser "Comisión Forestal y de Flora y Fauna Silvestres para Africa"

J.P. LANLY (Sous-Directeur général p.i., Département des forêts): Le point à l'ordre du jour fait l'objet de la note du Secrétariat No. CL 94/19.

A l'occasion du point No. 6 de votre ordre du jour sur l'examen du Rapport de la neuvième Session du Comité des forêts, vous avez eu l'occasion de faire valoir l'importance de l'aménagement et de l'utilisation de la faune sauvage pour le développement rural et la sécurité alimentaire. La Commission des forêts pour l'Afrique créée en vertu de l'article VI-1 de l'Acte constitutif par la Conférence de la FAO en 1959, s'est préoccupée des questions de faune sauvage dès les premières années de sa création.

Elle a en fait créé en son sein, à sa première session, comme organe subsidiaire, un groupe de travail de l'aménagement de la faune et des parcs nationaux.

Ce groupe actif tient en général ses réunions juste avant celles de la Commission elle-même, qui a ainsi la possibilité d'examiner ses résultats et ses recommandations.

A sa septième Session tenue en 1986 au Mali, la Commission des forêts pour l'Afrique a demandé à la FAO de prendre les dispositions nécessaires pour qu'elle s'appelle dorénavant Commission des forêts et de la faune sauvage pour l'Afrique, ceci afin de mieux refléter l'intérêt qu'elle porte aux

questions relatives à la faune sauvage, et, plus généralement, afin de mieux refléter l'Importance de la faune sauvage dans le développement socio-économique en Afrique.

Afin de répondre aux souhaits de la Commission des forêts pour l'Afrique, il est donc demandé au Conseil de décider s'il donne son accord à ce qu'elle puisse s'appeler désormais: "Commission des forêts et de la faune sauvage pour l'Afrique".

Il est important de préciser que ce changement de dénomination n'entraîne aucune modification du mandat de la Commission.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie le Docteur Lanly pour cette communication; le Conseil doit prendre position sur la nouvelle dénomination de la Commission des forêts pour l'Afrique; notre Conseil est-il d'accord pour que cette dénomination soit celle de Commission des forêts et de la faune sauvage pour l'Afrique: telle est la question posée.

S'il n'y a pas d'objection, nous pouvons accepter cette modification de dénomination.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

Nous allons maintenant passer à la seconde partie de ce point; vous vous souvenez qu'au début de notre Conseil nous avons abordé le problème du siège du Congrès mondial forestier qui doit avoir lieu en 1991; nous avons cinq candidatures: la France, l'Italie, la Tanzanie, le Burkina Faso, et la Guinée équatoriale.

La tradition, qui a toujours prévalu ici, veut que ces congrès se tiennent sur invitation du pays hôte qui prend en charge tous les efforts, et la tradition veut également que ce choix se fasse toujours par consensus; nous avons donc demandé la dernière fois aux différents Etats qui ont manifesté leur candidature, de bien vouloir se rapprocher les uns des autres et de nous dire s'ils sont en mesure d'aboutir à un consensus nous permettant d'aller de l'avant; j'aimerais savoir s'il y a eu du nouveau dans ces contacts et comment se présente la situation.

Philippe PIOTET (France): Comme vous nous l'aviez demandé, nous avons eu de nombreux contacts avec les pays qui souhaitent accueillir le prochain Congrès forestier mondial, mais également avec d'autres membres du Conseil car, comme vous le disiez, c'est un consensus que nous recherchons.

Je dois dire qu'au stade actuel, nous n'avons pas abouti à ce consensus.

Je voudrais commencer par insister auprès du Conseil sur l'importance de la décision dont 11 est saisi. Il s'agit en effet d'un Congrès important et d'une décision difficile, car ce Congrès est à la fois un congrès scientifique, un congrès technique, et un congrès économique; et à cette occasion, toute la communauté forestière Internationale va se retrouver pour faire le point sur les problèmes forestiers et prendre un certain nombre de mesures concernant l'évolution de ce secteur.

Ces réunions se tiendront au niveau le plus élevé; ce sont les plus hauts responsables de tous les pays du monde en matière forestière qui vont se rencontrer; on attend environ deux mille participants ou peut-être plus; 11 faut par conséquent se prononcer en toute connaissance de cause.

Or, comment le faire si ce n'est en disposant d'éléments précis, d'un dossier de propositions bien argumentées, faisant ressortir de manière claire les modalités d'organisation d'un tel congrès, les thèmes qui seront étudiés ainsi que la façon dont le pays, qui se propose d'accueillir le congrès, envisage les contacts avec d'autres pays, pour que ce congrès soit véritablement mondial, c'est-à-dire, qu'il prenne en compte les problèmes forestiers de toutes les zones du monde. Or, ces problèmes sont très divers, nous l'avons vu à plusieurs reprises.

Tous ces éléments sont donc essentiels et 11 est capital de prendre une bonne décision.

Pouvons-nous aujourd'hui la prendre ? c'est la question à laquelle nous sommes confrontés. La Délégation française, pour sa part, a le sentiment que quelques mois supplémentaires seraient très utiles pour approfondir ce dossier. J'insiste bien sur le fait que ce temps ne serait pas perdu. Il permettrait aux Etats Membres et au Secrétariat de réfléchir sur le fond du problème et d'être mieux Informés. Il permettrait aussi des contacts entre tous ceux qui sont concernés.

Aussi, Monsieur le Président, la Délégation française se demande s'il ne serait pas sage de reporter cette décision au prochain Conseil. La France pour sa part maintient sa candidature; mon pays, comme je l'ai déjà indiqué, entend associer très étroitement les pays africains à toutes les phases de préparation et d'organisation de ce Congrès. Les documents, que certains délégués ont pu examiner précisent de manière très claire que des voyages d'étude seront organisés au nord comme au sud du Sahara, que les congressistes pourront prendre conscience des problèmes que rencontrent aussi bien la zone méditerranéenne, que les savanes, que la zone sahélienne avec les problèmes de la désertification, que ceux des forêts équatoriales.

Nous entendons bien, aussi, puisque la France est dans la zone tempérée, traiter très largement ces questions tant avec nos voisins, notamment européens, qu'avec les autres pays qui appartiennent à cette zone.

Voici donc l'état de nos réflexions et les propositions que la Délégation française estime être en mesure de présenter au stade actuel de nos débats.

Bashir EL MABROUK SAID (Libya) (Original language Arabic): Following the statement made by the distinguished representative of France, and in the light of the very wise proposals that France has just made with respect to the choice of the host country for the forthcoming World Forestry Congress, I would like to support the point made by the delegate of France today. It would be very difficult for the Council to take the wisest possible decision. That is why I in turn would like to suggest that the Council request that the Director-General establish contact with those states which wish to host this conference and to make the necessary contacts to discuss all of the ins and outs of this World Forestry Congress. The Director-General will subsequently inform the member states of the most recent developments in this area. I do not think it would be appropriate to try to take a decision here and now.

Gian Luigi VALENZA (Italie): L'Italie partage le point de vue exprimé par la France et la Libye, Surtout quant à la nécessité d'arriver à un consensus sur le choix du lieu où devra se tenir le prochain Congrès forestier mondial. Vu que maintenant, il ne semble pas possible d'arriver à un consensus souhaité, peut-être est-ce utile de prendre encore le temps de la réflexion.

Joao Augusto de MEDICIS (Brésil): Je voudrais uniquement appuyer ce qui vient d'être dit par les Représentants de la France, de la Libye et de l'Italie, et demander que l'on puisse avoir davantage de temps, afin d'arriver à un consensus sur un sujet aussi important.

Hamisi MWINYIGOHA (Observer for Tanzania): The Tanzanian delegation also respects the level of the Congress and realizes how important it is to the economy and the world community, but we wish to register the fact that we are just as eager to host this conference as other countries here. We are willing to do our best to fulfil all necessary requirements to make the conference a success.

I do not think that we should defer taking a decision. As everyone will realize, this matter has been under discussion for a long time and the Council is supposed to make a decision today on this issue.

With due respect to the views which have been expressed, it would be a wiser decision if this conference were to be held in Africa on this occasion. We need to have ample time for the preparation of this conference in order to make it a success. The more time we take in reaching a decision the less time we shall have for meeting the needs of the conference and in preparation.

It is imperative, therefore, that we decide now so that we know which country will host this conference and give them ample time to start making preparations. I do not mean by that that we should reach a hasty decision. I still believe that we can make a wise decision even now.

Therefore, I would urge that the Council should decide so that when we leave here we shall know which country is to host this conference and that country can start on preparations. I do not agree that we should again delay our decision. The more time we waste the worse it will be for the country which has to prepare for this conference.

LE PRESIDENT: Il nous faut aboutir à une décision par consensus; nous avons une proposition concrète présentée par un délégué et appuyée par deux autres, tendant à nous accorder un peu plus de temps pour réflexion.

Paul R. BRYDEN (Australia): I have followed our discussion on this item with interest. My delegation is not a party principal, but I do share the concern of the delegate of Tanzania that by deferring a decision the country which eventually holds the Congress will have lost six months of planning time. That is something that we should perhaps reflect on. In any event, if we do reach a consensus to defer a decision, we shall have to decide at the next Council.

mme Faouzia BODMALZA (Algérie): Nous venons d'entendre l'intervention de l'Observateur de Tanzanie; étant donné que la France et la Tanzanie souhaitent toutes les deux héberger le sixième Congrès forestier mondial, il nous semble évident que renvoyer la décision à plus tard ne ferait que reculer la date de la décision, puisque ces deux pays sont tous deux désireux d'héberger ce congrès.

Je partage donc l'avis que vient d'exprimer le délégué de l'Australie, à savoir que le Conseil devrait prendre une décision qui donnerait plus de temps à la préparation de ce Congrès.

Nous voudrions ajouter que les problèmes que connaît l'Afrique en matière de déforestation et de désertification sont des problèmes aigus qui exigent que notre Conseil se penche sérieusement sur la décision à prendre.

Il y a aussi le fait que l'Afrique n'a jamais hébergé ce Congrès. Il serait donc souhaitable que le Conseil tienne compte de cet élément. Cela étant dit, notre délégation, comme bon nombre d'autres délégations, serait embarrassée d'avoir à choisir entre deux amis. Nous avons réfléchi très sérieusement à la question, et compte tenu des arguments que je viens de donner, notre décision irait vers le choix de la Tanzanie. C'est pourquoi je souhaite lancer un appel amical à la France pour qu'elle se désiste en faveur de la Tanzanie. Peut-être le Conseil pourrait-il tenir compte de toutes les dispositions qu'a prises la France et que la Tanzanie serait prête à associer la France à la Préparation d'un Congrès, de même que la France était prête à associer l'Afrique à la préparation de ce même Congrès.

LE PRESIDENT: La tradition veut que le choix de la tenue d'un Congrès se fasse par consensus. Je, crois qu'il serait endommageable pour nous tous que nous ne suivions pas cette tradition. C'est une chose pour l'universalité de notre organisation et je pense que nous devons avoir cela à l'esprit.

Stanley Munkindia GUANTAI (Kenya): My delegation wishes to join in this debate only to urge that there should be time given so that this Council can reach a consensus. We agree with the delegations of France, Libya and Italy, when they said there is need to have discussions between the various countries which have offered, and for the secretariat to follow up these three countries and reach a proper decision which could be given to the Council to decide. I believe that those six months would not be wasted because those countries would be preparing and making contingency plans. The secretariat would be able to give a decision and therefore no time would be wasted.

LE PRESIDENT: Par tradition, nous souhaitons vivement que le choix d'un tel lieu se fasse par consensus. Si vous en convenez, nous pourrions laisser un peu de temps aux délégués pour qu'ils se mettent en contact et pour que le Directeur général puisse mieux préciser les applications de ce Congrès.

Si un consensus a lieu entre les sessions du Conseil, nous en serons très heureux et nous entérinerons ce consensus. Sinon, il faudra arriver à prendre une décision finale au Conseil de juin, quelle qu'en soit la modalité. Il restera un an et demi. Cela n'empêchera pas, comme l'a dit le délégué du Kenya, que les pays hôtes éventuels continuent à se préparer. Nous essaierons d'éviter d'introduire une procédure nouvelle qui ne serait pas tout à fait appropriée. Si, entre-temps, un pays se désiste, nous aurons alors un consensus et nous pourrions féliciter aussi bien le pays qui va nous recevoir que le pays qui va se désister.

Le Conseil accepte-t-il de laisser du temps au pays amis hôtes éventuels pour qu'ils se mettent d'accord? Nous pourrions accepter cette proposition en demandant au Secrétariat de bien vouloir approfondir le dossier.

- 20.4 Changes in Representation of Member Nations of the Programme and Finance Committees
20.4 Modifications de la représentation des Etats Membres au Comité du programme et au Comité financier
20.4 Cambios en la representación de los Estados Miembros en los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Monsieur le Président, comme vous venez de le dire et comme l'Indique l'ordre du jour, ce point est présenté au Conseil pour information. Le document CL 94/INF/9 indique les changements intervenus dans la représentation des Etats Membres au sein du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier depuis la dernière session du Conseil.

Au sein du Comité du Programme, M. Earl William Weybrecht a pris la place de M. George Henry Musgrove en tant que Représentant du Canada, et S. E. Roberto E. Dalton a remplacé S. E. Carlos O. Keller Sarmiento comme Représentant de l'Argentine.

En ce qui concerne le Comité financier, S. E. Gian Luigi Valenza a remplacé S. E. Elio Pascarelli en tant que Représentant de l'Italie; M. Alan Charles Smart a remplacé M. David Lawrence Coutts en tant que Représentant de l'Australie et S. E. Fred J. Eckert a pris la place de M. John P. Jurecky en tant que Représentant des Etats-Unis d'Amérique.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Todos sabemos que de acuerdo con las modificaciones que se introdujeron en el año 1977 sobre la manera en que los miembros de los Comités podrían ser reemplazados por sus Gobiernos, hay ocasiones en que estos cambios son temporales y, en otras, definitivos. Como es costumbre, proponemos que el Consejo diga que se agradece a los miembros salientes los servicios que prestaron en esos Comités y se dé la bienvenida a los nuevos miembros.

LE PRESIDENT: C'est exactement ce que je comptais proposer.

Nous remercions chaleureusement les membres qui ont quitté définitivement le Comité du Programme de leur contribution en souhaitant la bienvenue à ceux qui viennent de les remplacer.

- 20.5 Otherquestions
20.5 Autres questions
20.5 Otras cuestiones

LE PRESIDENT: Y a-t-il des questions inscrites? Non.

- VI. OTHER MATTERS
VI. QUESTIONS DIVERSES
VI. OTROS ASUNTOS

21. Date and Place of the Ninety-fifth Session of the Council
21. Date et lieu de la quatre-vingt-quinzième session du Conseil
21. Fecha y lugar de celebración del 95º periodo de sesiones del "Consejo"

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: La question de la date du prochain Conseil a déjà été réglée au cours du débat sur le point 18 de l'ordre du jour puisque le Conseil a décidé que la prochaine session se déroulera du lundi 19 juin au vendredi 30 juin 1989, le lieu étant le siège de Rome.

22. Any Other Business
22. Autres questions
22. Otras cuestiones

LE PRESIDENT: Nous arrivons à la fin de nos débats. Nous allons laisser tout le poids du travail aux membres du Comité de rédaction. Nous allons leur laisser un temps suffisant pour travailler et nous nous réunirons demain matin à 10 h 30.

Il semble qu'il n'y ait pas d'observations.

The meeting rose at 12.30 hours.

La séance est levée à 12 h 30.

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.30 horas.

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CL

CL 94/PV/16

Ninety-fourth Session

Quatre-vingt-quatorzième session

94º período de sesiones

SIXTEENTH PLENARY MEETING SEIZIEMESEANCE PLENIERE 16ª SESION PLENARIA

(25 November 1988)

The Sixteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 10.45 hours,

Lassaad Ben Osman, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

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

Se abre la 16ª sesión plenaria a las 10.45 horas, bajo la presidencia
Lassaad Ben Osman, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

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

Je dois vous signaler que le Comité de rédaction n'a pas fini son travail; il a fait quatre rapports sur six, et nous disposons des documents REP/1, REP/2, REP/3, REP/4. Les réunions du comité de rédaction ont été très longues. Je suppose que si l'on fait le décompte des heures du Comité de rédaction, on ne doit pas être loin du décompte des heures de notre Conseil. Ceci laisse à penser que les discussions ont été très approfondies et nous pouvons pratiquement être assurés que chaque mot a été souppesé, ce qui probablement facilitera la tâche du Conseil. Toujours est-il qu'au moment où je vous parle le Comité de rédaction est encore en réunion.

La tradition veut que le Président du Comité de rédaction soit présent dans la salle, ainsi que les membres du Comité, pour défendre son rapport, car la tradition veut également que s'il n'y a pas de modification de fond dans le texte du Comité de rédaction, les membres du Comité sont censés l'avoir approuvé et le défendre.

Nous avons eu une session un peu spéciale en tant que Conseil. Vous avez été très volontaristes. Vous avez fait cinq séances supplémentaires jusqu'à maintenant, et nous serons amenés à avoir d'autres séances supplémentaires. Aujourd'hui, nous travaillerons le temps qu'il faudra, peut-être jusqu'à dix heures du soir. Tout dépend évidemment de la disponibilité des interprètes.

Je demanderai donc au Secrétaire général si nous pouvons disposer des interprètes toute la journée d'aujourd'hui. Il est certain que nous aurons une séance qui risquera d'être décalée du fait que le Comité de rédaction n'a pas encore fini ses travaux. Je vais donc demander au Secrétaire général si les interprètes sont disponibles.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Le secrétariat fera tout le nécessaire pour s'assurer qu'il y aura un Service d'interprétation pour le Comité de rédaction tant qu'il sera en séance, ainsi que pour le Conseil lui-même, si le Conseil décide de prolonger ses séances jusqu'à ce soir. Par conséquent, le Service d'interprétation est à votre disposition pour toute disposition que vous souhaiterez.

Je voudrais vous informer que le Comité de rédaction est encore en discussion sur un certain nombre de points de l'Ordre du Jour: les points 13, 15, 16, 19, 20.1.; il siège depuis 9 h.30 ce matin.

LE PRESIDENT: Ainsi donc les points en discussion au Comité de rédaction sont les suivants: 13, 15, 16, 19, 20.1.

Comme vous le savez, certaines Délégations ne sont composées que d'un seul Délégué; et certaines d'entre elles sont membres du Comité de rédaction. Je demande donc au Conseil son avis: compte tenu de ce que les rapports actuellement disponibles ont été étudiés, pouvons-nous, tout en laissant le Comité de rédaction travailler, discuter des rapports 1, 2, 3, A. Bien entendu, s'il y a des modifications de fond sur la rédaction, nous ne pourrons rien faire tant que les membres du Comité de rédaction, qui ont approuvé le texte, ne seront pas là et ne nous aurons pas donné leur point de vue. Mais s'il y a des modifications de simple forme, nous pourrons en parler et aller de l'avant.

Il y a une autre possibilité: ce serait d'enregistrer les modifications de fond éventuelles, en attendant que le Comité de rédaction soit disponible.

J'aimerais avoir la réaction du Conseil; nous sommes effectivement devant un choix: pouvons-nous, avec votre autorisation, analyser les rapports 1, 2, 3, A et consigner les modifications de fond éventuelles pour discussion ultérieure avec le Comité de rédaction?

Si vous n'y voyez pas d'inconvénient, nous pourrions adopter cette méthode. En êtes-vous d'accord ? Merci.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

ADOPTION OF REPORT

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT

APROBACION DEL INFORME

DRAFT REPORT - PART I

PROJET DE RAPPORT - PREMIERE PARTIE

PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE I

LE PRESIDENT: Nous allons donc analyser le point CL 94/REP/1. Je vais prendre les paragraphes les uns après les autres

PARAGRAPHS 1 to 10

PARAGRAPHERS 1 à 10

PARRAFOS 1 a 10

Paragraph 1 approved.

Le paragraphe 1 est approuvé

El párrafo 1 es aprobado

Paragraph 2 approved

Le paragraphe 2 est approuvé

El párrafo 2 es aprobado

Paragraphs 3 to 4 approved

Les paragraphes 3 à 4 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 3 a 4 son aprobados

Paragraphs 5 to 10 approved

Les paragraphes 5 à 10 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 5 a 10 son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 11 to 14

PARAGRAPHERS 11 à 14

PARRAFOS 11 a 14

András SZABO (Hungary): In paragraph 14 "the Democratic Republic of Germany" is referred to. According to my knowledge the official title is the German Democratic Republic. So I would be happy if it could be corrected accordingly.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous en prenons note et la correction sera faite.

Paragraphs 11 to 14 as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 11 à 14 ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 11 a 14 así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 15 to 28

PARAGRAPHERS 15 á 28

PARRAFOS 15 a 28

LE RESIDIERT: Le paragraphe 15 est approuvé. Paragraphe 16.

Gonzalo BULA HOTOS (Colombia): En el texto castellano, en el párrafo 16, al principio de la tercera frase, se habla de "fuga de capitales". Hemos comparado el texto inglés, y es correcta la expresión en inglés, pero no en castellano. Por favor, rogamos que se adapte al texto inglés.

Joao Augusto de MEDIC IS (Brazil): I have some substantive changes here. First, on the second line of the English text, starting from the first line, "would become a lost decade for many developing countries", I suggest we change that to "most developing countries", because I do not know of many developing countries that developed during this occasion. So I propose that we either cut "many" or change "many" for "most".

Second, in the ninth line, the sentence that starts "The Council, in general, urged that countries undertaking economic adjustments be rewarded through significant concessions on debt...", I move that we are not the International Monetary Fund to establish whose countries should be rewarded with some concessions if they take economic adjustments. So I propose that those rewards be given to all developing countries, so that we change the sentence to "The Council, in general, urged that developing countries be rewarded through significant concessions..."

LE PRESIDENT: S'agissant du premier point, à savoir mettre "la plupart" au lieu de "beaucoup", le Conseil est-il d'accord ? Il ne semble pas y avoir de problème.

Sur le second point, comme c'est un point de fond, je vous propose d'attendre le Comité de rédaction pour avoir son avis. Nous disons donc que le paragraphe 16 est approuvé sous réserve de ce membre de phrase pour lequel nous demanderons la réaction du Comité de rédaction. Paragraphe 17.

Rudolf de POURTALES (Suisse): Sur les trois dernières lignes du paragraphe 17: "et a souligné qu'il importe que la FAO travaille en collaboration étroite avec d'autres organisations multilatérales", je pense que l'on pourrait rajouter "et bilatérales"; cela a été mentionné par plusieurs délégations.

LE PRESIDENT: Il n'y a pas d'objections à cet ajout ? dans ces conditions là nous pouvons considérer le paragraphe 17, comme approuvé. Paragraphe 18.

Bernard LEDUN (France): Je souhaiterais proposer un ajout, mais je ne sais s'il est recevable maintenant ou ultérieurement. Il s'agit d'un addendum que je propose pour le paragraphe 18, et qui interviendrait après la description d'un certain nombre de mesures d'ajustement prises dans certains pays, en ce qui concerne leur politique agricole. Je proposerais que l'on rajoute après la phrase "et pour promouvoir une amélioration et une stabilisation des marchés", une phrase qui se lirait de la façon suivante: "le Conseil a pris acte des mesures décidées par la CEE dans le cadre de la politique agricole commune, ainsi que des résultats obtenus vers un meilleur équilibre entre offre et demande, en vue de contribuer pour ce qui la concerne, à l'assainissement des marchés agricoles au niveau mondial."

LE PRESIDENT: Je voudrais avoir la réaction du Conseil sur ces points précis; ce sont deux points peut-être parallèles; j'aurais personnellement une suggestion à formuler au Conseil. Pour ne pas avoir à prendre position sur une question de fond, peut-être pourrions-nous dire: "le Conseil a pris acte des mesures décidées par la CEE dans le cadre de la politique agricole commune ainsi que des résultats qu'elle a annoncés à cet égard."

Dans ces conditions, nous laissons l'ensemble de cette déclaration sous la responsabilité de la CEE. Nous avons enregistré avec beaucoup d'intérêt une communication très importante; c'est l'idée qui vous intéresse mais c'est sous la responsabilité de la CEE; nous pouvons le rajouter mais sans avoir nous-mêmes à prendre position quant au fond sur les résultats qui découlent de cet assainissement.

La France est-elle d'accord?

Bernard LEDUN (France): Tout-à-fait d'accord, c'est acceptable par nous.

Earl W. WEYBRECBT (Canada): I would just like to add a little precision to the point right in the middle of the paragraph where reference is made to, "The Council urged all concerned parties to ensure that significant progress be achieved at the forthcoming mid-term review of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations (MTN)." We would propose to add in simply after "mid-term review" "in Montreal" of the Uruguay Round

Sra. Monica DEREGIBUS (Argentina): Nosotros preferiríamos que, tomando en cuenta su formulación, modificando la de la Delegación de Francia, se dijera que "el Consejo fue informado de las medidas decididas por la CEE." Por otra parte, creemos que, si nosotros entendimos bien, la ubicación que Francia pide es a continuación de donde dice "en los esfuerzos por contribuir a la mejora y estabilización de los mercados." Pero luego hay una frase que continua, porque dice: "A este

respecto, algunos países en desarrollo indicaron"; o sea, que cortaría el hilo del argumento. Yo creo que tendríamos que buscarle otra ubicación, que podría ser, por ejemplo, después que se menciona al Grupo Cairns, que también es una comunicación que se ha hecho al Consejo. Me parece que podría ser más adecuado, y tal vez la Delegación de Francia podría considerarlo.

Bernard LEDUN (France): Il n'y a pas d'inconvénient majeur; on pourrait dans ces conditions proposer l'insertion à la fin de la phrase qui commence par: "à ce propos, certains pays en voie de développement, etc... où ils se trouvent"; c'est à cet endroit là que l'on pourrait insérer ce membre de phrase.

LE PRESIDENT: Pour revenir à l'observation de Monsieur le Délégué du Canada, il faisait une précision qui éclaire le texte sans le modifier, on peut donc l'approuver et passer au paragraphe 19.

Joao Augusto DE MEDICIS (Brazil): I have two points. Firstly, I would like to support what has been said by the delegate of Argentina. Rather than "The Council noted" "The Council was informed". I think that would be more representative of what happened here.

Secondly, after this sentence that says, "In this connection, some developing countries pointed out the difficulties which they encountered in organizing their policies owing to the climatic and ecological conditions prevailing in their countries." We should add, and I read, "coupled with an inadequate and perverse international economic environment". I think that it is not only the internal conditions of those countries that made it difficult for them to organize the policies, but rather the international economic environment. Therefore, I move that we add that sentence.

LE PRESIDENT: Si j'ai bien compris, les observations du délégué du Brésil sont de deux natures. La première, c'est que, dans l'ajout proposé par le délégué de la France, on remplace: "a pris acte" par "a été informé". Si le délégué de la France n'y voit pas d'objection, nous pourrions retenir cela.

Dans sa deuxième observation, le délégué du Brésil propose que l'on ajoute un membre de phrase, après "conditions climatiques et écologiques où ils se trouvent". J'aimerais que le délégué du Brésil donne sa rédaction exacte pour que le Conseil se prononce à ce sujet.

Joao Augusto DE MEDICIS (Brazil): I read, "coupled with an inadequate and perverse International economic environment".

LE PRESIDENT: Le délégué du Brésil suggère que l'on ajoute: "et d'un environnement international inapproprié et pervers".

Bernard LEDUN (France): "Pervers" me paraît tout de même un qualificatif un peu rude. Je pense que nous pourrions y préférer un qualificatif du genre d'"inapproprié".

LE PRESIDENT: Mais il est déjà dit "inapproprié".

Bernard LEDUN (France): Alors "néfaste".

Joao Augusto DE MEDICIS (Brazil): Although the situation is rude for developing countries, I would accept that we change "perverse" for "adverse". It is not rude for developed countries but it is rude for developing countries.

John Redman GOLDSACK (United Kingdom): I think this introduces another idea and is therefore a matter of substance and should be referred to the Drafting Committee.

LE PRESIDENT: Je crois que l'on peut effectivement ajouter cela à la liste des questions à poser au Comité de rédaction.

Rudolf de POURTALES (Suisse): La version française de la première phrase du paragraphe 18 ne reflète pas exactement la traduction de la version anglaise. En effet, "le Conseil a déploré la persistance d'une forte protection de l'agriculture" peut paraître une phrase un peu étrange provenant du Conseil de la FAO. Dans la version anglaise, il s'agit de protectionnisme. Je suggère donc la traduction suivante: "Le Conseil a déploré la persistance d'un niveau élevé de protectionnisme dans l'agriculture".

LE PRESIDENT: Je pense que cette remarque est judicieuse. Paragraphe 19? Paragraphe 20? Approuvé. Paragraphe 21? Approuvé. Paragraphe 22.

Gonzalo BOLA HOYOS (Colombia): Nos parece un poco extraña la tercera frase del párrafo 22 que dice: "El incremento de la producción agropecuaria de 1988 había sido también particularmente decepcionante en la región de América Latina y el Caribe".

Si hubiera existido un incremento sin calificación, esto no hubiera sido decepcionante. Convendrá decir: el limitado incremento.

LE RESIDENT: Je crois que nous pourrions retenir la suggestion du délégué de la Colombie. Moyennant cette observation, nous pouvons considérer que le Paragraphe 22 est approuvé. Paragraphe 23? Approuvé. Paragraphe 24? Approuvé. Paragraphe 25.

Joao augusto DE MEDICIS (Brazil): I do not want to reopen the issues here but I think we are trying to transform environmental issues, but not in itself a means of controlling development of developing countries. I think we should balance it better with the development measures themselves, rather than have it agreed that environmental issues must be fully integrated, and development strategy has been recommended by the World Commission on Environment and Development. The World Commission on Environment and Development recommends a lot of things that have not been taken care of here also. Looking at the international economic environment, for example, nobody cares about that. Therefore, I suggest that we use an expression that has been already approved by the UN General Assembly in resolution 42/186, and I read "It is agreed that environmental issues were closely intertwined with development policies and practices and, consequently, environmental goals and actions needed to be defined in relation to development objectives and policies".

LE PRESIDENT: Je propose aux délégués qui ont des modifications à apporter de bien vouloir les lire lentement afin que nous ayons une discussion plus efficace.

Le délégué du Brésil aurait-il l'amabilité de nous lire sa rédaction aussi lentement que possible ?

Joao Augusto de MEDICIS (Brazil): As I mentioned in my speech we do not want to start having definitions in environment issues in every and each organization so my idea is to use an expression already approved by the United Nations General Assembly by consensus so I read "It agreed that environmental issues are closely intertwined with development policies and practices; and consequently environment goals and actions needed to be defined in relation to development objectives and policies".

LE PRESIDENT: Je vais relire la proposition du délégué du Brésil. Il suggère que l'on remplace la deuxième phrase du paragraphe 25 par ce qui suit: "il a reconnu que les questions d'environnement sont étroitement entrelacées avec les politiques et pratiques de développement; en conséquence, les objectifs et mesures doivent être définis en tenant compte des politiques et des objectifs de développement".

Je crois que cette rédaction est équilibrée et que nous pouvons retenir cette proposition du délégué du Brésil.

Bernard LEDUN (France): Nous ne sommes pas tout à fait d'accord. Il s'agit tout de même d'une question de substance qui pourrait nécessiter un droit de regard du Comité de rédaction lui-même. D'autre part, il me semble qu'il s'agit d'un paragraphe qui est largement orienté vers les problèmes de défense de l'environnement que la proposition brésilienne d'addendum vient tant soit peu altérer.

En ce qui nous concerne, nous estimons qu'il s'agit là d'une question un peu trop grave pour être arrêtée dès maintenant.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous plaçons donc cette question parmi celles qui seront analysées en présence du Comité de rédaction.

Le paragraphe 25 est donc approuvé sous réserve que cette question soit analysée en présence du Comité de rédaction. Nous passons au paragraphe 26.

Leo GRANBERG (Finland): There is one change I would like to make to this paragraph 26 concerning this second last sentence. This sentence mentions "The temporary increase in international prices recorded in 1988 had been limited to a few agricultural commodities." Firstly, it is a bit too early to call this price increase temporary because this is a matter of future developments. So far, certain prices have increased, most of them staying on a relatively high level and we do not know today if and when they will start to decline. Thus, the word "temporary" should perhaps be cancelled.

Secondly, it seems not to be in line with our discussions to say that the increases had been limited to a few agricultural commodities. There have also been contrary developments, but rather many prices have, however, been increasing and here I can refer to the introduction of this item by Mr Hjort and also to Council Document CL 94/2 Sup. 1 paragraph 59, "For most major traded commodities, average quotations for the whole of 1988 are likely to exceed, in some cases by considerable margins, the average of 1987." The document mentions wheat, rice, coffee, sugar. It could be added at least maize and dairy products. So to be in line with our document and discussions, I would like to propose that the two last sentences should be formulated somewhat differently, for example, in the following manner: "Increasing international prices have been recorded for several commodities in 1988", and then between the sentences "however", the word "however". "Increasing international prices had been recorded for several commodities in 1988, however, prices of some commodities or matters of interest to developing countries had remained depressed".

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Creo que podríamos aceptar la propuesta de Finlandia, pero con la modificación de que se diga: "Unos pocos productos agrícolas". Ya que no creemos que sea la gran mayoría, lo demás no nos ofrece dificultades.

LE PRESIDENT: Monsieur le délégué de la Colombie, voudriez-vous répéter votre amendement?

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): El colega de Finlandia se refirió a que en 1988 se había producido un incremento en muchos productos. Poner: unos pocos.

Sra. Monica DEREGIBUS (Argentina): Desearíamos que se volviera a leer la frase completa a velocidad de dictado, ya que no la tenemos clara.

LE PRESIDENT: Un amendement a été proposé par le délégué de la Colombie, qui veut remplacer "divers" par "un petit nombre" ou "nombre limité" ? Le délégué de la Finlande retient-il cela ?

Leo GRANBERG (Finland): It was mentioned in our document "for most major traded commodities" so I do not think we can say "a few", maybe some other word but not "a few".

Gonzalo BOLA. HOTOS (Colombia): Podríamos decir: algunos. Several en inglés?.

Leo GRANBERG (Finland): "Several" is all right.

Thomas YANGA (Cameroun): Il s'agit de la dernière phrase. Le délégué de la Finlande a proposé qu'elle commence par "cependant". Je voudrais qu'il soit noté, dans cette dernière phrase, qu'il s'agit du cours extrêmement déprimé de certains produits.

LE PRESIDENT. Le délégué du Cameroun a proposé de mettre: "les cours extrêmement déprimés de certains produits très importants". Si le Conseil n'y voit pas d'objection, nous pourrions retenir ces termes.

Sra Mónica DEREGIBUS (Argentina): Disculpe que intervenga Sr. Presidente, en el español esta frase no tiene sentido. No hemos visto todavía el texto inglés, pero como digo no tiene sentido que se diga: el alza de los precios se habían mantenido bajos. Esto es absurdo y voy a tratar de encontrar el texto inglés.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous ajusterons les termes selon l'idée telle que proposée ici. Cela donne: "La hausse éphémère des cours internationaux enregistrée en 1988 pour quelques produits agricoles...". Le Secrétariat s'organisera pour ajuster le texte.

Quant à la dernière phrase, le délégué du Cameroun propose de la rédiger de la façon suivante: "Les cours très déprimés de certains produits très importants pour les pays en développement ont continué à stagner". Si le Conseil en convient, nous pourrions retenir cette rédaction.

Michael J. RYAN (Australia): It is just on that last sentence. It does not really make sense to say if prices are already at extremely low levels then they remain depressed, so I would suggest that we put the word "extremely" in front of depressed and leave it as it is, "Prices of some commodities of major interest to developing countries had remained extremely depressed". That makes sense to me, in English anyhow.

LE PRESIDENT: Si le délégué l'accepte, nous pourrions dire: "Les cours de certains produits très importants pour les pays en développement sont restés extrêmement déprimés".

Nous passons au paragraphe 27.

Endoolph de POURTALES (Suisse): J'aurais une petite remarque à faire à propos du paragraphe 27. Dans la version française de ce paragraphe, la phrase qui commence au bas de la page et qui se lit comme suit: "D'un autre côté les annonces d'aide non privilégiée ont fortement baissé en 1987", me semble un peu difficile à comprendre. En anglais, on parle de "non-concessional commitments". La traduction de ces mots ne me paraît pas très claire dans la version française.

LE PRESIDENT: Avez-vous une suggestion faire au Comité de rédaction, comme nous l'avons fait dans le case du "protectionnisme"?

Endolph de FOURTALES (Suisse): On pourrait peut-être dire "les annonces d'engagement non privilégié ont fortement baissé". "Commitment", c'est plutôt "engagement" qu'"aide".

LE PRESIDENT: Il me semble que ce texte est clair. Nous avons donc ce qui suit: "les annonces d'aide multilatérale à des conditions de faveur annoncées par les pays développés ont augmenté en nombre et en valeur en 1987".

Philippe PIOTET (France): Je préférerais les termes "non concessionnelles" aux termes "non privilégiées".

LE PRESIDENT: Pouvez-vous lire votre rédaction ?

Philippe PIOTET (France): Je propose de remplacer les mots "non privilégiées" par les mots "non concessionnelles".

LE PRESIDENT: Nous avons donc la phrase suivante: "les annonces d'aide non concessionnelles ont fortement baissé en 1987".

Je pense donc que, compte tenu de cette modification, le paragraphe 27 est approuvé.

Paragraphs 15 to 28 not concluded

Les paragraphes 15-28 sont en suspens

Los párrafos 15-28 quedan pendientes

Nous passons maintenant au Point 12 de l'Ordre du jour sur la situation financière de l'Organisation.

Paragraphs 29 to 33 approved

Les paragraphes 29 à 33 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 29 a 33 son aprobados

PARAGRAPH 34

PARAGRAPHE 34

PARRAFO 34

András SZABO (Hungary): I may have failed to listen carefully to the discussions but the figure referred to in CL 94/REP/1 is different from the actual arrears of contributions. In the second line of paragraph 34 a figure of US\$ 56 315 000 and in LIM/1 it is US\$ 56 342 665. I think we should correct the figure accordingly.

D.K. CROWTHER (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department): We have received some additional moneys since that point in time so the last figure that you see is the accurate one.

LE PRESIDENT: J'espère que ce chiffre continuera à baisser.

Paragraph 34 approved

Le paragraphe 34 est approuvé

El párrafo 34 es aprobado

Paragraph 35 approved

Le paragraphe 35 est approuvé

El párrafo 35 es aprobado

Paragraph 36 approved

Le paragraphe 36 est approuvé

El párrafo 36 es aprobado

PARAGRAPHS 37 to 39

PARAGRAHES 37 á 39

PARRAFOS 37 á 39

Sra. Ana María Navarro (Cuba): Analizando este párrafo y para que refleje fidedignamente el sentido de nuestros debates, nosotros proponemos añadir, después de la palabra "atrasadas", añadir: "principalmente del mayor contribuyente". Y después seguiría igual... "que abonaran urgentemente las cantidades".

Ms Roberta VAN HAEFTEN (United States of America): This is an item that we would like to have considered when the Drafting Committee returns.

Paragraphs 37 to 39 non concluded

Les paragraphes 37 á 39 sont en suspens

Los párrafos 37 a 39 quedan pendientes

LE PRESIDENT: Nous avons donc approuvé le REP/1 sauf les paragraphes suivants:

Le paragraphe 16 pour lequel il a été demandé d'améliorer l'avant-dernière phrase: "Le Conseil instamment demandé"

Le paragraphe 18 dans lequel il y a un ajout en ce qui concerne l'environnement économique, proposé par le délégué du Brésil.

Et le paragraphe 25 également en ce qui concerne l'environnement tout court, et enfin le paragraphe 39.

Nous allons renvoyer ces paragraphes au Comité de rédaction.

Draft Report, Part I, not concluded

Le projet de rapport - partie I est en suspens

El Proyecto de Informe - parte I, queda pendiente

DRAFT REPORT - PART II

PROJET DE RAPPORT - DEUXIEME PARTIE

PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE II

LE PRESIDENT: Nous passons maintenant au REP/2, avec le Point 4 de l'Ordre du jour.

PARAGRAPHS 4 to 11

PARAGRAPHERS 4 á 11

PARRAFOS 4 a 11

LE PRESIDENT: Le paragraphe 1 est approuvé. Paragraphe 2.

Bernard LEDUN (Trance): Je crois que dans le paragraphe 2 il y a une erreur. Dans la version française du texte il y a le chiffre de 120.000 millions de dollars. Je crois qu'il y a trois zéros de trop.

LE PRESIDENT: Vous avez tout à fait raison il s'agit bien de 120 millions de dollars. L'article 2 est approuvé, moyennant la réduction de 3 zéros.

Paragraphs A to 11 as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 4 à 11 ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 4 a 11 así enmendados, son aprobados

C H. BONTE-FRIEDHEIM (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): I just would like to bring to the attention of Council that the Second Committee of the General Assembly this week has approved a Resolution which was supported by 60 countries plus Zaïre speaking for all of the African countries and Belgium speaking for all of the EEC countries. It is a long Resolution which has seven operative paragraphs and which requests the Director-General of the FAO to undertake a number of things, together with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, plus FAO. The Resolution is available and any member of Council who would like to have a copy of it can ask either Mr Brader or myself. In principle, it supports exactly what the Council has been discussing and what is in the report which you have just approved. We have it only in English. The telefax transmitted only the English version.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie M. Bonte-Friedheim pour cette information précieuse.

Nous passons au Point 6 de l'ordre du jour: rapport de la 9ème session du comité des forêts.

PARAGRAPHS 12 to 18

PARAGRAPHES 12 à 18

PARRAFOS 12 a 18

Les paragraphes 12, 13 et 14 sont approuvés.

Joao Augusto de MEDICIS (Brazil): What I have to say is not really about paragraph 14 or about paragraph 15, it comes in between.

My delegation would propose that we include a new paragraph that reflects what has been said here by a number of member countries regarding the responsibilities not only of those countries which have forest resources but also of the developing countries so as to create an international atmosphere and prevent the developing countries from over-exhausting their forest resources. I would propose that we include a paragraph saying:

"The Council furthermore recognized that the international community should also be aware of its responsibility towards developing countries and help create an economic environment that will allow them to accomplish socio-economic development without having to resort to activities that might endanger their ecological systems in general and their forest resources in particular."

LE PRESIDENT: Je voudrais que cette rédaction soit transmise au Comité de rédaction pour qu'elle soit examinée avant de venir dans notre Conseil. C'est une idée très importante mais il faut qu'elle soit présentée au Comité de rédaction avant de venir ici.

Moyennant quoi, le paragraphe 14 est approuvé. Les paragraphes 15 et 16 sont adoptés. Nous passons au paragraphe 17.

John Redman GOLDSACK (United Kingdom): Referring to the fourth line, I thought the essence of our discussion was that we would encourage FAO "to continue to increase the coordination", not just "to continue the coordination". Therefore, the verb "to increase" should be included there.

LE PRESIDENT: Quelle phrase?

John Redman GOLDSACK (United Kingdom): The second sentence, fourth line of paragraph 17.

LE PRESIDENT: Vous dites: accroître la coordination des activités agricoles et forestières, que l'on ajouterait après la deuxième phrase du paragraphe 17.

John Redman GOLDSACK (United Kingdom): I am not suggesting that FAO has not coordinated, but we wanted an increased coordination.

J.P. LANLY (Sous-Directeur général, Département des Forêts): Dans cette deuxième phrase dans la version française il faut dire: foresterie paysanne. Foresterie tout seul n'a pas de sens.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous pouvons accepter la correction du Royaume-Uni: cette observation est judicieuse. Quant à la foresterie, "foresterie paysanne" est le terme technique.

Nous passons au paragraphe 18.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Es solo una pregunta. El párrafo 18 hace referencia a que "llegaran a un acuerdo que se comunicaría antes de que terminara el Consejo". Tal vez esto habrá que modificarlo o aparecería modificado en otra parte del Informe.

J.P. LANLY (Sous-Directeur général, Département des Forêts): Il y a en fait au point 22 de l'Ordre du jour un paragraphe qui finalise la situation concernant le choix du pays hôte pour le Congrès, forestier mondial, qui sera analysé au Point 20.2.

LE PRESIDENT: Il est plus logique de l'ajouter ici pour avoir un rapport cohérent, puisque nous avons suspendu la décision, mais c'est le même terme. On pourrait finaliser l'ensemble des décisions de notre Conseil pour que le lecteur puisse trouver tout ce qu'il cherche.

Nous retenons le paragraphe 18 avec cette remarque que nous aurons au Point 20.2 et que nous incorporerons au Rapport à ce chapitre.

Paragraphs 12 to 18 not concluded

Les paragraphes 12 à 28 sont en suspens

Los párrafos 12 a 18 quedan pendientes

PARAGRAPHS 19 to 29

PARAGRAPHEs 19 à 29

PARRAFOS 19 a 29

LE PRESIDENT: Nous passons maintenant au point 12 de la situation financière de l'Organisation: Incidences de la situation financière et mesures éventuelles à prendre pour assurer l'exécution du Programme de travail et budget 1988-89.

Les paragraphes 14 et 18 seront à revoir par le Comité de rédaction. Paragraphes 19 et 20 approuvés. Paragraphe 21.

James AITKEN (United Kingdom): We have a small point of clarification in the fourth and fifth sentences of this paragraph. It is not an item of substance, it is merely to clarify the position. The first addition we would suggest is in the fourth sentence which begins: "Some members suggested that information regarding the breakdown of budget appropriation and expenditure by major programmes be available to the wider membership at this Council Session".

The clarification we should like to suggest be added is after the phrase "expenditure by major programmes". The phrase we would like to insert is: "similar to that provided in Document C 87/LIM/41."

D.K. CROWTHER (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department): Just for clarity it would be useful to add the words "Conference Documents".

James AITKEN (United Kingdom): That is very helpful. We have another amendment now to the following sentence. This is really because of the fact that discussion about the provision of this information actually covered a number of Agenda Items, but it is probably tidier - and makes more sense - to bring it in here. At present the sentence reads: "The secretariat clarified the difficulties of meeting this request." We propose that we then tie this in with the subsequent discussion that we had, and add after "...the difficulties of meeting this request" "...and subsequently agreed this information would be provided to the Finance Committee".

LE PRESIDENT: On ajouterait après: "... La satisfaction de cette demande", "il est convenu ultérieurement que cette information serait fournie au Comité financier".

D.K. CROWTHER (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department): Yes, there is no problem.

LE PRESIDENT: Vos remarques sont approuvées.

Sra. Monica DEREGIBUS (Argentina): La ultima frase dice, y creo debe haber sido un error: "el Consejo tomo nota de la posición al respecto". Será que toma nota de la situación porque no sabemos de qué posición habla, si de la posición de la Secretaría o de los Miembros que pidieron o de la situación se tomó nota y punto.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous demanderons au Secrétariat d'ajuster les rédactions. Les paragraphes-21 et 22 sont approuvés. Nous passons au paragraphe 23.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Hemos leído con atención la tercera frase del párrafo 23 en tres idiomas. El original es en inglés y habla de "Welcome", en francés se dice algo de felicidad y en español se deforma aun más la traducción diciendo: "se congratuló". Proponemos que en el texto castellano se diga: "tomó nota con satisfacción". Tomó nota con satisfacción no es nada polémico sino realista.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous pouvons peut-être retenir la solution de la Colombie.

Joao de MEDICIS (Brazil): I think that the paragraph does not actually reflect the situation as we have it at FAO. I suggest we strike out the sentence that contains the words "... severe financial difficulties..." and ends "... by many Member Nations." The sentence would then read "While

recognizing that all Member Nations bore the same responsibility to pay their contributions in a timely manner the Council considered that" and would go on "the greatest impact to the financial situation was caused by delays in payment of its contribution by the major contributor." It is a simple suggestion that reflects the actual situation of the Organization.

Me Roberta VAN HAEPTEN (United States of America): I think that this is another point that should be referred to the Drafting Committee.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous laisserons ce point pour le Comité de rédaction; donc, sous réserve de ce point précis, le paragraphe 23 est retenu.

Mlle Faouzia BOUHAÏZA (Algérie): Je vous prie de m'excuser, Monsieur le Président: lorsqu'on décide de renvo

Dans ces conditions, je reviens sur le paragraphe 23, et il s'agit toujours de cette troisième phrase qui commence par: "le Conseil a été heureux d'apprendre, etc..." Ma remarque concerne la

fin de cette phrase où il est dit: " dans la mesure autorisée par la loi et par des considérations d'importance primordiale".

En premier lieu, je ne comprends pas très bien le sens que l'on a voulu donner à cette phrase. En second lieu, si l'on maintient la phrase telle qu'elle a été rédigée - "le Conseil a été heureux.." - cela signifie que le Conseil est également heureux d'apprendre que les Etats-Unis régleront cette question financière dans la mesure où cela sera autorisé par la loi.

Or, je pense que le Conseil n'a pas à exprimer cette idée là. Cette idée a été exprimée par le Représentant des Etats-Unis; il me semble donc qu'il faudrait commencer la phrase par: "le Conseil a été informé par le Représentant des Etats-Unis d'Amérique" et la laisser telle quelle, puis on mettrait: "le Conseil a également été informé par le Représentant des Etats-Unis d'Amérique" sans changement.

Enfin, si l'on veut marquer que le Conseil a exprimé une quelconque opinion, on pourrait mettre: "le Conseil a pris note de ces mesures positives".

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Il me semble que Madame la Déléguée de l'Algérie a fait une remarque très importante; en effet, on a l'air de dire, ici, que le Conseil est d'accord avec la Délégation américaine, avec le Président des Etats-Unis, de ce que les Etats-Unis feront face à leurs obligations dans les années futures, dans les conditions spécifiées par la loi américaine, et sur la base de considérations politiques.

Ceci a été dit mais relève de la responsabilité de ceux qui l'ont dit. On a l'air de dire que le Conseil est satisfait de cela; cela voudrait dire que le Conseil est satisfait de ce que le paiement des contributions à la FAO est lié à des dispositions législatives des Gouvernements de pays membres et à des considérations politiques.

Il y a donc peut-être lieu de faire une séparation. D'une part, le Conseil a pris note avec plaisir, que les Etats-Unis vont payer; mais quant à la partie disant que le paiement dépendra de la loi et de considérations politiques, il ne me semble pas que le Conseil soit satisfait d'une telle déclaration. Cette déclaration a été faite sous la responsabilité de ceux qui ont pris la parole; je m'excuse d'être intervenu mais cela me semblait très important.

LE PRESIDENT: Y a-t-il une remarque sur ce point précis ? Pouvons-nous écrire ce paragraphe sous cette forme ?

MS Roberta VAN HAEFTEN (United States of America): I think that this is something that should be referred to the Drafting Committee and then brought back.

Datuk Puvanarajah THIAGARAJAH (Malaysia): I think that nothing would be lost by totally deleting paragraph 23 because it makes no difference. If we try to alter it, it looks as though we agreed to, or we were unduly pressing on the US Government. What his Excellency the Ambassador explained was only how this works and it was only for our information, and as such need not be reflected in this report. I am of the opinion that the total exclusion of paragraph 23 will not alter what we have said.

LE PRESIDENT: De toute façon la question sera revue au niveau du Comité de rédaction.

Paragraphs 24 to 29 approved

Les paragraphes 24 à 29 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 24 a 29 son aprobados

En conclusion le document CL 94/REP/2 a été examiné et le paragraphe 23 sera à revoir par le Comité de rédaction.

Paragraphs 19 to 29 not concluded

Les paragraphes 19 à 29 sont en suspens

Los párrafos 19 a 29 quedan pendientes

Draft Report - Part II, not concluded

Le projet de rapport - Partie II est en suspens

El Proyecto de Informe - Parte II queda pendiente

DRAFT REPORT - PART III

PROJET DE RAPPORT - TROISIEME PARTIE

PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE III

LE PRESIDENT: Nous passons au rapport CL 94/REP/3. Rapport de la troisième session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, Point 5.

PARAGRAPHS 1 to 13

PARAGRAPHERS 1 à 13

PARRAFOS 1 a 13

Paragraphe 1? Approuvé. Paragraphe 2? Approuvé. Paragraphe 3?

Joao Angosto de MEDICIS (Brazil): I have a very simple suggestion concerning the last sentence which reads "Many Members emphasized the need to establish a new international economic order and to implement the World Food Security Compact". I think that the developing countries are the majority here and I think that the developing countries expressed the intention to establish a new economic order. Therefore, I suggest we substitute "most" for "many".

Ms Roberta VAN HAEFTEN (United States of America): We think that this has some substantive implications and would like therefore to discuss the matter when the Drafting Committee returns or refer it to the Drafting Committee.

LE PRESIDENT: Est-ce que le délégué du Brésil accepterait de retenir la rédaction telle quelle.

Joao Augusto de MEDICIS (Brazil): It is a factual point. We are the majority and the majority is 'most'. If it were the developed countries who "emphasized", I should say "many", but it was the developing countries who pressed for that point. Therefore it is not a question of ideology or doctrine, it is a factual point.

Sra. Ana Maria NAVARRO (Cuba): Simplemente, Sr. Presidente, estamos plenamente de acuerdo con el Delegado del Brasil. Fueron muchísimos los Delegados que aquí se manifestaron sobre el nuevo orden económico internacional.

Mb Roberta VAN HAEFTEN (United States of America): We see that there are two different concepts here. The first one is the New Economic International Order and the second one is the World Food Security Compact. I guess it is our reading of the debate that those two things were not supported to the same degree by the delegation here as members of the Council. That is why we think it needs some more discussion and would like to see it go back to the Drafting Committee.

Joao Augusto de MEDICIS (Brazil): If the delegate of the United States will accept a compromise solution perhaps we can say, "Most members emphasized the need to establish a New Economic International Order and most stressed the need to implement the World Food Security Compact". Perhaps that would have her approval - "stress the need to implement".

Ms Roberta VAN HAEFTEN (United States of America): Our reading of the debate was that only a few of the delegations that spoke referred to the implementation of the World Food Security Compact. We can accept the first part of the sentence but not the latter.

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Nous sommes là en train de soulever le problème de "few" et "some"; nous avons noté que trois pays ont parlé du pacte mondial de sécurité alimentaire. Il me semble que trois veut dire "few"; dans ces conditions, dans les autres rapports, lorsqu'il y aura trois, il faudra mettre "few" et non pas "some", car la règle s'applique à tous. Vous allez encore débattre de beaucoup de questions, ce point reviendra toujours; nous avons remarqué qu'il y avait seulement trois Délégations: les Etats-Unis, le Mexique et la Colombie. On me dit qu'il y a Cuba. Si l'on décide que trois veut dire "few", chaque fois qu'il y aura trois, il faudra mettre "few" et non pas "some".

Washington ZUÑIGA TRELLES (Perú): Mi Delegación también habló sobre este tema, y no una vez, sino en reiteradas oportunidades. Además, hay otro hecho: en los documentos que se nos presentaron, han ido estas dos cosas juntas; tanto el nuevo orden económico como el Pacto de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial están unidos en el tema que se nos ha presentado, y, si no, que se revisen los documentos. Eso es lo que quería decir.

E. Wayne DENNEY (United States of America): Certainly our delegation was one that spoke on it but did not by any stretch of the imagination discuss the need to implement it. We thought we were being insufficiently compromising to include the language as it is. If it is going to be any different it must go before the Drafting Committee again.

Michael J. RYAN (Australia): I just wanted to comment on the Director-General's comment there that there is a rule. I know it is always difficult to come down to this precisely, but he did mention that there are a number of important matters that are still before us and will still come on later during today and perhaps this evening. I just wonder are we keeping a score card on all these items. As Peru just pointed out, they were left out of the score card. I caution that we might be trying to be too precise. The rule, as I understand it, is always open to debate. We never know just what constitutes "a few" or "some". So if we have score cards and get down to that point we will argue that out then, but I would like to keep that out of it if we possibly can.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous allons laisser ce paragraphe 3 en discussion pour le Comité de rédaction, s'agissant de la phrase qui commence par: "les participants ont été nombreux..."

Paragraphe 4? Approuvé. Paragraphe 5?

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): La primera frase del párrafo 5, que se atribuye a casi todos los miembros, habla de políticas proteccionistas de "algunos" países desarrollados, y dice que esto causa perjuicio al crecimiento económico y a la seguridad alimentaria mundiales. Son conceptos, a nuestro juicio, muy amplios, Sr. Presidente. Por consiguiente, para fortalecer un poco el texto del informe, proponemos que el párrafo 5 empiece por las palabras "El Consejo manifestó su preocupación". Esto no ofrece dificultad, esperamos.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous sommes en présence d'une suggestion faite par le Délégué de la Colombie; si personne n'y voit d'inconvénient, nous pourrions l'accepter, moyennant quoi le paragraphe 5 est adopté.

Paragraphe 6? Approuvé. Paragraphe 7? Approuvé. Paragraphe 8? Approuvé. Paragraphe 9?

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): La segunda frase del párrafo 9, en su forma actual, es demasiado neutra. Creo que aquí se dijo que esa Conferencia había sido importante, y se destacó la participación de la FAO. Podríamos, simplemente, decir (segunda frase, párrafo 9): "El Consejo observó con satisfacción", para estimular a esos países de América Latina y del Caribe que están adelantando estas actividades.

LE PRESIDENT: Il me semble que le Conseil ne peut qu'être d'accord avec la recommandation de Monsieur le Délégué de Colombie: "il a donc noté avec satisfaction". Moyennant quoi le Conseil est d'accord pour retenir ce paragraphe.

Winston RUDDER (Trinidad and Tobago): A minor modification on paragraph 10, the second last line, I believe it is the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations, not the United Nations Centre for Transnational Corporations.

LE PRÉSIDENT: Après ces rectifications, le texte est accepté donc le paragraphe 10 est approuvé. Paragraphe 11? Approuvé. Paragraphe 12? Approuvé. Paragraphe 13? Approuvé.

Paragraphs 1 to 13 not concluded

Les paragraphes 1 à 13 sont en suspens

Los párrafos 1 a 13 quedan pendientes

PARAGRAPHS 14 to 27

PARAGRAPHS 14 à 27

PARRAFOS 14 a 27

LE PRESIDENT: Nous passons au Point 7 de l'Ordre du jour: "Éléments de politiques, de programmes, du budget et des activités de la FAO visant à favoriser la pérennité du développement". Paragraphe 14? Approuvé. Paragraphe 15? Approuvé. Paragraphe 16? Approuvé. Paragraphe 17?

Joao Augusto de MEDICIS (Brazil): My delegation is not at all happy with the whole of this chapter on Sustainable Development because I think it reflects much more the views of the developed countries than the developing countries and attempts to put, as I said before, environment not as an end in itself but as a means of controlling development. Having said that, let me ask that we include at the end of paragraph 17 the following sentence: "It was furthermore noted that environment issues in developing countries are closely related to their economic difficulties, and political will on the part of all countries is needed to find permanent solutions to allow those countries to cope with the basic needs of the people and also to preserve their natural resources for future generations."

LE PRESIDENT: Nous donnerons ce texte au Secretariat qui le transmettra au Comité de rédaction. Le paragraphe 17 est donc approuvé et cet ajout sera discuté par la Comité de rédaction. Paragraphe 18?

Joao Augusto de MEDICIS (Brazil): The chapter ignores completely that environment policies and priorities are the sovereign decisions of the Member Countries, which is a point which is totally recognized in the two reports on environment approved by the General Assembly, both the Brundtland report and the Environment Perspective report. So we also ask for a sentence saying, "While agreeing that environment policies and priorities are sovereign decisions of Member Governments, the Council recognize..." at the beginning of paragraph 18. For the same reason perhaps we could not discuss paragraph 18 right now but discuss it later.

LE PRESIDENT: A quel endroit du paragraphe 18 proposez-vous d'ajouter ces mots?

Joao Augusto de MEDICIS (Brésil): Au commencement du paragraphe.

LE PRESIDENT: Cette remarque est-elle retenue par le Conseil ? Si le Conseil en convient, nous pourrions la placer au début et conserver le reste.

Thomas YANGA (Cameroun): je crois que la remarque faite au sujet du paragraphe 17 pourrait également recueillir l'assentiment du Conseil. Mon collègue du Brésil s'est précipité et l'a envoyée au Comité de rédaction mais elle reflète une situation qui peut recueillir le consensus du Conseil, comme celle relative au paragraphe 18.

LE PRESIDENT: Le Conseil est souverain et je propose que l'on relise lentement cette adjonction au paragraphe 18 pour qu'elle soit d'ores et déjà retenue par le Conseil. Malheureusement, en ce qui concerne le paragraphe 17, je n'ai pas eu la possibilité de le faire ici. On peut donc laisser le Comité de rédaction réfléchir à cette question.

Joao Augusto de MEDICIS (Brazil): I am totally in agreement with accepting this paragraph right now. I do not have any doubts whatsoever about that. Then to add at the beginning of paragraph 18 "While agreeing that environment policies and priorities are sovereign decisions of Member Governments..."

LE PRESIDENT: Paragraphe 19? Approuvé. Paragraphe 20?

Rudolph de POURTALES (Suisse): J'aimerais modifier quelque peu la dernière phrase de ce paragraphe car elle concerne une proposition faite par ma délégation et ne reflète pas tout à fait la nature de cette proposition. Je vais lire rapidement la version que je propose: "Le Conseil a noté avec satisfaction qu'un pays membre a proposé de financer une étude de la FAO sur le rôle actuel et potentiel des organisations d'agriculteurs dans la promotion d'un développement durable, c'est-à-dire, entre autres, respectueux de l'environnement."

LE PRESIDENT: Je crois qu'il s'agit d'une proposition venant de votre pays. Nous pouvons donc la retenir sous la forme que vous présentez vous-mêmes au cours de ces débats. Nous adoptons donc le paragraphe 20 en tenant compte de votre modification.

Mlle Faouzia BODMAIza (Algérie): Dans la première phase du paragraphe 20, 11 est dit: "Le Conseil a souligné l'importance de la participation populaire, et en particulier celle des organisations"

d'agriculteurs". Je ne sais pas si cela reflète tout à fait la réalité du débat car il me semble que très peu de délégations ont insisté sur la particularité des organisations d'agriculteurs. Je crois qu'il faudrait "en particulier" et que l'on dise: "le Conseil a souligné l'importance de la participation populaire ainsi que celle des organisations d'agriculteurs".

Le PRESIDENT: Y a-t-il des objections ? Non. Je crois donc que nous pouvons retenir cette proposition de la déléguée de l'Algérie. Paragraphe 20? Approuvé. Paragraphe 21? Approuvé. Paragraphe 22? Approuvé. Paragraphe 23? Approuvé. Paragraphe 24? Approuvé. Paragraphe 25?

Joao Augusto de MEDICIS (Brazil): I promise this will be my last intervention this morning. For exactly the same reasons as mentioned before, the chapter does not take note of the various observations regarding the relationship between poverty and environmental degradation, and the effects and roots of poverty in the international, economic environment. I suggest that we add in paragraph 25, after the end of the third line, that ends with "development programmes" the following sentence, "while recalling that, according to the Brundtland Report, the roots of poverty and its degrading effects on the environment, are in an international economic system which widens instead of reducing inequalities among nations, the Council recognizes that." It goes on "Additional funds" I am quoting almost verbatim from the Brundtland Report.

LE PRESIDENT: Je vous propose de transmettre cet ajout au Secrétariat qui le transmettra lui-même au Comité de rédaction. Moyennant cette modification éventuelle, y a-t-il des observations sur le paragraphe 25 ?

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Vous avez déjà approuvé, je crois, le paragraphe 24. Mais j'éprouve des difficultés à comprendre la phrase qui s'adresse la FAO. Ce paragraphe tient le record de longueur, du nombre de mots. Je ne sais pas si tous les membres du Conseil sont d'accord avec ce paragraphe. Il me semble qu'il n'y a que quelques pays qui ont dit cela. Je ne vois pas d'inconvénients à l'accepter si le Conseil en décide ainsi. Mais 11 me pose quelques problèmes parce qu'il n'en finit plus: c'est privé, c'est public. Il entre aussi dans ma vie privée. Cela va dans tous les sens. Si je le prends mot par mot, je n'ai pas les moyens de le faire. C'est comme le Plan d'action pour le rôle des femmes dans le développement. C'est très contraignant. Je ne sais pas, quelles sont les implications financières.

J'ai parlé avec un membre du Comité de rédaction. On avait suggéré que ce paragraphe se termine à "fisheries". On a ajouté tout cela: "Natural resources management, conservation, technology development and delivery, private and public investment in the rural sector to promote roles beyond the subsistence level, policy reform, institution building and grass-root participation in development planning and management".

Je soumetts ces considérations et j'accepterai ce que le Conseil décidera. Mais je fais remarquer qu'il existe le procès verbal et que l'on peut y voir quels sont les pays qui ont dit cela et combien ils sont. Pour moi, cela ne fait pas de différence. Mais avec cette phrase, on va très loin. Nous ne savons pas nous-mêmes si nous avons les moyens de le faire. Et puis, "urged", cela veut dire qu'il faut le faire dans les plus brefs délais. Je suggère que cela soit examiné plus tard en demandant au Comité de rédaction de le faire sur la base du procès verbal. Nous allons faire des recherches dans le procès verbal et nous vous en donnerons le résultat.

Gonzalo BULA HOTOS (Colombia): Queremos apoyar, Sr. Presidente, las preocupaciones que acaba de expresar el Director General. Teníamos alguna propuesta que pudiera atender las inquietudes del Director General, pero tal vez preferimos, como lo ha propuesto él, que esto se remita al Comité de Redacción.

James AITKEN (United Kingdom): I would make two points which I hope will be both helpful to the Council and to the Director-General. In the case of his comments about the verbatims again I am reminded of the comments by the distinguished delegate of Australia, and I would simply say we have to have a balance, because the trap of using the verbatims, in the way they have been used, is that

it does encourage or could encourage repetition of statements. We have to balance to ensure the Council can do its business properly. This is something we have always recognized. I am sure the Director-General recognizes too the importance of utilizing time to cover as many aspects as possible. So often countries go into great detail about their agreement with other delegations' statements.

The other point I wish to make, speaking as somebody who works with an aid and development agency which faces problems of resource allocation as FAO does, I would suggest that there are two elements contained within this idea. One is obviously the element of redirecting resources into these particular areas, which is the one the Director-General has chosen to highlight, but equally I suggest there is another element, and that is one of attitude. Many of these things we have found in our programmes are not so much a question of additional resources; they are a question of changing people's attitudes. It may cost the same to do something that is environmentally unsound as in an environmentally sound manner. The point is that there are certain areas in which FAO has to redirect resources. Also I think it is as much in the minds of drafters here as the question of making sure people are sensitized to environmental considerations. This is a question of attitude rather than resources. I hope this helps the drafting group and the Council in consideration of the drafting of this paragraph.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I will accept, of course, any decision the Council may take. I am not challenging that but I am curious to find out whether it was the Council or some countries because, as the delegate I am worried about this sentence. My next Programme of Work and Budget has to include all those aspects. The sentence is, "The Council urged FAO to translate the concept of sustainable development into practical and operational policies and programmes. By this sweeping sentence the Council has to easily and quickly, without full discussions, decide that all FAO's activities and programmes should take account of environmental concerns, including activities related to environment. I think it is going too far. If the Council even now would like to say that, I would just accept it, but I will have a problem later on with the Programme Committee and the Council itself to explain how far we might go. Really, I would have liked the Council to hear the Secretariat so as to know what the implications are if we are urged to do this. But it was clear during discussions that we were being urged, otherwise we would have stated what problems would arise.

Winston RUDDER (Trinidad and Tobago): I merely wanted to emphasise that, while the Council did discuss this matter at some length and sought to have the incorporation of sustainable development and environmental concerns in the programmes and the projects that are going to be elaborated, and FAO is going to be involved in, as far as agriculture, forestry and fisheries development are concerned, I wondered myself whether it was necessary to catalogue in this length of detail, and whether that is helpful rather than being extremely restrictive.

Joao Augusto de MEDICIS (Brazil): I had promised not to intervene again but I believe this paragraph needs restudying and I propose we stop discussing this paragraph right now and remit it back to the Drafting Committee and discuss it later this afternoon.

LE PRESIDENT: Il y a quatre délégués qui ont demandé la parole. Ne serait-il pas plus sage de transmettre cela au Comité de rédaction pour ne pas allonger le débat.

Hanau HALINEN (Finland): I think here that the guidance and the basic approach should be the United Nations General Assembly resolutions which are requiring certain reporting and now here I think we should be as helpful as we can to the Secretariat to clarify what issue should be in the reporting so if a more clarified text could be worked out it would be so much the better but this is only to give guidance to the Secretariat.

Ms Roberta VAN HAEFTEN (United States of America): I just wanted to say that we fully agree that It should go back to the Drafting Committee.

András SZABO (Hungary): I just want to make a general remark. Listening to the amendment and remarks, I am Inclined to question the necessity of repeating sometimes General Assembly resolutions and some paragraphs out of several papers. I think we are here to discuss the implementation of these resolutions and discussions and not to quote it again. If we continue in such a way we can find in almost every paragraph a resolution or something in a United Nations document to be quoted, so that is why I want to restrict ourselves to the subject of our work.

LE PRESIDENT: S'agissant de questions très importantes, nous pourrions transmettre ceci au Comité de rédaction avec la remarque supplémentaire du Directeur général de consulter le Procès-Verbal pour que nous puissions fidèlement traduire les débats qui ont eu lieu sur cette question au Conseil.

Au paragraphe 25 le Délégué du Brésil a demandé en ajout. Nous allons le faire examiner par le Comité de rédaction.

Le paragraphe 26 est approuvé. Sur le paragraphe 27 le délégué de la Finlande a demandé la parole.

Hannu HALINEN (Finland): This is a very important paragraph concerning the follow-up of the implementation of the Report. Here we see a very very long paragraph in one sentence trying to cover all the points we discussed. However, my delegation feels that a clarification is needed also here and we suggest that in the end of this paragraph, it is very difficult to cut in the middle, basically two things should be added. My Hungarian colleague referred to the United Nations resolutions, that they should not be repeated here, but I do not see here a reference to this basic General Assembly resolution so I think this could be mentioned with reason here. So this is basically what I suggest to add at the end of this paragraph. One sentence "The Council referred to the reporting requested in the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 41/87 and 42/86. To facilitate this reporting the 95th Council will discuss FAO's plans and strategies to enhance the concept of sustainable development".

LE PRESIDENT: Pourriez-vous nous relire votre proposition concrète de rédaction?

LE PRESIDENT: A quels endroits du paragraphe 27?

Hannu HALINEN (Finland): To add at end.

CH. Bonte-Friedheim (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): We are having a problem with this proposal. It has been stated in the discussion by the Finnish delegation on behalf of the Nordic countries. However, the reporting requirements are that FAO must report through UNEP because UNEP has been charged in the Resolution by the UN to report to the General Assembly and that means we have to report to UNEP by May or June next year. Therefore, whatever we have reported is post factum for the next Council and the idea of the FAO was to report to UNEP with the basis of what is being adopted now, plus a paper that FAO has prepared for the discussion now in Council. If the next FAO Council in June next year will discuss this item, FAO's report will have gone at least two months earlier and therefore to put this in one after the other is impossible. So whatever the Council requests it will discuss at the next Council has nothing to do with the FAO's report to UNEP and to the General Assembly because that has gone. I just wanted to make that clear and if I understand it correctly, that means we will have another item on the Agenda for the Council session in June. In this case, it would say "Consideration of the report by FAO to UNEP in line with the General Assembly resolutions", which we can do, of course, but it will be the reports you have in front of you, plus the report of this Council plus a covering note. That is all we can do for the next Council session.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie M. Bonte-Friedheim. Je pense que nous pourrions continuer cette discussion en présence du Comité de rédaction pour le paragraphe 27.

Paragraphs 14 to 27 not concluded

Les paragraphes 14 à 27 sont en suspens

Los párrafos 14 a 27 quedan pendientes

Paragraph 28 approved

Le paragraphe 28 est approuvé

El párrafo 28 es aprobado

PARAGRAPHS 29 to 41

PARAGRAPHES 29 à 41

PARRAFOS 29 a 41

Nous passons au paragraphe 29: "Faits nouveaux survenus dans le système des Nations Unies".

Le paragraphe 29 est approuvé. Paragraphe 30?

Gonzalo BULA HOTOS (Colombia): En la segunda frase del párrafo 30, al final, se habla de las Organizaciones con sede en Roma. Se citan tres y parece que se olvidó el CMA. Seguramente se hizo así porque el CMA está situado en la primera frase, pero pensamos que al hablar de los Organismos con sede en Roma hay que incluir a los cuatro.

LE PRESIDENT: Il n'y a pas de difficulté, on l'ajoutera.

James AITKEN (United Kingdom): I am not sure if there is a printing error or an omission in the English text when in the first sentence, it reads "the close collaboration with UNIDO, WHO, UNEP and WFC." We would suggest this should read "close collaboration with UNDP, UNIDO, WHO, UNEP and WFC." I think this is just a printing error and not one of substance.

LE PRESIDENT: Il n'y a pas d'objections. Il faudrait ajouter le PNUD dans la première phrase et le CMA dans la deuxième phrase.

F.A. Shamim AHMED (Bangladesh): I also invite your kind attention to the first sentence of paragraph 30 which refers to FAO's cooperation with United Nations organizations and mentions in particular, UNIDO, WHO, UNEP and WFC and to this my delegation feels that we could also add, besides UNDP, UNESCO and ILO with which FAO has equally close collaboration.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous avons une observation du Bangladesh qui souhaite ajouter l'UNESCO et l'OIT.

Sra. Mónica DEREGIBUS (Argentina): Discúlpeme, pero yo creo que hay una pequeña contradicción entre el primero y segundo párrafo, perdón entre la primera y segunda oración si incluimos al CMA en la segunda oración. Porque de acuerdo al texto que yo tengo en español, estamos diciendo en el primero que tomamos nota con satisfacción de la cooperación de la FAO con varias Organizaciones, entre ellas el CMA. Y después estamos diciendo que hay que mejorar la coordinación con el CMA. Si incluimos al CMA en la segunda, entonces no sé si cooperación es una cosa y coordinación es otra. Para mí, son muy parecidas. O sea, lo ponemos en la primera o lo ponemos en la segunda. Como yo no sé si es buena o es mala la coordinación, no sé en cual de las dos ponerla.

LE PRESIDENT: Ce sont des idées parallèles, elles ne se contradisent pas. La collaboration est une chose, et "resserrer la coordination" est encore plus fort que la coopération. Je crois que cela ne se gêne pas. Nous avons donc quelques ajouts: à la première phrase, PNUD, UNESCO et OIT et à la deuxième phrase le CMA.

Ms Roberta Van HAEFTEN (United States of America): I thought I had a suggestion from someone that WFP also be added into the first sentence, which we would support.

LE PRESIDENT: Pourquoi pas?

James AITKEN (United Kingdom): I simply wish to seek clarification of this point. We did suggest WFP because close collaboration must exist de facto.

Joao Augusto de MEDICIS (Brazil): I hope to end the discussion. Shall we say "The Council noted with satisfaction FAO's cooperation with other United Nations organizations".

LE PRESIDENT: En tout cas je crois qu'on peut ajouter le PAM, cela ne fait pas de mal.

Sra. Mónica DEREGBUS (Argentina): Yo me permito apoyar la sugerencia de Brasil. Creo que la primera frase tiene que leerse como dice el Embajador de Brasil; es mucho mas logico porque si no, estamos en el problema que yo señalé y del cual no se han hecho cargo hasta ahora.

Mlle Faouzia BODMAÏZA (Algérie): J'appuie cette idée, M. le Président.

LE PRESIDENT: Le Conseil est donc d'accord pour qu'on s'arrête après "d'autres Organisations des Nations Unies". Paragraphe 31? Paragraphe 31 est approuvé. Paragraphe 32?

Gonzalo BULA HOTOS (Colombia): Al final de la primera frase del párrafo 32, que termina por: "26 de mayo de 1988", proponemos el siguiente agregado: "y notó con satisfacción la escogencia de un grupo consultivo que se reunirá por primera vez en París los días 19 y 20 de diciembre 1988". Este es el aspecto actualizado más importante de la iniciativa de Chipre. Lo dijimos varias delegaciones y pensamos que debe figurar en el texto.

LE PRESIDENT: La Colombie a proposé que l'on ajoute à la première phrase, après "le 25 mai 1988, a noté avec satisfaction la tenue d'un groupe consultatif qui se réunira pour la première fois à Paris les 19 et 20 décembre 1988".

Le paragraphe 32 est adopté avec l'ajout mentionné. Paragraphe 33?

Gonzalo BULA HOTOS (Colombia): En una de nuestras declaraciones sobre este tema, señalamos principalmente lo que dijo el colega del Reino Unido Sr. Goldsack en la discusión de uno de los temas que señaló la innecesidad, digamos, de que no hubiera controversia entre los países desarrollados y en desarrollo en la Ronda Uruguay. Esto es lo que queremos reflejar con una frase muy sutil diciendo "dentro del marco de interrelación". Es decir, que están relacionados los problemas de los países en desarrollo con la necesidad de cooperación y asistencia de los países desarrollados. Repito lentamente la frase: "dentro del marco de la interrelación entre los problemas de los países en desarrollo y la cooperación y asistencia de los países desarrollados". Esto es un llamado a la concordia. Es decir, yo creo que es muy inocua la frase pero si ofrece dificultades, no insistimos.

Ms Roberta VAN HAEFTEN (United States of America): We are not quite sure what this additional sentence means. We would like to hear some further explanation.

LE PRESIDENT: Vous suggérez d'ajouter: dans le contexte de la corrélation entre les problèmes des pays en développement et les activités de coopération et d'assistance des pays développés.

Gonzalo BOIA HOYOS (Colombia): Creemos que, como lo dijimos en los debates varias delegaciones, hay un aspecto importante que correspondería agregar aquí, al final del párrafo 33. Es un agregado que espero no será controvertido.

Después de: "resultados positivos" se pone una coma y se diría: ", dentro del marco de interdependencia entre los problemas de los países en desarrollo y la cooperación y asistencia de los países desarrollados.". Tal vez en vez de "interdependencia" sería mejor "interrelación".

LE PRESIDENT: Je crois que c'est une idée généralement admise. Si le Conseil en convient nous pourrions la retenir. Paragraphes 34? 35? 36? Approuvés. Paragraphe 37?

Joao Augusto de MEDICIS (Brazil): Paragraph 37 does not convey what it was meant to convey, in our opinion. It says: "The Council noted the importance of the agricultural sector in the economies of countries undertaking structural adjustment programmes", but we meant to refer to the importance of agriculture in other countries as well as those undertaking structural adjustment programmes.

What the paragraph should convey is the impact of those adjustments on the economy of some countries. Therefore, I suggest that we change the beginning of this paragraph as follows:

"The Council stressed the need to take into account the impact of structural adjustment programmes particularly on the agricultural sectors of countries undertaking such programmes".

That reflects better the idea that we wished to convey.

LE PRESIDENT: Cette phrase est très importante; le Délégué du Brésil suggère qu'on remplace la première partie de la phrase comme suit: "Le Conseil a souligné la nécessité de prendre en considération les effets des programmes d'ajustement structurel en particulier sur le secteur agricole, dans les pays qui entreprennent de tels programmes".

James AITKEN (United Kingdom): I have some trouble with this change in that, as I understand it, it is suggesting the deletion of the reference to the importance of the agricultural sector in the economies of countries undertaking structural adjustment programmes. We think it is quite sensible for the Council to draw attention to this. I can fully understand that not all countries accept a formulation that says "some countries" or "any countries", but it seems to me that this is of particular importance because it hangs on something the Director-General said in his opening remarks about the importance of the FAO being able to associate itself with the structural adjustment process and providing sectoral advice in conjunction with Bank and IMF actions.

Certainly we would feel that the existing formulation, with perhaps some modification using the word "stressed" in the second part of the sentence, would be a better reflection of the overall discussions and considerations of the Council.

Joao Augusto de MEDICIS (Brazil): I do not want to start a discussion on this, but my formulation does not deny the importance of the agricultural sector in the countries undertaking structural adjustment programmes. It just stresses the impact of those programmes in these agricultural sectors. The formulation submitted by the Drafting Committee mentions the importance of the agricultural sector in the economies of countries undertaking structural adjustment programmes and that gives the impression that it is important only to those countries. It is important to a great many countries. What it should convey is the impact of these adjustment programmes rather than the importance of the sector in the economies of these and other countries.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Para ser breves, queremos solamente apoyar lo que ha dicho Brasil.

Ibrahima KABA (Guinée): Je voulais également appuyer ce qu'a dit le Délégué du Brésil; il est tout à fait justifié que l'on insiste sur l'impact des mesures d'ajustement structurel sur le domaine de l'agriculture; c'est là où, justement, le Directeur général a insisté sur la participation de la FAO pour intervenir en tant que conseiller en ce domaine.

Winston RUDDER (Trinidad and Tobago): A mere rearrangement of words might serve the purpose. Could we read it thus:

"The Council, noting the importance of the agricultural sector in the economies of countries undertaking structural adjustment programmes, stressed the need to take into account the impact of such programmes on the sector."

If we change the words like that, it may serve the purpose.

LE PRESIDENT: On ne peut qu'être d'accord avec la rédaction proposée par Trinidad et Tobago, on peut lier les deux en disant: "le Conseil a noté l'importance du secteur agricole dans les pays qui entreprennent..... et a souligné la nécessité de prendre en considération les projets de programme structurel sur le secteur agricole dans les pays qui entreprennent de tels programmes". Cela se construit bien et l'idée est claire.

Philippe PIOTET (France): Je voudrais indiquer une précision sur la seconde phrase: lorsque l'on parle du rôle de Conseil politique que devrait tenir la FAO, je crois qu'il serait bon de dire: "de Conseil en matière de politique agricole". Il me semble en effet assez naturel de dire: "de Conseil en matière de politique agricole".

LE PRESIDENT. On pourrait retenir cette proposition.

Rudolf de POURTALES (Suisse): Il est dit à la troisième phrase: "il a demandé instamment à la FAO de coopérer étroitement dans ce domaine avec d'autres institutions bilatérales et multilatérales, pour déterminer": j'aimerais ajouter: "prévenir" puis la phrase continuerait avec: "et combattre les éventuelles répercussions négatives..." ce serait donc: déterminer, prévenir et combattre.

LE PRESIDENT: Le Conseil est-il d'accord sur cet ajout ?; il y a donc trois ajouts qui enrichissent le paragraphe 37, que le Conseil vient d'approuver. Paragraphe 38? Approuvé. Paragraphe 39? Approuvé. Paragraphe 40?

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): La primera frase del párrafo 40 trata de algo muy importante, que aparece en el informe de la última Conferencia Regional Latinoamericana, celebrada en Brasil, y sobre lo cual insistimos aquí muchas Delegaciones. Se ha tomado aquí ese concepto en forma muy neutra que no corresponde a lo que quisimos decir. Proponemos que la primera frase sea como sigue: "El Consejo pidió al PNUD que, cuando fuera conveniente, intensifique su política de permitir a los Gobiernos que ejecuten algunos proyectos." Esto fue lo que dijimos y corresponde al sentido de las deliberaciones.

LE PRESIDENT: L'idée est très importante; la proposition de Monsieur le Délégué de Colombie est la suivante: "le Conseil a demandé au PNUD que, lorsqu'il y a lieu, il intensifie sa politique, permettant au Gouvernement d'exécuter certains projets".

Thomas TANGA (Cameroon): Je voulais également proposer que l'on revoie cette première phrase dans le sens de ce qu'a dit l'Ambassadeur de Colombie; cependant, cette idée n'intéresse pas seulement les pays latino-américains, mais beaucoup d'autres pays, en l'occurrence, le mien. Je voudrais donc amender la proposition qu'il a faite et ajouter: que la FAO collabore à ce mouvement d'aide aux Gouvernements pour exécuter les projets dans le cas où c'est possible.

Ms Roberta VAN HAEFTEN (United States of America): I know that this paragraph was the subject of considerable discussion during the Drafting Committee. We feel that the changes which are being proposed are substantive and request that the matter is returned to the Drafting Committee.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous pourrions étudier cela en présence des membres du Comité de rédaction. Paragraphe 41?

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Proponemos simplemente que en la primera frase del párrafo 41 se diga: "El Consejo tomo nota con preocupación".

LE PRESIDENT: C'est exact.

James AITKEN (United Kingdom): Probably it reflects a more accurate coverage of the discussion if we leave the text as it stands, and omit "... with concern...". I think it was just "noted".

LE PRESIDENT: La seconde tempère cette idée et permet de signaler implicitement qu'en fait le Conseil est concerné; cette phrase nous permet d'exprimer notre opinion et nous acceptons la proposition du Délégué du Royaume-Uni.

Paragraphs 29 to 41 not concluded

Les paragraphes 29-41 sont en suspens

Los párrafos 29-41 quedan pendientes

Paragraphs 42 to 44 approved

Les paragraphes 42 à 44 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 42 a 44 son aprobados

Draft Report, Part 3, not concluded

Le Projet de rapport - partie III est en suspens

El Proyecto de Informe - parte III queda pendiente

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Je voulais simplement Informer les distingués membres du Conseil que le Comité de rédaction vient juste de terminer le point à l'Ordre du Jour, à savoir, le projet de rapport sur le point 13; ils ont commencé à examiner le projet de rapport portant sur le transfert du Bureau régional de la FAO. Le point 13 doit maintenant être traduit et ne sera pas disponible immédiatement. Il y a encore d'autres points à étudier; ils sont en retard eux aussi.

LE PRESIDENT: Ce point 13 est crucial et mérite toute notre attention; je demande donc à Monsieur le Directeur général qu'il donne toutes instructions pour que les opérations de traduction et de frappe se fassent aussi rapidement que possible pour que nous puissions commencer nos travaux en début d'après-midi en prenant ce point en discussion, car il nous faut écouter les avis de tous à ce sujet.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Señor Presidente, lo que yo quería proponer es que ahora levantemos la sesión, nos vayamos a almorzar y que nos reunamos esta tarde, a las tres de la tarde.

LE PRESIDENT: Je voulais proposer qu'on commence par le point 13, que le Secrétariat ait le temps de prendre des dispositions pratiques de traduction et de frappe pour qu'on commence effectivement par ce point 13.

Je vous pose la question: il nous reste le document CL 94/REP/4 qui concerne le PAM et d'autres questions, pouvons-nous continuer pour gagner du temps, car, ne nous faisons pas d'illusions, ce que nous avons laissé pour le Comité de rédaction est le plus dur.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Sobre el documento REP /4, la Delegación de Colombia tiene 17 observaciones. De manera que es mejor terminar la sesión e irnos a almorzar.

Joao Augusto de MEDICIS (Brazil): Despite the observation by the Colombian delegation I propose we go on with REP/A and if the observations of the Colombian delegation have any substance, we do as we have done before and transfer the matter for a later stage so that we can advance our studies.

Sra. Mónica DEREGBUS (Argentina): Yo preferiría también ver si podemos terminar con este REP. De todas maneras, lo que sí quería pedirle, ya que usted ha decidido que vamos a comenzar la sesión de la tarde con el próximo REP, es que tengamos por lo menos un momentito para ver el próximo REP antes de la sesión; porque si va a estar listo a las tres y nos vamos a reunir a las tres...

LE PRESIDENT: Cette remarque est très justifiée.

Mlle Faouzia BOUMAYZA (Algérie): La proposition du Brésil et de l'Argentine me semble très rationnelle.

A.Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (Original language Arabic): I should like to accept the proposal of Argentina, Algeria and Brazil.

DRAFT REPORT - PART IV

PROJET DE RAPPORT - QUATRIEME PARTIE

PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE IV

LE PRESIDENT: Nous abordons maintenant le point CL 94/REP/4, Programme Alimentaire Mondial.

PARAGRAPHS 1 to 23

PARAGRAPHERS 1 à 23

PARRAFOS 1 a 23

Tawfik A.H. AL MESH-HEDANI (Iraq) (Original language Arabic): In the last part of paragraph 8 there is a sentence which reads: "while appreciating the contributions made for refugees in Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran". I cannot accept this text. I propose that we take the text of the initial document which speaks of Afghan refugees in Pakistan and in the Islamic Republic of Iran and that this original text be reproduced in this paragraph. I propose this on the basis of the discussions which took place and which were submitted to our Council and to the Economic and Social Commission. This is aid which only applies to Afghan refugees.

LE PRESIDENT: Quel texte suggérez-vous?

Tawfik A.H. AL MESH-HEDANI (Iraq) (Original language Arabic): The text I propose is the following: "It was recognized that the contributions made for Afghan refugees". All we have to do is add the word "Afghan".

Tawfik SHAMEKHI (Iran, République Islamique d): Il y a les réfugiés afghans, il y a aussi, tout dernièrement les réfugiés Kerdas d'Irak, il y a ceux qui sont arrivés en énormes quantités en Iran; on ne fait pas la distinction, et il y a ces réfugiés afghans et irakiens qui sont aussi des réfugiés. Je crois qu'il est bon de garder le texte sous cette forme.

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: While appreciating the contributions made for the Afghan refugees. Je ne conteste pas le fait qu'il y ait en Iran des réfugiés autres que les réfugiés afghans. Ce n'est pas à moi de le prouver mais il y a la phrase "while appreciating the contributions made for refugees" dans ce paragraphe. Je ne crois pas que des contributions aient été demandées par le gouvernement iranien pour des réfugiés irakiens alors que le gouvernement iranien a demandé de l'aide alimentaire pour les réfugiés afghans et le Programme alimentaire mondial a approuvé cela.

Je ne veux pas créer de problème, c'était simplement une clarification.

Joao Augusto de MEDICIS (Brazil): I would suggest a compromise solution that we delete reference to countries and say "to provide food aid to emergency operations." This would avoid the controversy.

LE PRESIDENT: Vous suggérez que l'on mette: "il a été reconnu que les contributions fournies pour les réfugiés sont très appréciables" ?

Joao Augusto de MEDICIS (Brazil): If we delete reference to particular countries, both times it is mentioned and say "to provide aid to emergency operations." And then "While appreciating the contributions made for refugees an appeal was made for

Ibrahima KABA (Guinée): Je voudrais souligner la pertinence de l'intervention du Directeur général. L'aide alimentaire a été attribuée sur la base d'une requête. Partant de la formulation de cette requête, on peut très bien préciser ce qu'il est nécessaire de mettre. On a répondu à une requête qui est formulée. Le Directeur Général l'a précisé et je crois que c'est très simple.

Ms Roberta VAN HAEFTEN (United States of America): I am concerned that we are talking about one of the countries or one of the countries we are referring to, in talking about changing the language, the only delegate from that country is in the Drafting Committee. I am talking about the delegation of Pakistan. I am concerned that we are changing language that is of direct concern to an individual country. He is unable to be here to respond to the various recommendations that are being made. We might want to wait until the Drafting Committee has finished, or refer the matter to the Drafting Committee. I am concerned that he should be part of this discussion.

Taghi SHAMEKHI (Iran, République islamique d'): Tout d'abord, je suis d'accord pour que le délégué du Pakistan soit présent lors de cette discussion. Ensuite, il y a effectivement une requête pour l'aide fournie aux réfugiés, en République islamique d'Iran et au Pakistan. Je tiens donc à ce que cette mention du Pakistan et de la République islamique d'Iran soit retenue.

F.A. Sbamim AHMED (Bangladesh): My delegation is in complete agreement with what has been stated by the delegate of the United States of America.

LE PRESIDENT: Je crois qu'il faut renvoyer le dossier au Président du Comité de rédaction pour qu'il soit examiné en présence de ce Comité.

Tawfik A.H. AL MESH-HEDANI (Iraq) (Original language Arabic): When I speak of Afghan refugees I am really thinking about the request which was addressed to the World Food Programme, and the Director-General has just confirmed that this request was for Afghan refugees, so this is nothing to do with Pakistan but it does have to do with the Islamic Republic of Iran. I really have no objections when we speak of refugees in general, when we speak about Pakistan, but we must say Afghan refugees when we are speaking about the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Bashir EL MABROUK SAID (Libya) (Original language Arabic): I believe that the proposal made by His Excellency the Ambassador for Brazil is an excellent compromise solution but in principle and in procedural terms when we are speaking about a report of a Drafting Committee and a country has to require the presence of another country, in terms of principle and justice I believe that the proposal made by the delegate of the United States, if we accept this proposal, will be tantamount to saying that we shall be delaying work every time a member of the Council is absent. Really I am against this proposal and I would be in favour of the proposal of Brazil.

Sra. Miriam INZAULGARAT GARCIA DE FEREZ (Cuba): Gracias, Sr. Presidente por concederme la palabra. Yo apoyo al delegado de Brasil y considero que es conveniente eliminar los nombres y así se soluciona esto.

LE PRESIDENT: Ce qui est proposé actuellement par le Brésil, appuyé par quelques pays, est ce qui suit: "Il a été reconnu que les contributions fournies pour les réfugiés sont très appréciables, mais il a été instamment demandé qu'une assistance accrue soit fournie pour ces réfugiés".

Sra. Monica DEREGIBUS (Argentina): Yo reconozco que es muy práctica la solución que nos ofrece el Embajador de Brasil, pero yo debo decir aquí que nosotros consideramos que si del Comité de Redacción donde participó Pakistán viene así, a lo mejor a Pakistán le interesa que su nombre figure, y en ese caso si el Comité de Redacción no tuvo problema en incluirlo, no veo porqué quitarlo nosotros; entonces habría que pedir que no hubiera dos reuniones simultáneamente, si no vamos a permitir que la gente asista porque está cumpliendo otra función.

James AITKEN (United Kingdom): I do not want to comment in substance here, simply on procedure. I would like to associate my delegation with the remarks made by previous speakers which have drawn attention to the fact that this was a text agreed by a drafting group in which one country mentioned is represented. It is also the fact that the country, because it is a small representation, is not represented at the moment during these discussions. In these circumstances I think the correct procedure is one in which it is referred back to the drafting group.

LE PRESIDENT: Je crois que le mieux est que l'ensemble du Comité de rédaction soit présent dans la salle pour analyser ce document.

Paragraphe 10? Approuvé. Paragraphe 11? Approuvé. Paragraphe 12? Approuvé. Paragraphe 13? Approuvé. Paragraphe 14? Approuvé. Paragraphe 15? Approuvé. Paragraphe 16? Approuvé. Paragraphe 17? Approuvé. Paragraphe 18? Approuvé. Paragraphe 19? Approuvé. Paragraphe 20? Approuvé. Paragraphe 21? Approuvé.

Gian Luigi VALENZA (Italie): C'est seulement pour dire que nous considérons que ce paragraphe est un peu trop long. Nous voulons proposer de l'abréger en enlevant une phrase relative aux explications données par le Conseiller juridique, après la phrase: "Le Conseiller juridique a parlé de ces problèmes avec le Conseiller juridique de l'ONU à New York" pour reprendre avec la phrase "Le Conseiller juridique a souligné que, vu son importance, l'Accord de siège doit être négocié avec soin".

En effet, nous entrons trop dans les détails et je pense que, par rapport au paragraphe 21, ce paragraphe est vraiment trop long.

LE PRESIDENT: Quelle phrase souhaitez-vous que nous supprimions dans ce paragraphe ?

Gian Luigi VALENZA (Italie): Nous voulons supprimer la phrase suivante: "Il a indiqué que certaines au moins des raisons..." jusqu'à "aux locaux actuels du PAM" pour reprendre avec la phrase: "Le conseiller juridique a souligné...".

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Avec la permission du délégué de l'Italie, représentant de notre pays hôte, j'insisterai pour que ce membre de phrase soit maintenu. En effet, il existe pour des raisons évidentes car, lorsqu'on a discuté de cette question au Conseil, i savoir l'Accord de siège pour le PAM, c'est ce qui avait été décidé pour résoudre le problème du paiement du loyer. On a lié cet Accord de siège au paiement par le gouvernement italien du loyer des locaux occupés en ce moment par le PAM. Cette phrase veut dire que le gouvernement italien, très généreusement, nonobstant le fait qu'il n'y a pas d'Accord de siège nous a envoyé un chèque de 1,326 251 milliard de liras pour le règlement du loyer de l'année en cours, c'est-à-dire que la question d'urgence qui avait été évoquée n'existe plus.

Sra. Mónica DEREGBUS (Argentina): Es solamente para poner en conocimiento de la Secretaría una cuestión de forma. Independientemente de que se quite o que se deje esa parte, los países de habla hispana no tienen el beneficio de saber de que se trata, porque esa parte no está incluida en el Informe de la versión española. No se menciona al asesor jurídico para nada en esta versión española. Faltan dos o tres oraciones.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous mettrons au point le texte espagnol.

Gian Luigi VALENZA (Italie): Je comprends très bien les raisons du Directeur général. Malheureusement, je dois dire que nous avons offert de payer le loyer mais que si l'on doit conserver le paragraphe, il faudra le corriger légèrement en ajoutant "pour l'année en cours" · Le gouvernement italien, pour faciliter les choses, a payé le loyer pour cette année mais je n'ai pas mandat pour dire qu'il le paiera pour toutes les années à venir.

LE PRESIDENT: Il s'agit du paiement du loyer pour l'année en cours, pour faciliter les choses ?

Gian Luigi VALENZA: Oui, pour l'année en cours pour faciliter les choses.

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Monsieur l'Ambassadeur, vous n'avez pas dit cela ce jour-là. Aujourd'hui, vous dites quelque chose de nouveau. Or on ne peut pas mettre dans le rapport ce qui n'a pas été dit lorsqu'on a discuté de cette question, je tiens compte de tout ce que vous dites vous-mêmes, mais vous ne pouvez pas le mettre dans le rapport puisque vous ne l'avez pas dit ce jour-là. Je comprends le sens de votre intervention mais cela n'a pas été dit alors.

Paragraphs 1 to 23 not concluded

Les paragraphes 1-23 sont en suspens

Los párrafos 1-23 quedan pendientes

Draft Report, Part IV, not concluded

Le projet de rapport - partie IV est en suspens

El Proyecto de informe - parte IV, queda pendiente

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

José Ramón LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (México): Moción de orden, Sr. Presidente.

Quizas no es la delegación de México la que deba hacer esta moción de orden en este momento, pero como creo que he sido el primero en llegar, soy yo el que la presento.

La delegación de México, Sr. Presidente, se lamenta profundamente de que se haya roto una tradición de respeto al Comité de Redacción, a su Presidente, y a sus miembros, al haberse iniciado en esta sala un debate sobre la aprobación del proyecto de Informe de nuestro Consejo, sin que se haya tenido siquiera la delicadeza, ya no digamos que se hayan cumplido con las reglas, con la tradición o con cualquier otra cosa, la delicadeza, digo de que así se le comunicara al Presidente del Comité de Redacción y a sus respectivos miembros. Este tipo de procedimientos, Sr. Presidente, son totalmente inaceptables para la delegación de México y quiero decirle que de sentarse un precedente es el comienzo del fin de las organizaciones. Nosotros creemos en los principios, en el respeto a las costumbres y a las reglas. Lo que se ha hecho para nosotros representa un abuso y un asalto.

IE PRESIDENT: Nous reconnaissons qu'il s'agit d'une procédure exceptionnelle. Nous avons demandé l'avis du Conseil avant d'entreprendre ce processus car nous craignons que le Comité de rédaction ne finisse pas son travail étant donné que de nombreux documents n'étaient pas encore prêts.

A ma connaissance, nous avons convenu que les questions de fond pouvant être soulevées ce matin resteraient en attente pour être reprises lorsque le Comité de rédaction serait présent. Nous avons pris note de toutes les questions de fond · Nous n'avons enregistré que les questions de forme ou adopté les paragraphes.

Le Conseil a accepté cette procédure, à savoir que les questions qui ne portent pas atteinte au fond du débat peuvent être réglées maintenant. Je m'excuse de cette procédure exceptionnelle mais le Conseil a les documents et il a accepté de laisser en suspens les questions de fond mais pas les questions de forme.

Si vous pensez que nous devons recommencer entièrement le débat, il faut poser la question au Conseil. Mais je comprends fort bien votre démarche. Cependant, j'insiste pour dire que nous avons laissé de côté les questions de fond.

Vous avez beaucoup travaillé, nous sommes les premiers à le reconnaître. Vous avez tenu des réunions presque aussi longues que celles du Conseil. Nous respectons votre travail et c'est peut-être parce que vous avez examiné en profondeur toutes ces questions que nous avons pu limiter nos observations à des questions de forme, à l'exception d'un certain nombre d'entre elles, que nous avons enregistrées, et pour l'examen desquelles nous attendons que le Comité de rédaction soit présent.

José Ramón LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (México): Yo entiendo la explicación que me ha dado y reconozco que este Consejo tiene plena autoridad sobre el Comité de Redacción. A lo que me he referido es que se ha pasado por alto una norma, y sobre todo una delicadeza y una cortesía hacia el Presidente del Comité de Redacción y sus Miembros cuando se ha comenzado a debatir un Informe cuyos asuntos, horas de trabajo y discusiones, Ud. y ningún Miembro de este Consejo puede conocer porque el Sr. Presidente del Comité de Redacción que nos representa no se lo ha comunicado. Ud. no puede decirnos aquí que allá hemos debatido por muchas horas, o que ciertas cuestiones han sido difíciles o no. Ud. no lo puede saber porque no le ha sido comunicado y tampoco a los miembros del Consejo, y tampoco de la tesitura de los arreglos delicados a los que llegamos.

Este Consejo se ha convertido en un gran Comité de Redacción y yo lo lamento mucho, Sr. Presidente, porque se ha establecido un precedente muy lamentable y muy negativo para esta Organización.

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Je ne cherche pas à prendre la défense des membres du Conseil, ils sont assez grands pour se défendre eux-mêmes, et comme l'a dit le représentant du Mexique ils sont souverains. Mais je crois devoir dire à M. le délégué du Mexique, qui n'était pas là, que cette question a été débattue ici, à savoir si le Conseil pouvait travailler en l'absence du Président du Comité de rédaction. Il avait été dit que sur le plan juridique, il n'y avait aucune obligation, mais sur le plan de la courtoisie, certainement. Sur le plan pratique, pour savoir exactement comment la question a été débattue, comme l'a dit le Président, il y avait un choix: ou finir ce Conseil, ou ne jamais le finir si nous devons attendre que vous ayez fini votre travail. Il y avait donc le choix pour les délégués. Ils étaient menacés de continuer très tard ce soir, ou demain matin. Ils ont préféré une solution pratique, pragmatique, d'examiner tout ce que vous aviez terminé, éventuellement de changer un peu le vocabulaire si cela ne changeait pas le sens de la phrase. C'est ainsi qu'il en a été décidé. Je crois que le travail qui a été fait n'a pas fait gagner beaucoup de temps, parce qu'on va revenir maintenant à tous les rapports, car dans chaque REP il y a trois ou quatre paragraphes qui sont laissés en suspens, et tout va recommencer ce soir ou cet après-midi. Il y avait donc un choix à faire: ou nous finissions aujourd'hui, ou nous finissions demain. Or vous savez que nous avons des problèmes avec les interprètes. C'est une situation

exceptionnelle. D'ailleurs le comité de rédaction peut recevoir une médaille, car il est le champion du monde en ce qui concerne le nombre d'heures de travail. Je crois que vous n'avez pas dormi. Hier vous avez travaillé jusqu'à deux heures du matin. Dans le Comité, il y a certaines délégations, et le Président l'a rappelé, qui n'ont qu'une seule personne qui doit en même temps assister au Comité de rédaction et aux réunions du Conseil, alors qu'il y a des délégations où il y a cinq personnes qui peuvent se relayer et se reposer. Ils ont toute la force disponible alors que dans d'autres délégations une seule personne doit tout faire.

Je ne dis pas cela pour critiquer, mais pour souligner que le Conseil a fait un choix. Il avait peur de ne pas pouvoir terminer son travail à temps. Il s'est réservé la possibilité, le cas échéant, de recourir non seulement au Président mais à tous les membres du Comité de rédaction, en cas de nécessité. Je ne serai pas là cet après-midi, mais je pense que l'on va tout recommencer.

Sra. Mónica DEREGIBUS (Argentina): Mi delegación está realmente sorprendida de tomar noticia ahora por lo que nos acaba de decir el Representante Permanente de México que ni el Presidente del Comité de Redacción ni sus Miembros sabían que estábamos adoptando este procedimiento. Si nosotros hubiéramos sabido que eso no había sido consultado, Sr. Presidente, no teniendo comunicación directa de aquí a la Sala Germania no podíamos constatarlo personalmente con nuestros delegados, no hubiéramos aceptado el procedimiento. Lo que quería además agregar es que es claro que hemos tenido dificultades en seguir los debates de este Plenario porque mitad del Proyecto de Informe, no estaban seguramente parte de las delegaciones en el momento en que se discutieron en el Comité. O sea que no era un problema sólo para los que estaban fuera del Comité de Redacción sino también para los que estábamos dentro del Comité de Redacción. Yo lamento profundamente esta situación y quisiera además aclarar que aquí no hubo debate. Se adoptó una sugerencia que Ud. nos formuló pensando que había sido ya acordada con el Presidente y con los Miembros del Comité de Redacción.

Jaime GARCIA Y BADIAS (España): En aras de la brevedad, no pienso extenderme sobre esta cuestión pero sí quiero adherirme a lo expresado por las dos delegaciones anteriores en el sentido de que comprendemos perfectamente los derechos y atribuciones que tiene el Consejo y la Presidencia como tal, pero no es aceptable el no conocimiento del Comité de Redacción de que aquí se había iniciado este Plenario. Queremos dejar constancia de nuestra disconformidad y apoyo a lo expresado por las Delegaciones anteriores.

LE PRESIDENT: Je crois que nous allons suspendre la réunion du Conseil jusqu'à la fin des travaux du Comité de rédaction.

Si le Comité de rédaction souhaite que l'on reprenne le débat à zéro, en revenant sur tous les articles que nous avons vus, nous pouvons le faire, quitte à ce que nous travaillions demain ou après-demain. Personnellement je suis disponible. Je reconnais que le délégué du Mexique avait raison de protester et je m'en excuse auprès de lui. Je suis disponible pour reprendre tous les débats, depuis le début si le Comité de rédaction le juge nécessaire. Nous allons attendre que le Comité de rédaction ait fini ses travaux et nous allons suivre la procédure réglementaire. Nous mettrons une ou deux journées de plus pour finir les travaux du Conseil.

Est-ce que les délégués en sont d'accord?

Michael J. RYAN (Australia): I think it would be very sad if we had to go back over this ground completely again. I have listened to the comments of my fellow delegates and I appreciate the points they are making. I would suggest this line of action may help in some way to patch up what has occurred: I would suggest that the Council, through you, apologise, if you like, and talk to the Chairman of the Drafting Committee, explain the situation to him, and seek his understanding that we could get on with our work and conclude it as expeditiously as possible. Would you be prepared to do that?

LE PRESIDENT: Je pense qu'il faut appliquer la procédure réglementaire. Je compte attendre que le Comité de rédaction ait fini son travail et m'en remettre aux procédures traditionnelles. Je crois que nous avons essayé de tenir compte de cette contrainte de temps. Peut-être avons-nous eu tort.

Joao Augusto DE MEDICIS (Brazil): In spite of your final remarks I think I could also second what has been said by the delegate of Australia. I think both yourself and the Council acted in good faith and we did not want to pre-empt the work being done by the Drafting Committee. I think the major problem here was a question of communication rather than substance, because we have not discussed or decided here anything of a controversial nature. We took the course at the beginning of our debates that anything of a controversial nature would be retained for further discussion between the Chairman and the members of the Committee. I apologise for any harm, difficulties or any kind of misunderstanding from the Drafting Committee. I think this Council, as the member from Australia mentioned, could proceed in the same manner so as to expedite work, otherwise we will stay here for the next two weeks.

James AITKEN (United Kingdom): My delegation would like to make it clear that we believe both you and the Council acted in very good faith in this, and that in the circumstances, given the time constraints and the expense, it was a very sensible, pragmatic decision carried out in good faith. It is sad that there was this problem with communications. We can understand that the drafting group would be in difficulties about this, but it was also clear that you acted with discretion to try to protect the position of the drafting group and of countries on the group which might not have been in the Council. It seems to us it was a very good working practice and we would like to associate ourselves with the suggestions made by Australia and Brazil that perhaps there could be some communication with the drafting group during the recess, and we might be able to resume our discussions on a pragmatic basis.

Ibrahima KABA (Guinée): Tout en reconnaissant le bien-fondé de l'intervention du distingué délégué du Mexique, il serait fort regrettable de reprendre à zéro le travail déjà effectué. C'est pourquoi la délégation guinéenne souhaiterait un effort de compréhension de la part du Comité de rédaction.

M. le Président, notre Conseil depuis l'an dernier a constaté votre souci permanent de maintenir le consensus et la compréhension au cours de nos débats. Nous en sommes tous témoins. Si aujourd'hui cette procédure a été adoptée, c'est certainement une question de communication et d'omission. Vous avez déjà présenté vos excuses. Nous les avons entendues. Je pense donc qu'il s'agit d'une question d'incompréhension.

Winston RUDDER (Trinidad and Tobago): The Council has proceeded so far with understanding and good will and it would be regrettable if coming to the end of our deliberations anything untoward would develop. I think in the circumstances I would associate myself with the comments of Australia, United Kingdom and those delegations who suggest that the good will that has proceeded so far should be continued and that could easily be done by communicating with the Chairman of the Drafting Committee to understand and allow us to proceed as we have been doing.

José Ramón LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (México): La Delegación de México reconoce su buena fe, es decir la suya Sr. Presidente y también la nuestra. Le agradecemos las disculpas que ha ofrecido. La Delegación de México no ha propuesto ninguna estrategia o procedimiento a estas alturas, pero ya que aquí está con nosotros el Presidente del Comité de Redacción, creo que debería ser con él con quien se debiera coordinar la estrategia, por lo menos de presentación y de revisión del Informe. Le pido a Ud. por tanto que haga las consultas o las aclaraciones del caso.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Nosotros queremos apoyar lo que acaba de decir nuestro colega López Portillo de México. Convendría que Ud. ahora levantara la sesión, que explicara la situación a nuestro amigo Hamdi, Presidente del Comité de Redacción, le presentara las excusas en nombre del Consejo como lo ha dicho Australia, y así en plena armonía y cooperación reanudemos nuestras labores esta tarde.

LE PRESIDENT: C'est ce que nous comptons faire. Nous demanderons au Président du Comité de rédaction quelle procédure il entend suivre. Nous lui expliquerons ce que nous avons fait ce matin. S'il considère qu'il faut respecter rigoureusement les normes, nous le ferons. Nous lui demanderons également de bien vouloir éclairer le Conseil sur ce qui reste à faire au Comité de rédaction et le temps que lui demandera ce travail. S'il y a encore une ou deux journée de travail, nous sommes à sa disposition. Nous allons lever la séance et nous mettre en rapport avec le Président du Comité de rédaction.

M. le Président du Comité de Rédaction, je vous demanderai de nous faire part de vos vues sur le travail qui vous reste à faire. Nous reconnaissons, sur le plan strictement procédural, que nous aurions pu attendre que vous ayez fini votre travail ce soir ou demain. Je le reconnais, mais nous sommes à votre disposition. M. le Président, voulez-vous avoir l'amabilité de nous faire part de votre décision?

Yousef Ali Mahmoud HAMDI (Chairman, Drafting Committee): I must admit that while the Committee was working extremely hard on their report, on their draft reports and we were reaching consensus in order to facilitate the review of the Draft Report in the Plenary, I was astonished that the Council has already embarked on the adoption of the Draft Report. We, the Drafting Committee, are very proud that the Council has entrusted us to draft its report but unfortunately I have a feeling, and this is exactly what I got at the time I learned that the Council is adopting the Report. Unfortunately, I felt that he is insulting the Chairman of the Committee and the members of the Committee and therefore I have requested that the procedure on the adoption be suspended until I have a legal explanation of this procedure. I would like to know exactly what is the text, what it would say in this. If the Text approves this procedure, it is all right, we can go and work calmly and no problem and we will feel that the Council can work without us, without the Drafting Committee. It is happy to adopt what we have. So I seek information.

LE PRESIDENT: Cette intervention est extrêmement importante; le Conseil juridique peut-il nous dire, sur le plan légal, si les délibérations de ce matin sont acceptables ou annulées ?

LEGAL COUNSEL: On this particular point there are no provisions in the Basic Texts that regulate the question of the Drafting Committee and whether in fact the Council could adopt the procedure that it did; except to say that the Council is supreme in the sense that it does have powers over the Drafting Committee. It is a matter of comity for arrangements to be made between the Chairman of the Council and the Chairman of the Drafting Committee if a procedure like this is to be adopted. However, legally speaking I do feel that the Council does have this power and consequently the Council having made a ruling, however unfortunate it may have been from a sense of comity, it is binding and the work the Council has done is valid.

LE PRESIDENT: Je propose au Conseil de suspendre nos travaux et d'attendre la fin des travaux du Comité de rédaction, puis d'adopter la procédure habituelle. Je présente en mon nom personnel, en temps que Président du Conseil, mes regrets d'avoir adopté une position pragmatique pour tenir compte de la contrainte de temps; nous allons maintenant suspendre la séance et attendre que le Comité de rédaction ait fini son travail pour la suite des opérations.

José Ramón LOPEZ -PORTILLO ROMANO (México): Le agradecemos sus aclaraciones al Asesor Legal. No queremos ya posponer los difíciles trabajos de este Consejo y del Comité de Redacción. Pero hay una pregunta que nos parece pertinente, porque creo que no ha sido respondida. Es la de si existe alguna aclaración o algún texto en donde se explique de qué manera el Consejo se hace del Proyecto de Informe; porque no hemos visto que el Comité de Redacción le transfiera al Consejo su Proyecto de Informe, que es finalmente del Comité de Redacción, y cómo es que las reglas prevén esta transmisión o esta entrega del Proyecto de Informe.

Si no ha habido comunicación entre el Presidente del Comité de Redacción y usted, ¿existe alguna manera en que el Consejo conoce que es el Proyecto de Informe del Comité de Redacción? O ¿qué carácter tiene el Proyecto de Informe que se está revisando ahora? A eso es a lo que no nos contestó el Asesor Legal, y quiero saberlo para futuras ocasiones.

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Je voudrais donner une réponse basée sur plusieurs années d'expérience, et peut-être le Conseiller juridique complétera-t-il.

Jamais ce problème ne s'est posé et nous en sommes à la quatre-vingt-quatorzième session; à ma connaissance, c'est la première fois, que l'on soulève un tel problème. C'est une question de sensibilité mais il me semble que sur le plan légal, c'est tout à fait clair: vous êtes souverain vis-à-vis du Secrétariat, vis-à-vis de tous les Comités que vous nommez. Il me semble que le Conseil a tenu compte de cet aspect de sensibilité et de ce dont vous avez parlé, Monsieur le

Délégué du Mexique, et la preuve en est que le Conseil a approuvé uniquement les paragraphes pour lesquels on n'a fait aucun changement, sauf grammatical. Mais dès qu'un paragraphe exigeait un changement, le Conseil a tenu à en rendre compte au Comité de rédaction; 11 a donc tenu compte de ce que vous aviez des informations à donner, et n'a pas voulu vous mettre devant le fait accompli. Il me semble que vous devriez être satisfaits, vous, les Membres du Comité de rédaction, de ce que nous avons avancé dans la mesure où nous avons accepté votre texte; en effet, dès qu'il s'est agi de changement de fond, le Conseil a pris la décision d'en référer au Comité de rédaction.

Cette situation me semble extraordinaire; je ne vois pas quand on finira puisque même le Président du Comité de rédaction ne peut pas dire quand 11 terminera ses travaux; si nous nous séparons maintenant pour déjeuner, à quelle heure allons-nous reprendre ? Le Président du Comité de rédaction lui-même ne peut pas donner de réponse alors que c'est une question qui se pose pour les interprètes, pour chacun de nous, car nous avons tous beaucoup de choses à faire.

Peut-être fallait-il envoyer un émissaire, vous faire savoir que nous avons commencé pour telle ou telle raison: je suis d'accord que cela aurait été plus correct. Mais cela n'aurait rien changé parce qu'en premier lieu, vous ne pouvez pas annuler une décision du Conseil et, en second lieu, vous n'allez pas tout annuler et revenir ici.

On me demande aussi comment le rapport a été transmis; il n'y a pas de signature, le Secrétariat note tout et le distribue; il n'y a pas de lettre de transmission non plus, car cela n'existe pas; cela se fait "comme ça" sans formalités, et jusqu'à présent il n'y a eu aucun problème. Mais, là n'est plus la question, le problème est de savoir quand vous allez finir; je voudrais, par l'Intermédiaire du Président, demander au Docteur Hamdi s'il peut nous donner une idée du moment où ils auront terminé leurs travaux; s'il nous dit qu'il faut encore quatre heures, tout le programme de l'après-midi et de demain est à revoir.

Je m'excuse d'intervenir mais je me sens autant concerné que vous; nous sommes tous ensemble, je suis le Représentant du Secrétariat, mais nous avons tous le même objectif et nous essayons tous de faire au mieux.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie Monsieur le Directeur général, nous allons arrêter les discussions jusqu'à ce que le Président du Comité de rédaction ait fini son travail; nous attendrons que le Comité de rédaction ait terminé son rapport intégralement.

Encore une fois, s'il considère nécessaire que nous reprenions le débat depuis le début, personnellement, j'accepterai sa décision.

Il y a donc deux questions:

- le Président peut-il nous indiquer la date à laquelle ou l'heure à laquelle 11 remettra son rapport, auquel cas nous fixerons la date de réunion du Conseil,
- le Président considère-t-il que nous devons reprendre les travaux à zéro; j'y suis disposé.

Yousef Ali Mahmood HAMDI (Chairman, Drafting Committee): I find it difficult to answer this question because I always work with a Committee. I cannot take any decision alone. I have already arranged the time of 2.30 p.m. to reconvene in the Drafting Committee, and I will consult with the Committee and give you an answer.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous levons la séance et demandons à Mesdames et Messieurs les Délégués de bien vouloir être disponibles.

Joao Augusto de MEDICIS (Brazil): Mr Chairman, you are asking us to make ourselves available but it is difficult to be available. What do you mean by "being available"? We should establish some time for reconvening. Perhaps we should reconvene here at 2.30. There should be some understanding. Now that the position is well understood, nobody has acted in bad faith. Nobody was disrespectful to the Drafting Committee. For the sake of this Council, I appeal for some kind of arrangement to be made so that we can proceed in the same manner as before. We have decided nothing controversial. We changed nothing in the draft from the Drafting Committee that would need either their advice or their consent. I apologise if we have communications problems. I appeal to the Council that we should continue as before.

LE PRESIDENT: Pouvons-nous nous réunir à 16 h 30 avec le Comité de rédaction pour voir ce que nous avons fait ce matin; on lui laisserait le choix de voir tous les paragraphes que nous avons approuvés ainsi que ceux laissés en suspens, jusqu'à ce que le Comité de rédaction soit présent.

Si le Président du Comité de rédaction considère que l'on peut venir à 16 heures 30 ou 17 h. pour poursuivre nos travaux, sur la base des documents vus ce matin, on peut passer en revue ces paragraphes, lui indiquer ceux qui méritent attention.

Nous sommes à sa disposition.

Yousef Ali Mahmoud HAMDI (Chairman, Drafting Committee): After consulting with some members of the Drafting Committee we would like to suggest that the Council meets again at 4.30. At that time, if the Drafting Committee has not finished its work, either I or a delegated deputy will attend the meeting of the Council.

The meeting rose at 14.00 hours

La séance est levée à 14 heures

Se levanta la sesión a las 14 horas

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CL

CL 94/PV/17

Ninety-fourth Session

Quatre-vingt-quatorzième session

94º período de sesiones

SEVENTEENTH PLENARY MEETING
DIX-SEPTIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
17ª SESION PLENARIA

(25 November 1988)

The Seventeenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 17.15 hours

Lassaad Ben Osman, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La dix-septième séance plénière est ouverte à 17 h 15 sous la présidence de
Lassaad Ben Osman, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la 17ª sesión plenaria a las 17.15 horas, bajo la presidencia de
Lassaad Ben Osman, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

ADOPTION OF REPORT (continued)

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT (suite)

APROBACION DEL INFORME (continuación)

LE PRESIDENT: Honorables Délégués et Observateurs, nous reprenons le cours de nos travaux. Le Président du Comité de rédaction me signale que le Comité vient de terminer son travail, il y a donc un problème pratique de traduction et de frappe, et nous vous proposons la formule de travail suivante.

Nous allons passer en revue les documents CL 94/REP/1, 2, 3, 4, nous informerons les membres du Comité de rédaction ici présents des modifications de formes envisagées ce matin, et en même temps, nous aborderons document par document les questions de fond qui ont été laissées pour analyse avec les membres du Comité de rédaction.

Nous espérons, au cours de cette discussion, recevoir le reste des documents du Comité de rédaction.

Je vais d'abord donner la parole à Monsieur le Président du Comité de rédaction, puis je demanderai au Secrétariat de bien vouloir informer le Comité de rédaction des points de forme que nous avons vus ce matin, ainsi que des questions de fond qui ont été réservées.

Yousef Ali Mahmoud HAMDY (Chairman, Drafting Committee) (Original language Arabic): I would like first of all to reiterate my thanks and the thanks of the members of the Drafting Committee to the Council for the confidence and trust it placed in us by electing us to the membership of this Committee. I would also like to seize this opportunity to express my deep thanks to the members of the Drafting Committee for the true and genuine efforts and the very full cooperation throughout the work of the Drafting Committee at this session of the Council. I would also like to inform you that the Committee has worked for more than 40 hours to submit to your Council a report that would reflect the differing opinions and which would give a balanced reflection of the discussions and debates of the Council, taking into account, of course, the conflicting as well as the supporting views and opinions in the debates. Allow me on my own behalf and on behalf of the Drafting Committee to express our thanks to the members of the Secretariat who worked with us unstintingly and untiringly to help us with our work, and here I do not wish to omit to thank all those who worked with us and cooperated with us, even be it from afar.

The Drafting Committee completed its work and you have before you the various parts of our Report. You have in fact examined and studied and indicated the procedure to be followed and we agree with you.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie l'honorable Président du Comité de rédaction et vais demander au Secrétaire général adjoint de bien vouloir nous indiquer ce qui a été convenu ce matin.

DRAFT REPORT - PART I (part of)(continued)

PROJET DE RAPPORT - PREMIERE PARTIE (partiel) (suite)

PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE I (parte) (continuación)

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL ADJOINT: J'espère, Monsieur le Président, pouvoir relire mes notes car je n'ai pas eu le temps de vérifier avec le Procès-Verbal de ce matin.

Paragraphe 14. On nous a signalé une erreur dans la traduction espagnole que nous allons corriger.

Paragraphe 16. Dans la première phrase, il faudrait mettre "most" au lieu de "many". Dans la seconde partie de ce paragraphe, le Conseil a décidé de le revoir en présence des membres du Comité de rédaction.

Paragraphe 17. Avant dernière ligne, tout à fait à la fin, nous devons ajouter: "bilatérales" après organisations multilatérales.

Paragraphe 18. On nous a signalé que dans la version française quelque chose n'allait pas et nous allons la vérifier.

LE PRESIDENT: Il a été proposé à la ligne 1 du texte français de ce paragraphe 18, de remplacer "une forte proportion de l'agriculture" par "un niveau élevé de protectionnisme de l'agriculture". Telles sont les quatre remarques que je forme qui ont été annoncées jusqu'à la fin de ce Point 18.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL: After the sentence "owing to the climatic and ecological conditions prevailing in their countries", add "coupled with an inadequate and adverse international economic environment". The second part of paragraph 18 is left to be amended in the presence of the members of Drafting Committee.

Paragraph 22, the third sentence would read "The limited" agricultural production increase....

Paragraph 25, an amendment has been proposed but has to be looked at by the Council in the presence of members of the Drafting Committee.

Paragraph 26, the penultimate sentence which starts "The temporary increase in international prices" will now read "Increasing international prices had been recorded from several commodities in 1988. However, prices of some other commodities of major interest to developing countries had remained extremely depressed."

Mr. CH. BONTE-FRIEDHEIM (Assistant Director-General, Agricultural Department) (Representative of the Director-General): In the English text, the way I have it is: "Increasing international prices have been recorded in 1988 for several commodities. However, prices for some", and it would then be good to include "other" to make sense of it, "some other commodities of major Interest to developing countries have remained depressed."

ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL: Paragraph 27, the expression "non-concessional" was not properly translated in French.

Paragraph 39, there was an addition which will be looked at with the Drafting Committee. That is all as far as REP/1 is concerned.

PARAGRAPHS 15 to 28 (continued)

PARAGRAPHERS 15 à 28 (suite)

PARRAFOS 15 a 28 (continuación)

LE PRESIDENT: Voilà un résumé des modifications de forme qui ont été envisagées ce matin. Il reste les problèmes de fond. Nous allons reprendre la discussion des paragraphes que nous avons mis de côté jusqu'à ce que le Comité de rédaction participe au débat.

La première question de fond qui a été soulevée ce matin porte sur le paragraphe 16, à savoir la phrase qui se lit comme suit: "Le Conseil a instamment demandé que, d'une façon générale les pays qui entreprennent des ajustements de l'économie bénéficient d'allègements significatifs de leur dette afin de permettre la reprise de leur croissance économique et sociale".

Je demande au délégué qui a proposé de modifier ce paragraphe de bien vouloir exposer son point de vue en présence du Comité de rédaction.

Yousef Ali Mahmoud HAMDI (Chairman, Drafting Committee): This latter part has been discussed at length, and the distinguished delegates of Mexico, Madagascar and the United States have elaborated on this paragraph. We reached the consensus which is expressed in this paragraph.

Joao Augusto de MEDICIS (Brazil): We are now getting into a matter that is not within the competence of FAO. It is for the IMF or the World Bank to decide which countries should have significant concessions on debt because of economic adjustments.

I move that we strike out the expression "undertaking economic adjustments" and add "the developing countries", so that all countries should be entitled to this reward. I do not know why we should single out those countries undertaking economic adjustment in this form.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Apoyamos lo que ha dicho Brasil.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous sommes saisis d'une proposition du Délégué du Brésil appuyé du Délégué de la Colombie visant à remplacer les termes "les pays qui entreprennent des ajustements de leur économie" par "les pays en voie de développement".

Ms Roberta VAN HAEFTEN (United States of America): The United States delegation, as we argued at the Drafting Committee, wish to leave those two concepts together. That is the concept of countries undertaking structural adjustments, which indicate that they are attempting to deal very seriously with some of the economic problems they have; and that coupled with that would be the assistance. We would prefer to have the language stay the way it is now.

Joao Augusto de MEDICIS (Brazil): I really do not know which kind of structural adjustment we are considering. Who determines the structural adjustment? Who judges whether the structural adjustment applies? I believe that countries which are not going through structural adjustments are taking good care of their economies. We are not the ones to judge which is the right path for us to take.

Nevertheless, I am prepared to accept this and not to enter into long discussions on it. Perhaps the best solution would be to strike out the whole sentence starting "In countries" and ending with "improvement" and substituting it with "That this situation be reversed." We mean by that the situation mentioned in the sentence before, which is the constraint and conception of economic growth and the burden of external debt, capital outflow and so forth. I would be happy if we could accept that.

LE PRESIDENT: Je vous demande de bien vouloir nous indiquer la rédaction que vous proposez.

Joao Augusto de MEDICIS (Brazil): The sentence I mentioned that I wanted to amend would read as follows: "The Council in general urged that the situation mentioned before be reversed".

LE PRESIDENT: Le Conseil est-il d'accord avec la proposition du Délégué du Brésil ? Je crois que nous pouvons l'entériner.

Un autre paragraphe sur lequel une question de fond a été soulevée est le paragraphe 18. On a proposé d'ajouter, à la suite de la phrase qui se termine par "en raison des conditions climatiques et écologiques où ils se trouvent", la mention suivante: "Le Conseil a été informé des mesures décidées par la Communauté économique européenne (CEE) dans le cadre de la politique agricole commune et des résultats qu'elle a obtenus dans cette direction".

Ibrahima KABA (Guinée): Je m'excuse beaucoup de revenir sur le paragraphe 16 mais je n'ai pas du tout compris cette question. Comme nous le savons, ce problème d'ajustement structurel a été discuté à fond lors de nos débats. Il a fait l'objet de discussions sérieuses et approfondies. Je ne sais pas ce qui ne va pas ici. Je voudrais la phrase complète.

LE PRESIDENT: La phrase actuelle se lit comme suit: "Le Conseil a instamment demandé que, d'une façon générale, les pays qui entreprennent des ajustements de leur économie bénéficient d'allègements significatifs de leur dette avec la mise en place de programmes d'ajustement structurels économiques...".

Ce qui a été proposé par le Délégué du Brésil, c'est que l'on demande que la situation mentionnée plus haut - celle relative à la dette - soit renversée.

Ibrahima KABA (Guinée): Le problème structurel doit apparaître, conformément à la teneur du débat. Je voudrais que cela apparaisse dans ce paragraphe. Je suis d'accord si l'on fait d'autres propositions mais il faut maintenir cette phrase parce qu'elle me satisfait. J'insiste pour que cette mention paraisse car je sais ce que mon pays subit actuellement dans ce contexte bien précis.

Muhammad Saleen KHAN (Pakistan): I find myself in agreement with the delegate of Guinea. We were members of the Drafting Committee and I do not want to take the floor but this sentence flows from the preceding one which lays emphasis on some areas. It mentions countries in general but then says particularly certain areas. The significance may be seen in that context. Therefore, I think it needs some changing.

Raphael RABE (Madagascar): Moi non plus, en tant que membre du Comité de rédaction, je ne devrais pas intervenir, mais le délégué de la Guinée, à juste titre, a mentionné que cette question avait été largement débattue. Cela figure au Procès-verbal.

Je propose donc que l'on garde cette phrase et que l'on ajoute celle proposée par le Délégué du Brésil. L'un n'empêche pas l'autre. On devrait insérer les deux idées dans ce paragraphe.

Joao Augusto de MEDICIS (Brazil): The points mentioned by the delegates from Madagascar, Pakistan and Guinea are very clearly contained in paragraph 17. Their thoughts and their preoccupations are very clear in the words of paragraph 17. What I am against is that we have to single out just one section of the developing countries, those who will be receiving these concessions, who will be making economic adjustments, who are feeling the effects of the economic adjustments determined by the socio-economic group, and they are very clearly contained in paragraph 17.

Paragraph 16 dealt with different matters, paragraph 17 deals with the economic adjustment. I move that we keep paragraph 17 as it is, in which the preoccupations of those delegates are embodied, and change the paragraph as I have suggested.

LE PRESIDENT: Vous suggérez que le paragraphe 16 reste en l'état ?

João Augusto de MEDICIS (Brazil): NO.

Gonzalo BULA HOyOS (Colombia): Creo que lo que preocupa al colega de Brasil, y a nosotros también, es la impresión que esta frase da en el sentido de que sólo aquellos países donde se están introduciendo ajustes económicos debieran merecer un trato favorable.

No sé si el colega de Brasil podría aceptar una propuesta que permitiera un consenso para atender las posiciones de otros colegas. Podríamos decir así: el Consejo en general insistió en que los países que introdujeran ajustes económicos, así como a los demás países en desarrollo. Luego seguiría igual.

LE PRESIDENT: Je vais donner la parole aux représentants de la Guinée et des Philippines. Je proposerai ensuite une formule de rédaction.

Ibrahima KABA (Guinée): Je veux simplement dire que les deux aspects du problème abordé dans les paragraphes 16 et 17 sont tout à fait différents. Il ne faut pas tout mélanger. Au paragraphe 16, on aborde le problème d'ajustement structurel compte tenu du problème de la dette alors qu'au paragraphe 17, on l'aborde en y associant la FAO, comme l'a suggéré le Directeur général, en envisageant les différentes mesures d'ajustement structurelles avec la présence de la FAO, étant donné que l'activité agricole représente le facteur économique le plus important dans ces pays là. Il s'agit donc de deux aspects différents et c'est ce que je voulais souligner.

Horacio CARANDANG (Philippines): The problem concerns the sentence preceding the one we are now trying to amend. This makes reference to the debt problems and capital outflows which are a major constraint to the resumption of economic growth in many of the developing countries. You are saying particularly Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean. I am sure that during the debate this problem was also referred to by delegations from Asia. This problem is not limited to Africa and Latin America, it is also in Asia. I think we could also include Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean.

Winston RUDDER (Trinidad and Tobago): I wonder whether it would be helpful if we were to make a slight amendment to the existing sentence in order that it would read: "The Council in general urged that countries so affected be rewarded through significant concessions on debts," etcetera.

Roberto E.E. DALTON (Argentina): Creo que sobre la base de lo que ha propuesto Colombia, si se invirtiera el orden de las palabras quedarla mas claro. Diría: el Consejo, en general insistió en que a los países en desarrollo, especialmente aquellos que introduzcan ajustes económicos, se les otorgara. Todo lo demás seguirla igual.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous avons donc une suggestion concrète présentée par la Colombie et appuyée par l'Argentine. Avant de vous donner la parole, j'aurais aimé savoir si cette rédaction pourrait être retenue par le Conseil.

Sra. Miriam INZAULGARAT GARCIA DE PEREZ (Cuba): Por favor le ruego que lo repitan a velocidad de dictado para tomar nota y saber si nos podemos pronunciar.

Roberto E.E. DALTON (Argentina): En general, Insistió en que a los países en desarrollo, especialmente a aquellos que introduzcan ajustes económicos, etc., etc.

LE PRESIDENT: Je crois que le Conseil accepte cette proposition.

Joao Augusto de MEDICIS (Brazil): I would rather have the proposal made by Trinidad and Tobago. It is a better proposal. However, I would be prepared to accept the proposal made by Argentina and Colombia if the word "especially" were taken out. I do not know why certain countries are singled out and others left out altogether.

Earl W. WEYBRECHT (Canada): I was concerned about some of the earlier suggestions and the flow of that sentence in connection with the following sentence which states "the major industrial countries should endeavour to correct their own structural imbalances." I feel that some of the earlier wording did not quite flow in with the next sentence. However, perhaps it is a point I should have raised earlier.

Ibrahima KABA (Guinée): Je voudrais soutenir la proposition faite par la Colombie.

Ms Roberta VAN HAEFTEN (United States of America): We should like to support the proposal made by the delegate of Argentina and would particularly like to see the word "especially" stay in the sentence.

LE PRESIDENT: Pour ne pas alourdir le débat nous pourrions retenir cette formulation: "Le Conseil a instamment demandé que, d'une façon générale, les pays en développement qui entreprennent des ajustements de leur économie..."

Washington ZUÑIGA TRELLES (Perú): A mi Delegación le parece más conveniente lo sugerido por Colombia porque si pensamos bien en el sentido de lo que se quiere decir, vamos a ver que los países cuanto más pobres son, es más difícil que puedan hacer reajustes económicos. ¿Qué son los reajustes económicos que por lo general piden lo organismos financieros? Que por ejemplo se hagan economías en los presupuestos, cortes en los presupuestos o una serie de sacrificios los cuales no pueden realizar los países más pobres. En consecuencia, yo creo que lo propuesto por Colombia es lo más racional.

LE PRESIDENT: Est-ce que le Délégué de la Colombie veut bien nous donner sa rédaction?

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Sí, Sr. Presidente. Yo estoy muy agradecido a mi colega de Guinea quien ha entendido el sentido equilibrado de nuestra propuesta. La repetiré lentamente porque creo que no debería ofrecer dificultades.

"El Consejo, en general, insistió en que a los países que introdujeran ajustes económicos", y aquí viene el agregado: "así como a los demás países en desarrollo" y el texto sigue tal como está: "se les otorgara..." Y yo creo francamente que un concepto tan amplio como éste no puede tener ninguna objeción en el seno del Consejo.

V.K. SIBAL (India): I take the floor somewhat hesitantly, being a member of the Drafting Committee. I should like to advance the consensus we are converging on, and mention that I have a slight reservation which I am compelled to share with you concerning the word "rewarded". This does not seem to be consistent with the dignity of Member Countries. I think that the word "assisted" would be a much better word.

LE PRESIDENT: J'aimerais bien qu'on puisse axer le débat sur la proposition colombienne ou argentine pour que nous arrivions à un consensus.

Horacio CARANDANG (Philippines): I should like to support the statement made by the delegate of Peru which supported the proposal of Colombia. I think it is most rational that we should do so. Also, I should like to remind you that I have requested the addition of the word "Asia" in the preceding sentence.

Joao Augusto de MEDICIS (Brazil): Perhaps we could reach consensus on the proposal made by Colombia and supported by Peru, the Philippines and other countries.

András SZABO (Hungary): I should stress that our delegation fully supports the suggestions made by Argentina. In other words, if we accepted the Colombian proposal it would mean that practically all developing countries must have consensus in solving the debt problems. The debt problems are not the subject of our deliberations. The debt problems were considered very seriously during the UNCTAD VII where consensus was reached on these problems. I ask you to take into account what was agreed at the UNCTAD meeting.

Ms Roberta VAN HAEFTEN (United States of America): At this point our delegation would like to accept the proposal suggested by the delegation of Argentina. We could accept the original statement as it came from the Drafting Committee. We would also accept the second suggestion from the Brazilian delegation where any reference in that sentence to undertaking economic adjustments was eliminated, and instead saying that the situation mentioned in the previous paragraph be reversed. However, we cannot accept the suggestion from the delegation of Colombia.

LE PRESIDENT: Je récapitule. Peut-on retenir la proposition de l'Argentine qui est la suivante: "Le Conseil a instamment demandé que, d'une façon générale, les pays en développement et en particulier ceux qui entreprennent des ajustements de leur économie bénéficient....". Puisque les deux types de pays sont cités et que l'on met "en particulier", je crois que l'on couvre à peu près tous les secteurs. On met tous les pays en développement, on ne les exclut pas. Mais il y a un certain intérêt qui est porté à ceux qui ont entrepris des programmes d'ajustement structurel, comme l'Afrique.

James AITKEN (United Kingdom): I should like to confirm that we support the formulation you have proposed, with one very minor alteration that is to support the proposal from the distinguished delegate of India, namely that the word "rewarded" should be changed to "assisted". Apart from that we favour very much using the word "especially".

Joao Augusto de MEDICIS (Brazil): Perhaps we could do it differently: "The Council, in general, urged that the developing countries be assisted" goes to the end of the sentence, and then, "Particular attention in this context should be given to countries undertaking economic adjustment".

LE PRESIDENT: Je pense que cette formule: "les pays en développement, en particulier ceux qui ont des problèmes d'ajustement..." n'exclut pas les pays en développement. Dans beaucoup de pays de l'Afrique il y a ces problèmes d'ajustement structurel que nous connaissons. C'est une amélioration par rapport au texte accepté par le Comité de rédaction avec la modification proposée par l'Inde. Je suggère donc qu'on retienne: "les pays en développement, en particulier...". Cela permettra d'avoir un peu tout le monde. Pouvons-nous accepter cela?

C.H. BONTE-FRIEDHEIM (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department) (Representative of the Director-General): There is still the Philippine proposal, and may I suggest that perhaps the Philippine delegate would agree that after the comma of the preceding sentence we make a full stop -"in many of them", and delete "particularly those in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean". That would mean that we would not have to name some and not: others.

Gonzalo BULA HOTOS (Colombia): Sólo nos interesa, digamos, saber cómo queda la modificación a "trato favorable", porque no entendimos exactamente qué se quiso decir. Olmos en inglés una palabra, asistencia. No sé si eso sea exactamente lo que se debe decir, cual es el cambio que se ha introducido en "trato favorable".

LE PRESIDENT: Je crois que la traduction est "assisted".

Quant à la proposition de M. Bonte-Friedheim, est-ce qu'on retire "notamment..."? Je signale que le terme "notamment" n'est pas exclusif. Il laisse la porte ouverte aux autres pays qui ont le même problème.

Joao Augusto de MEDICIS (Brazil): For the sake of consensus I will accept this formula but I believe it is a very dangerous one and makes it difficult between developing countries, those who are making structural adjustments and those who are not making structural adjustments, those who are entitled to some kind of assistance and those who are not entitled to some kind of assistance. So I accept that but I think it is detrimental to the interests of the developing countries.

Ibrahima KABA (Guinée): L'introduction de ce point dans le Projet du rapport est due au fait qu'on l'a étudié, qu'on l'a examiné au Conseil. Etant donné que cela a été un des points étudiés par le Conseil, il ne s'agit pas maintenant de formuler les choses suivant son désir, mais de refléter la teneur des débats. Si on veut respecter la teneur des débats, c'est ce qui est indiqué dans le projet de rapport qui a effectivement été dit au cours des débats. Dans ce cas on accepte cette formule qui effectivement est le reflet des débats, cela est incontestable, ou alors, si on veut faire plaisir à certains, qui demandaient des modifications, nous accepterions l'adoption du mot "particulier".

LE PRESIDENT: Nous passons à une autre question, parce que nous avons encore beaucoup de travail.

Il reste la dernière question. S'agissant du terme "notamment" qui n'exclut pas d'autres pays, je suggère que l'on veuille bien laisser la rédaction en l'état si vous n'avez pas d'objections.

Joao Augusto de MEDICIS (Brazil): Particularly Africa and the Caribbean? Quelle est la rédaction finale?

LE PRESIDENT: "Le Conseil a instamment demandé que, d'une façon générale, les pays en voie de développement et en particulier les pays qui entreprennent des ajustements..."

Horacio GARANDANG (Philippines): I was just wondering what was the final version of the sentence preceding this sentence you have just approved. I did not quite get what you proposed and what was approved.

LE PRESIDENT: J'ai suggéré que le terme "notamment" qui est ici, ne se limite pas à l'Afrique ou à la Région des Caraïbes. Ce n'est pas exclusif. Si on veut ajouter l'Asie, c'est au Conseil de décider.

M. le Président du Comité de rédaction, voulez-vous donner une explication sur ce point?

Yousef Ali Mahmoud HAMDY (Chairman, Drafting Committee): I wish to indicate that the Drafting Committee has worked on this specific issue for a long time. I just want to give you some history, Mr. Chairman, but I do not contest your ruling, the introduction of "the developing countries", means that there is also a reference to the developing countries, that is to separate them. I think we can agree with your ruling there, Mr. Chairman.

LE PRESIDENT: Notamment le Délégué des Philippines signale qu'en Asie il y a le même problème et il demande si nous pouvons élargir l'énumération et ne pas se limiter à l'Afrique.

Yousef Ali Mahmoud HAMDI (Chairman, Drafting Committee): I do not think we have any problem in adding it, Mr. Chairman.

Ms Ljiljana VELASEVIC (Yugoslavia): Yugoslavia is also a developing country and this is the European region. Then if we do this we must put European region, that is the problem.

V.K. SIBAL (India): I have taken the floor to support what is in this paragraph, for the reason that the debt problem is acute in these two regions. This does not exclude the fact that there may be some countries in the other regions also which have a debt problem. But regionwise the problem of debt is a very big problem in those two that have been mentioned particularly. Therefore, it is a fair reflection of economic realities and we could leave it at this.

LE PRESIDENT: Est-ce que l'on peut accepter cette rédaction pour débloquer la situation, M. le Délégué des Philippines?

Horacio CARANDANG (Philippines): I think the report should reflect what happened in the debate and there were many Asian countries also that referred to the external debt burden, among them the Philippines itself. We are using 50% of our national budget to pay our external debts and if that is not a heavy burden I do not know what is. We are using 30% of our foreign exchange to service our foreign debts and certainly that is a very heavy burden. Probably we should be included in the countries of Latin America but we are not, we are in Asia and that is a reality, Mr. Chairman.

LE PRESIDENT: Puisque dans le Procès-verbal l'intervention de la Yougoslavie sur ce point ne figure pas, nous pourrions, si le Conseil en est d'accord, ajouter en Afrique, en Asie, dans la région d'Amérique latine et dans les Caraïbes, et on débloque ainsi la situation. Paragraphe 18?

Joao Augusto de MEDICIS (Brazil): It is a very minor amendment. At the end of the sentence starting "In this connection, some developing countries pointed out the difficulties which they encountered in organizing their policies owing to the climatic and ecological conditions prevailing in their countries". I move that it is not only the internal conditions but the external conditions, so to add at the end of this sentence "coupled with an inadequate and adverse economic environment".

LE PRESIDENT: La phrase proposée par le Délégué du Brésil s'est d'ajouter après "où il se trouve" la mention suivante "jointe à un environnement économique international inapproprié et néfaste". Voilà ce qui était proposé ce matin.

Yousef Ali Mahmoud HAMDI (Chairman, Drafting Committee): I do not recall if this specific phrase has been introduced in the Plenary. If it has been introduced I think the Committee would not object to that.

Joao Augusto de MEDICIS (Brazil): I do not recall if the specific phrase was introduced in the Plenary but the specific concept was introduced by a great many delegates so I move that we could accept it.

Thomas YANGA (Cameroun): Je voulais seulement mentionner que ma Délégation était parmi celles qui ont parlé des conditions économiques internationales.

Mlle Faouzia BOUMAÏZA (Algérie): En plus de la remarque de son Excellence, l'Ambassadeur du Brésil, il faudrait d'abord préciser qu'il s'agit de leurs politiques agricoles, et ensuite, de changer l'ordre de la phrase, en commençant par: "en raison" et là on mettrait la proposition du Brésil; et ensuite: "ainsi que des conditions climatiques et écologiques où ils se trouvent".

András SZABO (Hungary): We would rather see the suggestion of the distinguished delegate of Brazil, because we have to bear in mind, as stressed several times, that first of all the governments and countries themselves should take steps and are responsible for the situation. That is why the order of business should be followed according to our debates. That is why I cannot agree with the representative of Algeria.

LE PRESIDENT: Est-ce que nous pouvons ajouter à la phrase finissant par "où ils se trouvent" dans le texte français, la phrase suivante "jointes à un environnement économique international inapproprié et néfaste".

C.H. BONTE-FRIEDHEIM (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department)(Representative of the Director-General): Unfortunately, on behalf of the secretariat, I have to ask you, and maybe through you some Members, one question with regard to paragraph 18. In the meeting this morning France introduced an information sentence which, according to my recollection was to be included towards the end of the paragraph where it says "meeting held in Budapest from 10 to 12 November 1988." Thereafter, and I am willing to read what I put down, France introduced a sentence which was to read "The Council was informed that measures decided by the EEC within the framework of the Common Agricultural Policy as well as the results obtained in order to achieve better balance of supply and demand with a view to improving international markets."

LE PRESIDENT: Nous avons suggéré que l'on dise "Le Conseil a été informé des mesures décidées par la Communauté économique européenne (CEE) dans le cadre de la politique agricole ainsi que des résultats obtenus par cette politique". C'est ce qui avait été suggéré ce matin pour ne pas alourdir le débat.

Paragraphe 25. Le Délégué du Brésil a introduit une proposition assez longue que je lui demanderai d'exposer lui-même.

Joao Augusto de MEDICIS (Brazil): The paragraphs relating to ecological and environmental issues care for the needs and problems of developing countries. There is not a balance between development needs and environmental practice and policies. Therefore, we propose we should not start using different definitions on these environmental issues and different fora to go back and accept something that was mentioned as a concept, and to make what has been said in resolution 42/186 more formal, which in my opinion has more balanced wording, only emphasising one side of the issue. We substitute this sentence, "It agreed that environmental issues must be fully integrated into development strategies as had been recommended by the World Commission on Environment and Development." with the sentence "It agreed that environmental issues are closely intertwined with development policies and practices and, consequently, environmental goals and actions need to be defined in relation to the development objectives and policies." This sentence takes care of the exact needs of the possibility of developing countries in addressing ecological problems rather than those problems imposed on them from outside.

LE PRESIDENT: Je récapitule la proposition de l'honorable Délégué du Brésil, à savoir de remplacer la seconde phrase par: "il a reconnu que les conditions d'environnement sont étroitement liées avec les politiques et pratiques d'environnement, et qu'elles doivent être définies en fonction des objectifs de développement".

Bernard LEDUN (France): Il y a une petite confusion ou un contresens: vous dites: "Il a reconnu que les questions d'environnement doivent être pleinement intégrées dans les politiques ou stratégies d'environnement"; il y a là une redondance qui me paraît amener à la confusion; c'est simplement un problème de rédaction; je serai ensuite amené à intervenir sur le fond.

Joao Augusto de MEDICIS (Brazil): I do not believe there is a problem with the wording. Development is the major constraint to environment degradation. That is the point; not the other way around. Poverty is a major cause of environmental degradation, and we should address that and not the other way around. Developed countries of course do not have this problem. They can use this issue as a control in the way they believe developing countries should develop themselves. We believe we should decide on our own development and that development is the main issue. Of course, it has to come together with environmentally sound policies, but the emphasis should be on development. As I mentioned before, I am not innovating; I am reading from a UN resolution approved by the consensus of every member state in this room. "It is agreed that environmental issues are closely intertwined with development policies and practices, and consequently environmental goals and actions need to be defined in relation to development objectives and policies."

LE PRESIDENT: La rédaction vous va?

Bernard LEDUN (France): Je souhaiterais demander au Délégué du Brésil quel est le numéro de la Résolution qu'il vient de nous lire et par quelle Assemblée - je pense que c'était l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies, et en quelle année cette Résolution a-t-elle été adoptée; s'agit-il de la quarante-troisième ou de la quarante-deuxième session, je voudrais les références exactes de cette Résolution.

Joao Augusto de MEDICIS (Brésil): 42-186 approuvés par la 42ème session.

Roberta VAN HAEFTEN (United States of America): We had a question of information but it has been answered for us already.

Hannu HALINEN (Finland): My reading of the discussion we have been having on this item, as well as the other item on environmental questions, is that the text by the drafting committee reflects better the discussion we have been conducting here. Therefore, I would be much more comfortable with the text as it stands. It concentrates on the World Commission and this has been discussed here.

Ibrahima KABA (Guinée): La phrase telle qu'elle est présentée dans notre projet de rapport me semble parfaitement compréhensible: une question d'environnement doit être prise comme un facteur du développement. Cela me semble très bien exprimé.

András SZABO (Hungary): I question that, if the General Assembly has already accepted a resolution, why should we stress our Council agree to it. It is quite natural for me, if the General Assembly has a resolution, we agree to it. I would suggest change the word "agreed" but the Council "urged actions" for the implementation of this resolution and has not "agreed" that such a resolution exists. I see no sense in this sentence. Why should we say that our Council agrees to what the General Assembly has agreed upon.

Bernard LEDUM (France): Certes, l'Assemblée générale peut avoir adopté une Résolution, cela étant, nous sommes à la FAO et non pas à l'Assemblée générale.

En second lieu, nous sommes ici, au paragraphe 25, qui insiste sur le fait que la composante majeure est constituée précisément par une défense des problèmes d'environnement; la suggestion brésilienne consisterait plus ou moins à faire passer les impératifs de développement économique avant ceux de la préservation du milieu environnemental. J'estime que, tout en tenant compte du fait que la proposition brésilienne prend dûment en compte les facteurs de développement, on pourrait la placer, dans une autre partie du rapport, notamment celle qui a trait au développement durable. Il faudrait réserver à ce paragraphe 25 son aspect majeur qui est environnemental et repousser la proposition brésilienne à la partie qui traite des problèmes de pérennité du développement où, à mon avis, elle a mieux sa place.

LE PRESIDENT: Est-ce que le Délégué du Brésil accepte cette proposition?

Joao Augusto de MEDICIS (Brazil): What we want here is to transform FAO to an environmental agency, and FAO is not an environmental agency. What I believe is that perhaps we could meet with the consensus here and, rather than having this wording as proposed by the drafting committee, we mention where the resolutions stem from. Therefore, something like "It is agreed that the proposals on sustainable development, as adopted by UN resolutions 42/186 and 43/186, be integrated or introduced in development strategies, or something along those lines.

LE PRESIDENT: La proposition de la France consiste à ce que cette idée puisse être intégrée dans la partie du rapport relative au développement durable; il propose de laisser cette idée ici mais de mettre votre proposition dans la partie du rapport relative au développement durable.

C'est bien ça, Monsieur le Délégué de la France?

Bernard LEDUN (France): Oui tout à fait.

LE PRESIDENT: Si vous en êtes d'accord, on pourrait peut-être attendre le développement durable.

Joao Augusto de MEDICIS (Brazil): I do not like the way it is worded here. I do not like this concept that we have that environmental issues should be the main concern of FAO. That is what we read from this; it is not the point. I would be prepared to accept any alternative. As you read this, FAO has to have environmental concerns as the major, and not development concerns. I think, for developing countries development is an important thing; I am sure it is not for developed countries, but for developing it is. We should look at that from different view points. Of course, environmental became very fashionable because it is the way for you to do whatever you want; you can control any kind of financing, any kind of plans just by pushing this environmental button. I am not an environmentalist, I have worked in that field for quite some time. I think we should look from the developing countries' side rather than from developed countries.

Horacio CARANDANG (Philippines): I think the problem here is the word "fully integrated", that means if you do not take into account all of the strategies, then you are not complying with all of this resolution but I would say that it is agreed that environment must be taken into full account by the strategies as has been recommended by the World Commission on Environment.

Ibrahima KABA (Guinée): je voulais revenir à la proposition des Philippines et dire ceci: Il a reconnu que les stratégies de développement doivent dûment prendre en compte les questions d'environnement, c'est une proposition.

LE PRESIDENT: Cela vous va, Monsieur le Délégué du Brésil?

Bernard LEDUN (France): Cette formulation me conviendrait ainsi que celle proposée par les Philippines, au préalable; les deux nous conviennent.

LE PRESIDENT: On peut dire: reconnu que les stratégies de développement doivent dûment tenir compte des questions d'environnement, comme l'a recommandé la commission, etc..

Nous passons au paragraphe 26.

C.H. BONTE-FRIEDHEIM (Assistant Director General, Agriculture Department) (Representative of the Director-General): The last part is made up of two sentences, so I start with the last part, "increasing international prices have been recorded in 1988 for several commodities, however, prices" and then you go to the next sentence "Prices of some other commodities of major interest to developing countries have remained extremely depressed".

LE PRESIDENT: Je crois que nous pouvons adopter cette phrase.

Paragraphs 15 to 28, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 15 à 28, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 15 a 28, así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 37 to 39

PARAGRAPHES 37 à 39

PARRAFOS 37 a 39

LE PRESIDENT: Il reste ensuite le paragraphe 39. Je crois que c'est la Déléguée de Cuba qui a proposé un amendement à ce paragraphe.

Sra. Miriam INZAULGARAT GARCIA DE PEREZ (Cuba): Como propuse esta mañana, que atendiendo a los debates sobre el tema, y que la mayoría de los Miembros del Consejo habrían hecho ese llamamiento a los Estados Miembros con cuentas atrasadas, para que las abonara urgentemente, incluyendo al principal contribuyente por el volumen de esa cuota que influye tan decisivamente en la situación financiera de la Organización. Así se refleja en los cuadros comparativos de los adeudos de los años anteriores en que no hubo la crisis actual. Por esta razón propusimos añadir después de: "cuotas atrasadas": y principalmente el mayor contribuyente.

Así, además lo habían expresado la mayoría de los delegados.

Fred J. ECKERT (United States of America): I am sure that the references to arrearage and paying arrearage included the major contributor, the United States of America. For example if you look at Document CL 94/LIM/1. put out by FAO it shows that as on the 11th of November, the United States of America has a total outstanding as a percentage of our assessment of 170. That is substantial. It is not as substantial as the 205 percent of Cuba but it is still substantial. If you look at the record, there are more than two dozen countries in arrearage. I think the point is that the Drafting Committee's language is a true and accurate reflection of the deliberations in a straight-forward non-political fashion. It is clear; it is accurate; it is truthful. We have no objections to it whatsoever. We would object vigorously to saying that the word "including" includes only, the United States of America when in truth it includes every country on this list which I have before me and I would be pleased to read it but would prefer not to. I recommend that we adopt the language as it stands.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Tal vez convendría recordar que ahora nos hallamos en la etapa de reflejar en el Informe, como lo ha dicho la colega de Cuba, el sentido de nuestras discusiones y que no es hora de volver a documentos y cifras.

En la primera frase del párrafo 39, se hace un llamado a todos los estados miembros y luego la colega cubana ha propuesto una adición que, en mi opinión, es hasta demasiado débil, pero que, con ánimo de transacción la podíamos adoptar. Simplemente, entre todos ellos, principalmente, el mayor contribuyente. Eso fue lo que dijeron muchísimos Miembros del Consejo de manera que aplaudimos la adición propuesta por Cuba.

Fred J. ECKERT (United States of America): A few moments ago the Ambassador of Brazil spoke very finely and eloquently about making unnecessary differentiations. He spoke about developing and developed at the time he was speaking about it but I would have to say that it is not a prudent policy to have a country which is proportionately far more in arrearage than the United States of America sit here and try to single out the United States of America and the discrepancy in that is wide but it is even wider when you realize that since this document from which I quoted was published on the 11th of November there has been an additional 25 million - no, we do not accept that language; no, we will not. We will dig in and be just as aggressive about that as anybody has been on their points.

LE PRESIDENT: Effectivement, une annonce a été faite dans cette salle par l'Ambassadeur Eckert, annonce du paiement de 25 millions de dollars que l'on retrouve au procès-verbal. L'Ambassadeur Eckert a également indiqué la volonté du gouvernement du plus gros bailleur de fonds d'inscrire au budget de 1989 la totalité de ses contributions aux organisations internationales, dont la FAO; et un programme d'échelonnement du paiement des arriérés a été envisagé.

Dans le souci d'aider le représentant du plus gros bailleur de fonds à continuer de militer pour que son pays fasse face à ses contributions à la FAO, ne peut-on pas essayer de préparer le terrain à un travail constructif plutôt qu'à un affrontement et ne peut-on pas laisser en l'état le texte du paragraphe 39 ?

Tout le monde sait qu'un effort a été fait. Nous avons rendu hommage à l'Ambassadeur Eckert. Je crois qu'il serait bon qu'il puisse continuer à défendre notre cause auprès des instances compétentes dans son pays. Nous devrions préserver un climat de solidarité et de compréhension plutôt que d'affrontement.

Compte tenu de cette observation, je voudrais suggérer que nous conservions l'article 39 tel quel, dans son intégralité. Je crois en effet que nous avons intérêt à aboutir à un consensus et à préserver ce climat constructif que nous appelons tous de nos vœux.

Horacio CARANDANG (Philippines): I have no proposal to make, I just wanted to make a point, here we are talking about arrears and therefore, if you are talking about arrears, arrears meaning to say contributions due in the past year, because I thought in the Table we have a distinction between arrears and the current assessments. So if we put there, "including the major contributor", the arrears here is already a minor thing proportionately. I just wanted to make that point.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Nosotros insistimos en la necesidad de que se refleje en el Informe lo que se ha dicho durante el debate. La referencia a los 25 millones y a las buenas intenciones, aparece en otra parte del Informe y no tendremos ningún inconveniente en que esto se registre como un hecho también; pero si pensamos que la mayoría de los Miembros del Consejo se expresaron de esta manera no sé porqué no se debe reflejar en el Informe.

Fred J. ECKERT (United States of America): Thank you for your constructive comments as well. The point that the United States makes is that the record here is accurate. It is true that people wish all members to pay their arrearage. I am sure that the fact of the matter is that, of course, proportionately the United States is the larger contributor. We are assessed with 25 percent of the bills and a lot of people in the United States would be just as happy to have an allocation of some

of these lower numbers that I see before me. We would rather pay half a million dollars than some 60 million dollars and easily pay it all. This is not the issue at stake. The issue at stake here is that the members of the Council did appeal to everybody who was in arrearage to pay. Now, there are degrees of arrearage. The country which intervened and advocated this particular point is, as a proportion of their contribution far more in arrearage than the United States is. That is a fact. No is a fact even before we paid the 25 million. It is a fact that I could sit here and read off more than two dozen countries which are as a proportion of their obligations far more in arrearage. It is a fact that during the deliberations the United States of America could have sat here and done precisely that. We could have if we wished to contribute to a less harmonious atmosphere, sat here and read, painfully each country. We could have said everytime the issue came up of urging people to pay, "We think that is fair. It is fair and perfectly legitimate to call on everyone to pay". It is an obvious fact that if someone is the larger contributor there is more money. But the principle at stake is that each sovereign country takes on a responsibility and obligation to pay its bills. It is true that we are behind. It is true that others are behind. It is true that others are even more behind.

Now, if you wish to establish a policy which I would recommend against that for the record to reflect the facts I have just made, that every single time this issue comes up, the United States of America should read off, name countries and read what they have paid and what they have not paid, then if that is what we have to do to make that point, that is what we will do.

I felt as head of our delegation that it was more constructive at this meeting, here at this Council not to do that, but rather to take advantage of what was, I thought, developing as a better atmosphere over the last several months; there was clearly a very good atmosphere at the joint committee meetings in May; it was equally the same in September and not have to lay on the record those facts as a defensive mechanism. Now, I would wish that I did not have to point out that Cuba is 205 percent behind of its obligations as a percentage of its 1988 assessment but that is a fact and I do not want to sit here and read all the others but if that is what we have to do at meetings so that records will show that we are as concerned A US dollar is of equal value from whatever country it comes. You pay in US dollars; we pay in US dollars - they are all the same and the Organization is glad to receive them but I hope we do not set up a precedent where the United States in order to protect its interest and its point and to ensure equitable treatment, so that when you say "all countries" you do not say "all countries, including the United States". It is obvious that all countries include the United States, "all countries which are in arrear" includes the United States because the United States is in arrearage.

I hope we do not have to do that. I would urge that the body listen to the wisdom of our Chairman and follow his advice so that we can save much time in the future by doing that. If that is what we have to do we will, however reluctantly, do it.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Estamos temblando Señor Presidente, nos impactan un poco amenazas y referencias inadecuadas a otros países. Creemos que el lenguaje de la arrogancia y del poderío del dinero, no es el más adecuado para referirse a una situación como esta. Pero no vamos a caer en la tentación de prolongar este debate.

Reclamamos tan sólo para los países que dijimos esto, que se nos permita que nuestra opinión conste en el Informe. Por ello proponemos la siguiente solución. Si ningún otro Miembro del Consejo interviene, entonces que quede la primera parte del párrafo 39 tal como está, y luego se agregue lo siguiente. He preparado una relación lo mas ingenua posible porque me asustan las amenazas.

Se agregaría: algunos Delegados opinaron que ese llamado debería dirigirse particularmente al mayor contribuyente.

Esto es lo menos que podemos aceptar. Esto lo dijimos nosotros y nadie puede negarnos el derecho a que conste en el Informe lo que hemos expresado.

Miriam INZAULGARAT GARCIA DE PEREZ (Cuba): Efectivamente mi país tiene una deuda con la Organización que nosotros estamos tratando de cumplimentar. Hemos hecho ya una modesta contribución este año y continuaremos tratando de ponernos al día. Esto queremos que usted, Sr. Presidente, y los Miembros del Consejo lo sepan porque como se dijo aquí, esa deuda, así como las de otros países en desarrollo, no ponen en crisis a la Organización, y además ha sido por razones financieras internas muy adversas en nuestro país, y no por razones políticas.

Lamentamos el lenguaje que hemos oído esta tarde en esta sala, y queremos decir que nosotros no tenemos miedo. Llevamos 30 años luchando y continuaremos haciéndolo. No queremos crear dificultades a usted, Señor Presidente, ni a la Organización, ni a este Consejo, y por lo tanto estamos de acuerdo con la propuesta que ha hecho el distinguido Embajador de Colombia.

Fred J. ECKERT (United States of America): I do not want to extend the deliberations here. I have tried to limit my own personal interventions to the issues I view as major policy issues and of particular importance to the United States. I have tried to explain our position. I thought I did so rather clearly the other day. I must tell you at once that I take exception to the characterization by the representative of the Government of Colombia here in Rome. He used the word "arrogant", he used the word "threat", and he used those sorts of words in characterizing what I said. Nothing I said was arrogant. I said this is unacceptable to my country. That is not more arrogant or different from the representative of Brazil or France or the Federal Republic of Germany or Fiji - which incidentally is spelled wrongly in your records here if you have the French text -but other countries around the world intervened. It is natural for a country to state its position. That is what I did.

I have to tell you that I resent the repeated characterizations by Mr. Bula Hoyos. They are out of order. They are not conducive to an intelligent debate. To use the word "threat", to say I could read them, I obviously could have done so. I tried to point out that we are trying to expedite some matters, trying to be helpful, trying to be constructive in these things. I was making an appeal: do not box us into a position where the only avenue open to the document for the record is to take up excessive time to read off names, to do those sorts of things just solely so that you have - as the lawyers like to put it - laid something down on the record so that you have something to refer back to. Obviously we could have consumed a great deal of time in the other days here doing that sort of thing. We do not think that is anybody's interests. Nor is taking advantage of that in anybody's interest. Any attempt to take advantage of that kind of cooperation and constructive assistance would have to be dealt with, as any country would, by laying its own position on the record clearly, forcefully and repeatedly.

I think our position should be clear. We fully accept any reference to the need for all member countries, we fully to accept language saying that it is an obligation, we fully accept all those sorts of things, but what we cannot and will not accept is any attempt to say or to imply that for the United States of America to be 170% of its contributions in arrears is somehow different from Cuba being 205% of its contributions in arrears. That simply is not true. It is not fair. It is not accurate. We will not accept that. We will speak as long as we have to and as often as we have to to make it clear. The United States will accept normal, legitimate criticism. We will not accept abuse. We will not accept unequal treatment.

LE PRESIDENT: Ce débat est pénible et nous souhaiterions préserver, dans toute la mesure du possible, un climat de travail dans cette enceinte. Notre devoir le plus strict est d'exhorter à préserver ce climat, sans lequel nous ne pouvons pas aller de l'avant.

La parole est à la Colombie, à condition que l'on calme le jeu.

Gonzalo BULA HOTOS (Colombia): Yo creo que los términos que se han usado, quedan a juicio del Consejo. Propongo que se nos reconozca el derecho a que conste en el Informe nuestra posición y se pase a otro párrafo.

LE PRESIDENT: Vous venez d'entendre la proposition de la Colombie, la parole est à M. Eckert.

Fred J. ECKERT (United States of America): The record will show, if you go back over the verbatim reports, that specifically when I began my remarks I moved for the adoption of the language prepared by the Drafting Committee which is now before us. I moved that the body endorse the recommendation of the Drafting Committee as is set forth in paragraph 39 word for word.

If we wish to have a vote on whether or not to take the recommendation of the Drafting Committee or to have it superseded by the views of the representative of Colombia, then do it, but at the moment this body must decide between the wishes of the Drafting Committee and the wishes of Mr. Bula Hoyos. Mr. Chairman, I have to say that I respect your efforts here. I know that you are in a difficult position. I have sat up in that chair myself on some occasions, and I appreciate your efforts to move this debate to a constructive conclusion. I think the proper way to do it would be to move the adoption of paragraph 39 as submitted to the Council by the Drafting Committee.

Yousef Ali Mahmoud HAMDI (Chairman, Drafting Committee): I would like to inform you and the Council that this paragraph is the result of a lot of debate. We reached a consensus also in the spirit of compromise. Therefore, I do not see that this debate can be re-opened. I regret that this could jeopardize the work of the Drafting Committee because in the Drafting Committee there are some paragraphs where it has been a case of give and take. If we do not accept this, then we are in trouble.

Bernard LEDUN (France): Je voudrais essayer d'apporter une position conciliatrice et faire remarquer que le principal bailleur de fonds est déjà mentionné dans le REP/2, dans le paragraphe 23. Je ne sais pas quelle sera l'intention du représentant des Etats-Unis au sujet du paragraphe 23 du REP/2, mais comme son pays est déjà indirectement désigné dans ce paragraphe, s'il accepte la rédaction du paragraphe 23 du REP/2, peut-être le Délégué de la Colombie ou le Délégué de Cuba auraient-ils annulé la proposition qui est la leur d'ajouter un Addendum dans le REP/1, qui est déjà redondant, avec le paragraphe 23. Deuxième alternative, les délégués de Cuba, de Colombie et d'autres pays, pourraient également faire une proposition qui reviendrait à inclure une réserve en fin de Procès-Verbal, pour appeler l'attention sur ce problème.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): No queremos prolongar este debate ni tampoco participar en la discusión de un procedimiento absurdo, sin antecedentes en el seno del Consejo. Estamos agradecidos al colega de Francia que nos ha llamado la atención sobre el párrafo 23 del REP/2, pero en este párrafo 39 del REP/1, se trata del llamado que está dirigido a todos los miembros del Consejo. De manera que entonces, como ha sido costumbre, aceptamos todavía con mayor ánimo de transacción, Sr. Presidente, que se ponga una nota a pie de página con el texto que hemos leído.

En el texto de varias partes del Informe hay algunos párrafos donde se habla de hasta un Miembro sobre temas de menor significación. Por lo menos, que se nos reconozca este derecho. Creo que es frecuente en el Consejo.

Fred J. ECKERT (United States of America): It is the right of any country here to have a footnote. We certainly recognize the right of Colombia to put its footnote expressing its views. The United States of America will exercise that right as well. We will put a footnote in to make the points I made in my comments. That is perfectly acceptable to us. We will list all of the arrears. It will be long footnote. As I say, we recognize that the representative of Colombia has every right to do that. He may exercise that right. That is a solution. That is fine. We also will exercise our right as well.

LE PRESIDENT: On peut clore le débat ici.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Naturalmente yo no puedo hablar a nombre de Cuba, pero creo que los dos países nos sentiremos muy bien acompañados en la nota a pie de página. Queda solamente una cuestión por decidir. Nosotros hemos leído el texto de nuestra nota. Desearíamos conocer la otra.

Fred J. ECKERT (United States of America): I will follow your guidance as to whether I need to respond or not. I thought I had made it rather clear in my comments what we would put in our footnote. I do not wish to take up the time of the member countries here by sitting here and composing our footnote in front of you. If you wish me to do so, I will be glad to do it. It would be time-consuming, boring and unnecessary, which of course would make it very much like some of the speeches that I have been listening to from certain countries.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Resulta evidente para quienes respetamos la manera como trabaja un Organismo como el Consejo de la FAO, que no podemos adoptar un informe "ad referendum" de una nota que se va a agregar después. De manera que proponemos que más adelante, antes de que termine esta sesión, se nos diga cuál es el texto de la nota y cualquiera que sea, la vamos aceptar. Pero tenemos que conocerla antes de ir a nuestras casas.

LE PRESIDENT: Si l'Ambassadeur des Etats-Unis y consentait, on pourrait faire une note en bas de page, sans citer le nom des pays qui ont des retards, pour ne pas avoir une comptabilité affreuse. C'est l'idée de fond qui compte, plus que la liste, et cela éviterait d'envenimer le débat.

Fred J. ECKERT (United States of America): I certainly appreciate your sentiments, however I do what I say I will do. I said earlier that if it was a necessary step in my judgement in representing our point, that is what I would do. It is not up to Colombia and, in all due respect to you Mr. Chairman, it is not up to you to accept the language of the footnote. It is the prerogative of any country to write its own footnote and we will write it in the manner we choose. The manner that we choose is the manner that I indicated earlier. I said, very clearly, I thought, that I wished not to, that I wished to avoid that. However, I felt it was necessary if those were the things we were dealing with. If it was necessary to put it on the record that way, that is what we shall do. We will just simply list them. I would prefer not to but I have to tell you we have set a precedent here that I tried to caution against. I will instruct the United States that when these matters come up again, where there is a reference to the United States where in our judgement it would be viewed as any possibility of isolating, that we will lay on the record all of them. I do not want to do it. I tried to be very careful and clear in my statement earlier on, but if that is necessary so be it.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous enregistrerons ces deux notes de bas de page.

Le Secrétaire général m'annonce que la délégation des Etats-Unis a préparé sa note de bas de page et qu'elle est disponible pour la lire au Conseil, selon le règlement de notre Organisation.

John COOK (United States of America): We do have a footnote to paragraph 39 of document CL 94/1. It is rather extensive. I have no desire to read it. We will just submit it to the Secretariat to go into the document.

Joao Augusto de MEDICIS (Brazil): I take this opportunity to make a final appeal to the delegates of Colombia and the United States of America that they both retire, for the sake of understanding and consensus, their respective footnotes - just a friendly appeal.

Roberto E.E. DALTON (Argentina): Para adherir la sugerencia del representante de Brasil.

LE PRESIDENT: Je m'associe également à cette proposition que la Colombie et les Etats-Unis renoncent à cette note de bas de page dans un esprit de conciliation.

Sra. Miriam INZAULGARAT GARCIA DE PEREZ (Cuba): Muchas gracias Sr. Presidente; porque es que Cuba también estaba incluida en la nota de pie de página. Entonces nosotros queremos tener en cuenta la recomendación de los colegas de Brasil y Argentina, y bueno, vamos a reflexionar un rato; después le haremos saber nuestra opinión.

Draft Report. Part 1, not concluded

Projet de rapport, 1ère partie, est en suspens

El Proyecto de Informe, Parte 1, queda pendiente

DRAFT REPORT - PART II (part of)(continued)

PROJET DE RAPPORT - DEUXIEME PARTIE (partiel) (suite)

PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE II (parte) (continuación)

LE PRESIDENT: Je vais demander à M. Tedesco de bien vouloir rendre compte au Conseil, et notamment au membres du Comité de rédaction qui n'étaient pas présents ce matin, de ce qui avait été envisagé.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL: In paragraph 2, REP/2 there is an error in the French translation concerning "120 million" this will be corrected. In paragraph 14 there is another paragraph to be added, but this will be discussed when members of the Drafting Committee will be present.

The last sentence in paragraph 17 now reads "it also encouraged FAO to increase the coordination". Then "farm forestry" was erroneously translated in the French version, it should be translated "foresterie paysanne".

After paragraph 18 we will add the paragraph relating to the decision of the World Food Congress for 1989, the decision of the Council.

PARAGRAPHS 12 to 18 (continued)

PARAGRAPHE 12 à 18 (suite)

PARRAFOS 12 a 18 (continuación)

LE PRESIDENT: Nous avons le REP/5 relatif à la partie forestière. Nous pourrions peut-être le lire tout de suite pour clore cette question. Le paragraphe 27 traite du même sujet, ce qui fait que nous pourrions transférer le document relatif au Point 6 pour qu'il y ait quelque chose d'homogène.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL ADJOINT: Le paragraphe 27 se lit comme suit:

"Lieu du dixième Congrès forestier mondial.

Les délégués de la France et de la Tanzanie se proposent d'accueillir le dixième Congrès forestier mondial. Le Conseil a décidé de remettre sa décision à sa 95ème session, afin de laisser plus de temps pour parvenir à un consensus. Il a invité le Directeur général à donner des informations sur les conditions que le pays-hôte doit remplir pour permettre au pays candidat de présenter des observations détaillées.

J.P. LANLY (Sous-Directeur général p.i., Département des forêts): Il a été suggéré que ce paragraphe soit mis juste après le paragraphe 18 dans le REP/2. Afin d'assurer une transition, je propose de commencer ce paragraphe par la phrase: "A la reprise des délibérations du Conseil sur ce sujet, les représentants de la France et de la Tanzanie..."

Mlle Faouzia BOUMAÏZA (Algérie): Si je comprends bien, vous proposez qu'on remette ce paragraphe à la suite du paragraphe 18 du REP/2? Donc il disparaîtra du REP/5.

Je demande à la délégation française, qui est membre du Conseil, si elle peut accepter la suppression de la dernière phrase, car, si je me souviens bien des débats qui se sont déroulés, aucune délégation n'a invité le Directeur général à donner des informations sur les conditions que devait remplir le pays hôte. Si je me souviens bien, M. le Président, il s'agissait bien de votre proposition. Je ne sais pas si on pourrait laisser cette idée de négociation très positive entre deux pays. Je propose qu'on laisse la négociation entre les deux pays.

J.P. LANLY (Sous-Directeur général p.i., Département des Forêts): je voulais donner un point d'information, cette question de référence au Directeur général et au Secrétariat a été évoquée explicitement par le Représentant de la Libye; le Représentant brésilien et le Représentant italien ont appuyé ce qu'avait dit le Représentant de la Libye; le Représentant du Kenya a également parlé d'intervention du Secrétariat, et dans votre propre conclusion, Monsieur le Président, vous avez demandé au Secrétariat de bien vouloir approfondir le dossier.

LE PRESIDENT: Cela ne peut pas faire de mal car il est bon d'avoir le maximum de sécurité.

Mlle Faouzia BOUMAÏZA (Algérie): Je m'excuse d'avoir oublié les interventions des Délégués de la Libye, du Brésil et de l'Italie qui ont exprimé le souhait que le Secrétariat apporte son aide à la résolution de ce problème; je ne sais pas s'ils ont expressément demandé que le Directeur général fournisse des informations sur les conditions que doit remplir le pays candidat pour présenter sa candidature, mais en tout état de cause, je voudrais faire une observation d'ordre général: Au moment de l'adoption du rapport, le Conseil, tout en étant reconnaissant au Comité de rédaction et à son Président de tous les efforts qu'ils ont fournis, peut très bien proposer la suppression d'une partie qui ne fait qu'alourdir un paragraphe.

Le Conseil demande à la France et à la Tanzanie de se concerter sur le lieu du dixième Congrès et ces deux pays donneront leur réponse au prochain Conseil, en juin.

Stanley Munkindia GUANTAI (Kenya): My delegation is a Member of the Drafting Committee and therefore I am sorry to enter into this issue. In fact, after all those late hours I think I must have been asleep not to have seen this particular point. I am very grateful to the delegation of Algeria for mentioning it. My country has been mentioned, and since it was me who made that intervention I would say that I made that intervention to point out that the time being requested, that the decision be taken while two countries are negotiating would not be wasted because this time could be taken when the countries are preparing their own contingency plans. I, and my country, did not imply in any way that the information should be supplied on the conditions of what the host government will supply. I do not think this was implied by the other statements either. Therefore, I think the last sentence gives the wrong impression.

Bernard LEDUN (France): Nous ne sommes pas absolument opposés à une nouvelle rédaction de ce paragraphe; ce paragraphe fait référence aux conditions de la possibilité d'accueil, pour chacun des candidats, pour le dixième Congrès forestier mondial. Le but est simplement d'être en mesure d'éclairer le Conseil car à supposer, je dis bien, à supposer, que ces négociations bilatérales n'aboutissent point, c'est-à-dire que le consensus recherché dans ce paragraphe ne puisse pas être obtenu dans les temps voulus, il faudra tout de même permettre aux membres du Conseil d'être en mesure d'apprécier les différentes candidatures; et un des éléments nécessaires consistera précisément en la présentation d'un dossier de candidature détaillé.

Nous pourrions peut-être suggérer une nouvelle formulation dont je peux vous lire le texte. Au lieu de mettre "il a invité le Directeur général à donner des informations", la rédaction serait la suivante: "il a été décidé de remettre la décision du Conseil à sa quatre-vingt-quinzième session, afin de laisser plus de temps aux deux pays pour rechercher un consensus et présenter un dossier de candidature détaillé". Telle est la nouvelle rédaction que je propose, encore une fois en tenant compte du souci qu'auront les représentants de ce Conseil d'être tenus informés des conditions nécessaires à la réalisation de ce dixième Congrès forestier mondial, au cas où aucun des deux candidats ne se démettrait au profit de l'autre.

Gian Luigi VALENZA (Italie): On est passé du paragraphe 18 qui disait: "le Conseil a noté que cinq pays - Burkina Faso, etc.. "à un nouveau texte où on parle du Délégué de la France et de celui de la Tanzanie. Or, que je sache, l'Italie n'a jamais officiellement retiré sa candidature. Cela ne veut pas dire que nous la maintenions. Nous sommes tout à fait décidés à retirer notre candidature pour faciliter les choses, mais il me semble nécessaire d'insérer un petit paragraphe. Je propose de mettre dans le premier paragraphe: les Délégués de la France et de la Tanzanie ont confirmé que leur pays se propose d'accueillir le dixième Congrès forestier mondial, tandis que le Délégué de l'Italie, soucieux de faciliter le choix du lieu du prochain Congrès, a retiré la candidature de son pays. Ensuite, vous pouvez continuer comme vous voulez.

Thomas YANGA (Cameroun): Au sujet de cette dernière phrase, je ne crois pas, comme l'a souligné ma collègue d'Algérie, qu'il y ait eu une invitation directe au Directeur général pour qu'il donne des informations sur les conditions du pays hôte. Je crois savoir que dans sa présentation, le Délégué de la France avait dit que dans les six mois qui s'écouleraient jusqu'à la prochaine session du Conseil, les contacts se poursuivraient et qu'éventuellement, il y aurait un échange, sur les conditions d'organisation, entre les deux pays et le Secrétariat.

Dans la poursuite de la négociation, on pourrait en effet faire intervenir les deux pays et le Secrétariat: cela a été mentionné pour permettre un consensus.

LE PRESIDENT: L'honorable Délégué du Cameroun fait une suggestion et il y a en plus une modification suggérée par le Représentant de la France.

Hamisi MWINYIGOHA (Observer for Tanzania): First I want to thank the Drafting Committee for the good work they have done to produce this paragraph, but I am sorry to say that in my opinion the last paragraph does not reflect what was debated here.

I feel that between Tanzania and France we do not need the intervention of the Director-General to provide us with information to set the conditions to be made by the host country. This has been done in the previous Council paper which was submitted by the Secretariat. We have never requested the Director-General to do that. Let us leave it between Tanzania and France and then we can decide. We can create an atmosphere of understanding. I do not think there is anything to be guided on by the Director-General. We just leave it between the two of us. In that case I entirely agree with the delegate of Nigeria on the submission made.

I would like to say here that in my opinion I fear that the interpretation of this last sentence means that the Director-General should be requested to submit the new criteria for someone to qualify for membership. That is not what we want. What we want is whether France or Tanzania should submit them and you leave it to both of us. This is supported by the delegate of Cameroon and I think we shall definitely reach a consensus. If not, then the Council will have to decide. There is nothing wrong with that. There are a lot of cases where a consensus has not been reached and the Council has had to decide one way or the other. But I am sure that both Tanzania and France will reach a consensus on this issue. So I am sorry I do not accept the French version of the paragraph which they decided to put here.

Also as far as Tanzania is concerned we agree entirely with the first sentence, but to stress the matter further, I would like the following to be added in the second sentence: "in order to provide more time for the two countries to reach a consensus", and then the last paragraph should be completely deleted.

Bernard LEDUN (France): Je voudrais pouvoir souscrire aux paroles de l'Honorable Délégué de la Tanzanie, mais malheureusement je ne suis pas aussi certain que lui que nos deux pays pourront atteindre un consensus dans les délais voulus; ce serait infiniment souhaitable et c'est bien en prévision de cette hypothèse qu'il me paraît tout de même nécessaire de maintenir la possibilité, pour les membres du Conseil, d'apprécier les chances de l'un et l'autre pays d'être en mesure de pouvoir tenir le dixième Congrès forestier mondial dans les meilleures conditions.

Cela dit, pour faire droit à la proposition qui vient d'être faite par le Délégué du Cameroun, je ne vois pour ma part aucun inconvénient, bien au contraire, à ce que dans le membre de phrase que j'ai proposé tout à l'heure, on ajoute la mention "aux deux pays et au Secrétariat". Cette proposition nous agréait tout à fait.

LE PRESIDENT: Peut-on retenir la formulation suivante: "Afin de laisser plus le temps aux deux pays et au Secrétariat, pour parvenir à un consensus" et on s'arrêterait là.

Mlle Faouzia BOUMAÏZA (Algérie): C'était pour approuver la proposition du Cameroun.

LE PRESIDENT: Le Cameroun vient de faire une proposition approuvée par l'Algérie et la France. Si le Conseil la retient, nous laisserons le consensus se faire et si le Secrétariat intervient, il verra la question. Et on retire la phrase qui commence par: "il a invité le Directeur général, etc.."

Thomas YANGA (Cameroun): Je voudrais juste appuyer ce que vous venez de proposer, Monsieur le Président, et ajouter que si l'on ne trouve pas le consensus, il faudra s'appuyer sur certains critères et chaque partie devra présenter ses atouts.

LE PRESIDENT: Dans ces conditions, pouvons-nous marcher comme ça ? Merci beaucoup.

Bashir EL MABROUK SAID (Libya) (Original language Arabic): I am afraid time is flying and the statements are really not on the substance of the subject matter before us and with all due respect for statements and interventions, I am afraid they do not serve the interests of the Council if they are not limited to the substantive matters. I would like to suggest that we approve REPs 2, 3 and 4 that we have already discussed this morning and we move immediately to REP 5.

LE PRESIDENT: Il y a des questions de fond dans les REP/3 et 4 que nous avons laissées de côté ce matin; la méthode que nous employons me semble correcte; on peut gagner un peu de temps sur la forme et nous concentrer sur le fond, mais nous ne pouvons pas éviter les questions que nous avons nous-mêmes enregistrées ce matin; je me dois de laisser le temps à tous les Délégués, en présence du Comité de rédaction, de soulever tous les points qu'ils désirent; je ne peux que suggérer aux Délégués d'être brefs. Nous pouvons continuer sur le REP/2.

Il y a deux questions de fond: l'une sur le paragraphe 14, suggérée par le Délégué du Brésil et l'autre sur le paragraphe 23.

Joao Augusto de MEDICIS (Brazil): I propose the inclusion of a new paragraph after 14 saying, "The Council furthermore recognized that the international community should also be aware of its responsibility towards developing countries and help create an economic environment that would allow them to accomplish the socio-economic development without having to resort to activities that might endanger their ecological systems in general and their forestry sources in particular."

LE PRESIDENT: Voilà une question que nous avons laissée à l'examen de l'ensemble du Conseil en présence de tous les membres du Comité de rédaction. J'espère que le Président du Comité de rédaction en a pris note.

Yusef Ali Mahmoud HAMDY (Chairman of the Drafting Committee): I can see there will be no problem in accommodating this paragraph.

Sra. Margarita LIZARRAGA (México): Mi delegación apoya firmemente esta propuesta porque fuimos de los que así lo consideramos.

LE PRESIDENT: Y a-t-il d'autres observations?

Sra. Mónica DEREGBUS (Argentina): Nosotros creemos que el párrafo es realmente muy apropiado y que debería ser incorporado a nuestro Informe.

Ibrahima KABA (Guinée): Nous appuyons fermement cette proposition.

LE PRESIDENT: Avec votre permission, nous allons considérer que ce paragraphe est adopté et qu'il sera ajouté au rapport du Conseil.

Paragraphs 12 to 18, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 12 to 18, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 12 a 18, así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 19 to 29 (continued)

PARAGRAPHS 19 à 29 (suite)

PARRAFOS 19 a 29 (continuación)

ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL: Paragraph 21 of Rep 2, the sentence before last would read that "Some members suggested that information regarding the breakdown of budget appropriation and expenditure by major programmes" and here we add "similar to that provided in Conference document C 87/LIM/41 be available to the wider membership at the present Council Session". After that, at the end of the sentence "The Secretariat clarified difficulties of meeting this request" we add "and subsequently agreed that this information would be provided to the Finance Committee".

Afterwards, some amendements were suggested in paragraph 23, but this is left for the Drafting Committee to discuss.

LE PRESIDENT: Il y avait ensuite un retrait proposé par le délégué de la Malaisie au paragraphe 23; ce retrait vient lui-même d'être retiré.

Y a-t-il d'autres remarques au sujet du paragraphe 23?

Mlle Faouzia BOUMAÏZA (Algérie): En effet, ce matin, j'ai fait part du problème que me posait l'avant-dernière phrase du paragraphe 23. J'ai dit que cette phrase qui commence par "Le Conseil a été heureux d'apprendre du Représentant des Etats-Unis d'Amérique..." et qui finit par "dans la mesure autorisée par la loi et par des considérations d'importance primordiale" n'était pas très logique car s'il est vrai que le Conseil a été heureux ou a pris note ou a été satisfait d'apprendre du représentant, etc., je ne suis pas d'accord pour dire que le Conseil a été heureux d'apprendre que les Etats-Unis le feraient dans la mesure autorisée par la loi et par des considérations d'importance primordiale.

Je voudrais être claire. Cette phrase n'est pas logique du tout et, par ailleurs, elle ne reflète pas exactement ce qui a été dit dans cette salle étant donné qu'aucun pays n'a dit qu'il était heureux d'apprendre que les mesures que prendront les Etats-Unis pour régler leurs contributions antérieures et courantes seront limitées par la loi et par des considérations d'importance primordiale.

Par ailleurs, j'ajoute que, dans le document CL 94/REP/5, au paragraphe 13, il est dit à nouveau que "le représentant des Etats-Unis a annoncé...", etc, et que la phrase est bien mieux formulée.

Fred J. ECKERT (United States of America): I recognize that the comments just made by the representative of Algeria were very sincere and well intended comments. On sentence structure, I happen to believe she is absolutely right that, in the way the sentence is constructed, it does seem somewhat contradictory. I would like to explain something to you, if you will allow me. I would propose that you end that sentence after "US fiscal year 1990". The next sentence should begin "The Council was also informed" Delete the words, "..... to the extent permitted by law and overriding considerations." I have no problem whatsoever with that. The sentence structure is right, but from an American standpoint, let me explain something: the President of the United States, under the constitution, can request from Congress whatever he chooses. There is no extent permitted by law or overriding considerations that would prohibit a president from making a submission to the Congress of the United States of any kind that he wishes. It is a request to the appropriating body. From an American constitutional standpoint, in our system of government, the phrase is misleading and inaccurate.

I understand that, perhaps in hearing my remarks the other day when I was talking about the plan regarding the payment of "arrearage" there was a phrase of desirability and feasibility, and I explained that that was loose language. Perhaps someone, when drafting this, simply confused the two. Your point is well taken. I would urge that we should put a period after 1990 and begin the next sentence, "The Council" That would satisfy my desire to have the American constitutional system accurately reflected, and your desire to have the English language well communicated.

Gonzalo BULA HOTOS (Colombia): Las aclaraciones que se acaban de hacer podrían facilitar nuestra posición ante este párrafo; pero convendrían observar que el párrafo 13 del REP/5, en primer lugar contiene el elemento positivo de los 25 millones de dólares que no aparecen en el párrafo 23 del REP 2; luego repite más o menos todo lo que se dice en el actual párrafo 23; de manera que yo creo que lo más sensato es apoyar la propuesta de Malasia de suprimir el párrafo 23 del REP/2, y luego cuando lleguemos al REP/5 en el párrafo 13 creemos que no habrá dificultades en la adopción después de las declaraciones que acaban de hacerse. Además fue en el tema que aparece en el REP/5 donde se hizo esa declaración.

Fred J. ECKERT (United States of America): I would urge that we simply adopt the paragraph as it is. The members of the Drafting Committee have worked long and hard and have come up with a good document. There is a phrase which the representative of Algeria correctly pointed out could be improved, and sensibly, in good spirit, very quickly and efficiently did it. I explained how, to an American, we could see it from a different viewpoint, but came to the same conclusion on our system, which is perfectly logical. We have no problem with it. We agree with the paragraph as amended by Algeria.

Joao Augusto de MEDICIS (Brazil): There is a point in this paragraph that does not please my delegation, because it equates two departments. However, we are prepared to accept it. I think that Report V is repetitious. I believe we should delete this paragraph and keep Report V. I am ready to go with the consensus.

Sra. Mónica DEREGBUS (Argentina): Yo coincido con los oradores precedentes en que tener la misma formulación en dos lugares del Informe es realmente una redundancia. Yo creo que nosotros podemos terminar este párrafo en donde dice: repercutió considerablemente sobre la situación financiera. Dejar la idea anterior; pero todo lo que continúa: el Consejo se congratuló de la comunicación del representante de los Estados Unidos, exactamente tal cual está escrito en el párrafo 13 del REP/5. Creo que podemos mantener el párrafo hasta donde dice: "sobre la situación financiera". Si decidimos mantener en esta parte del Informe que la comunicación de los Estados Unidos de América, mantengámosla acá, pero entonces saquémosla de allá. Saquémosla del REP/5 párrafo 13, porque es absurdo que el Consejo se repita a sí mismo.

Fred J. ECKERT (United States of America): Delegates who have pointed out that there is some repetition between paragraph 23 of this document and paragraph 13 of the subsequent document are correct, there is some repetition but not total repetition. Paragraph 23 does report, as is accurate, the language about recognizing that all members bear the same responsibility to pay their

contributions in timely fashion and so on. It says that. It says the Council considered the severe financial difficulties caused in the Organization due to untimely payment, it says that. Paragraph 13 in Document 5 does not repeat any of that. If you are going to delete anything for repetition I would delete paragraph 13 but we have no problem with paragraph 23 as it stands or with 13, but we would think that it would be inaccurate and not reflecting the deliberations of the body to delete paragraph 23 whereas it would not be to delete paragraph 13 of Document 5.

Hannu HALINEN (Finland): Simply to point out that in paragraph 23 there are more elements in it than perhaps in the other one, particularly at the beginning, the general aspect on responsibility for all, which would support this paragraph 23 as amended.

LE PRESIDENT: Le Président du Comité de rédaction a demandé la parole au préalable.

Yousef Ail Mahmoud HAMDY (Chairman, Drafting Committee): Yes, the Drafting Committee went through the same discussion but we came to the conclusion that the report in fact reflects the discussion, the deliberation, all the information that was given in our session, so in the first REP, REP 2, the decision has to do with the sequences of the financial situation and possible measures to ensure implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget and as delegates said this paragraph 23 has other elements in addition to the contribution of the United States. Again the paragraph appeared here in REP 5 because this was the discussion on the Finance Committee and it has an element to the Finance Committee and the Drafting Committee sensed no harm to repeat the same ideas in the different positions. However, I think with all due respect, the Drafting Committee would like to have the drafts as presented.

Muhammed Saleem KHAN (Pakistan): What I was saying is more or less covered by what the Chairman of the Drafting Committee has said because I was also a member of the Drafting Committee. Like the Chairman has said and the delegate of Finland and the United States Ambassador himself, paragraph 13 in REP includes a new element, an additional element and the Ambassador of the United States has already indicated his preference to retain paragraph 23 so what I would propose is we retain paragraph 23 as amended and deal with paragraph 13 as and when we come to REP 5.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): En esta discusión ni siquiera tenemos problemas de principios sino de ética. Nosotros creemos que no se puede repetir en dos párrafos un texto bastante igual, y si todos nos ponemos de acuerdo en que los elementos principales del párrafo 23 del REP/2 que no aparecen en el párrafo 13 del REP/5 están contenidos en las dos primeras frases, como lo dijo Argentina y como lo reconoció también Estados Unidos, creo que no hay dificultad en que adoptemos la propuesta Argentina. O sea que el párrafo 23 permanezca en sus dos primeras frases y termine donde dice "sobre la situación financiera". Y después, no creo que haya dificultad en ponernos de acuerdo en el párrafo 13 del REP/5

V.K. SIBAL (India): We would like to support this proposal which has been made from the floor that we keep the first two sentences of paragraph 23 and then what is in paragraph 13 would be additional information. So you do not mention the same elements twice and I think there is some advantage in that.

Fred J. ECKERT (United States of America): I think we can move along a lot more quickly and get a lot more done if we make certain assumptions; one assumption ought to be that we pick people for a Drafting Committee and beyond reasonable differences and nuances of language and fine points, that we charge them with the responsibility of trying to craft, and you always have very diverse views there, so you have a struggle often in the Drafting Committee to try to get seven different countries -- just a few minutes ago we went over a long discussion with only two countries speaking when we had a document prepared by seven different countries from different parts of the world. I think we should make an assumption that by the time it comes from the Drafting Committee, a lot of time has been given, surely from time to time there will be other points to be added but technically you are right, the point of Argentina is well taken and you could take a couple of sentences and paste them on to this document, but I caution you, not everybody picks up every document everytime

they read something. They go to the document in which they are most interested or the subject that appears to be of interest to them and you have repetition unavoidably from time to time, somebody who picks up one of these documents can see that. I have no problem with the Argentine proposal but I have no problem either with operating on a premise that the Drafting Committee where it is not harmful, nobody has objections to it really. We should try not to edit as a committee, or try to take, as one of my colleagues did a few minutes earlier, the last time I had the microphone, that every word that has been said here has to go in these documents. Now, the other day I described Mr. Bula Hoyos as foolish. I will not insist that this has to be in the record here in this document but we cannot do this and go on and on for hour after hour. The judgement of the Drafting Committee in these matters is simple straightforward English; there is some repetition, it does not matter.

LE PRESIDENT: Je souhaiterais pouvoir arrêter là, parce que nous allons avoir une discussion qui va se prolonger sans que nous puissions en retirer en tant que Conseil, des idées nouvelles.

Je vais donner la parole aux deux délégués inscrits et je vous proposerai ensuite de conclure.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Yo tampoco quiero que conste en el Informe mi apreciación sobre la manera como se comporta cierto Delegado. Porque creo que el Consejo sin duda está de acuerdo conmigo en que es muy inteligente, muy dócil y muy correcto. Si se ha dicho ya que no hay dificultades para aceptar la propuesta argentina, pues aceptemos la propuesta argentina, y luego vemos la discusión de este asunto en el párrafo 13 del REP/5.

Tampoco quiero competir en sabiduría y profunda disquisición sobre la función del Comité de Redacción y el Plenario del Consejo. Es cuestión de mentalidades y de disciplinas ideológicas que son diferentes, afortunadamente.

Pedro REYNALDOS DUEÑAS (Cuba): Nosotros queremos apoyar la propuesta argentina. Nos parece que es acertada, y más nada. Apoyar la propuesta argentina y que se tome una decisión al respecto.

LE PRESIDENT: Est-ce que nous pouvons adopter la proposition de l'Argentine qui consiste à maintenir les deux dernières phrases du paragraphe 23?

Sra. Mónica DEREGBUS (Argentina): Mi propuesta no fue exactamente ésta, no creo. Tenemos que elegir entre dos cosas; o dejamos todo así como está y entonces mantenemos del párrafo 13 del REP/5 la primera frase que no está incluida en el párrafo 23 del REP/2. O sea que la primera frase del REP/5 habría que mantenerla, y entonces habría que decir: "recordó también", o "el Consejo recordó lo manifestado en ocasión del tratamiento del tema 12". No sé si me explico. Se recordó o el Delegado de los Estados Unidos recordó lo ya manifestado durante el tratamiento del tema 12. Y entonces nos ahorramos tener que repetirnos.

Fred J. ECKERT (United States of America): That is perfectly acceptable to the United States of America.

LE PRESIDENT: Je crois que nous en avons fini avec les questions de fond du REP/2.

Paragraphs 19 to 29, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 19 à 29, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 19 a 29, así enmendados, son aprobados

Draft Report, Part 2, as amended, was adopted

Projet de Rapport, deuxième partie, ainsi amendée, est adopté

El Proyecto de Informe, parte 2, así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT - PART III (part of) (continued)

PROJET DE RAPPORT - TROISIEME PARTIE (partiel) (suite)

PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE III (parte) (continuación)

ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL: Paragraph 5 of REP 3 should start now "The Council expressed its concern" that the protectionist policies. Paragraph 9, the second sentence would read "It noted with satisfaction that an International Conference". Paragraph 10, It is "The United Nations Center on Transnational Corporations". Paragraph 18 should start by "While agreeing that environmental priorities and policies were a sovereign decision of governments, the Council recognized that...".

C.H. BONTE-FRIEDHEIM (Assistant Director General, Agriculture Department/Representative of the Director-General): In paragraph 20 it says in the last sentence "finance an FAO study on the present and potential role".

LE PRESIDENT: La délégation suisse a tenu à juste titre à ce que sa proposition soit retranscrite correctement quant au financement d'une étude de la FAO sur la protection de l'environnement et la promotion d'un développement durable.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL: On paragraph 30 the first sentence would stop after "with other United Nations organizations." Then "in particular the close collaboration..." has been cancelled. The subsequent sentence we should add WFC to "the Rome-based organizations - World Food Programme, FAO, IFAD".

Paragraph 32, after "its Fourteenth Ministerial Session held in Nicosia, Cyprus, from 23 to 26 May 1988" we add "and noted with satisfaction the establishment of a Consultative Group which would meet for the first time in Paris on 18 and 19 December 1988."

Paragraph 37, the first sentence has been changed. "The Council, noting the importance of the agricultural sector in the economies of countries undertaking structural adjustment programmes, stress the need to take into account the impact of such programmes on the sector."

LE PRESIDENT: La délégation française a fait une proposition!

ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL: "The Council noted the role FAO should play as a policy adviser" - "agricultural" has been added, and the subsequent sentence altered, "other bilateral and multilateral agencies in identifying, preventing and counteracting."

Those are the only changes I have.

Ms Joan DUDIK-GAYOSO (United States of America): On the sentence that urged the FAO to coordinate closely, we had a long discussion about this in the Drafting Group, and I am really sorry that I was not here in Plenary when this came up. The language we agreed in the Drafting Group after a long discussion was "identifying and avoiding". We specifically, for a number of reasons, decided not to use the word "preventing". I do not know where "counteracting" came from but it is not the language that was agreed in the Drafting Group.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous allons retirer le terme "prévenir" et garder le terme "combattre" si vous n'y voyez pas d'objection.

Rudolf DE POURTALES (Suisse): J'aimerais simplement signaler que le terme "avoiding", utilisé par les Etats-Unis ne signifie pas "combattre", il signifie "éviter".

LE PRESIDENT: C'est la traduction française qui est mauvaise. Il faut mettre "éviter" à la place de "combattre".

C.H. BONTE-FRIEDHEIM (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department) (Representative of the Director-General): There is a mistake in paragraph 27 in the sentence where it says "finally at the Twenty-fifth Session of the Conference under the item on State of Food and Agriculture 1988", that should be 1989 and not 1988.

V.K. SIBAL (India): I am sorry to take you back to paragraph 37 but we have a logical inconsistency there. I do not have my notes but in the Drafting Committee there was a problem because if we use the word "avoid", it is not consistent with the last part of the sentence which talks about "in the poor areas where and whenever these negative effects occur". Once they occur they have to be counteracted or fought. You cannot avoid such counteraction. Avoidance is preventing. This "counteracting" is correct. If you do not have it, there would be a logical problem.

LE PRESIDENT: Le Délégué de l'Inde considère que "combattre" est mieux approprié que "éviter". C'est une question de traduction. Il faut que les textes en anglais et en français soient homogènes.

Ms Joan DUDIK-GAYOSO (United States of America): "Counteracting" would be fine. It was "preventing" we had decided not to use.

PARAGRAPHS 1 to 13 (continued)

PARAGRAPHE 1 à 13 (suite)

PARRAFOS 1 a 13 (continuación)

LE PRESIDENT: Nous passons maintenant au paragraphe 3.

Nous avons préféré soumettre cette question en présence du Comité de rédaction.

Joao Augusto de MEDICIS (Brazil): Since I was the one who raised the problem and to avoid a long discussion, I would be prepared to accept the text as proposed by the Drafting Committee.

Paragraphs 1 to 13, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 13, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 13, así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 14 to 27 (continued)

PARAGRAPHEs 14 à 27 (suite)

PARRAFOS 14 a 27 (continuación)

LE PRESIDENT: Le Brésil a proposé un ajout au paragraphe 17 et je lui demanderais d'exposer son point de vue.

Joao Augusto de MEDICIS (Brazil): I told you this morning that I believed that the paragraph on sustainable development did not take care of the needs of the developing countries, and so I suggested this morning - and it was left for discussion in substance when we met together with our members of the Drafting Committee, that we add a paragraph 17bis: "The Council noted that environmental issues in developing countries are closely related to their economic difficulties and that political will on the part of all countries is needed to find permanent solutions to allow those countries to cope with the basic needs of the people, and also preserve the natural resources for future generations."

LE PRESIDENT: Je demande l'avis du Président du Comité de rédaction.

Youssef Ali Mahmoud HAMDI (Chairman. Drafting Committee): I would ask members of the Drafting Committee to reflect on this suggestion, with your permission.

Bannu HALINEN (Finland): Could I enlarge the discussion on this point to areas which have previously been mentioned. I shall be interested to hear what representatives of the Drafting Committee say about this. My understanding of the discussion on this item is that to be more effective we should concentrate on the sustainable development as presented in the World Commission on Environment and Development. In my opinion, paragraph 17 covers the problem adequately. We have already elsewhere in the Report added the socio-economic aspects, development strategies, and so on. When we specifically discuss the sustainable development we should not put too many different ideas into it in order to avoid a long and difficult discussion which we would have to implement these ideas within the Organization in the coming months.

On that basis, without in any way contesting the contents of the issue which the distinguished delegate of Brazil pointed out, I would say that his suggestion should not be added to the Report.

Muhammad Saleem KHAN (Pakistan): I have two comments. One is of a general nature. Whenever a sentence is read out - perhaps it is because I have been in the Drafting Committee and our reflexes have become slower, I have not been able to record it at this speed. That is the reason why we cannot get the whole sentence down. It is very difficult to say much about it.

The other point is that in the Drafting Committee we tried to put in the essence of whatever had transpired in the Plenary sessions. The issue of political will was never mentioned during the main Plenary Session except maybe by one delegate. However, there was no general consensus on that issue. Therefore, we did not actually put this paragraph in the draft.

V.K. SIBAL (India): Although the sentence was read out very quickly I think we have the gist of it. We find it very attractive. We have some small suggestions to make as to the wording. We feel that the idea would be more clearly shown if we say "political will on the part of all countries was needed to establish enduring arrangements" rather than "finding permanent solutions". This would allow the countries concerned to meet, rather than cope with the basic needs of the people. I hope that the delegate of Brazil is happy with this change, but it is what we would like to suggest.

Raphael RABE (Madagascar): Notre Délégation abonde dans le sens des interventions du Pakistan et de l'Inde; à cette heure tardive 11 nous est difficile de suivre une dictée à vitesse rapide; 11 faudrait éviter de dicter de nouveaux paragraphes et plutôt amender les paragraphes existants; cela faciliterait notre travail et nous éviterait de perdre du temps.

Stanley Munkindia GUANTAI (Kenya): I think that the delegate of Pakistan pointed out our difficulties in the Drafting Committee. However, I remember that such an idea was brought up and we tried to incorporate this idea in paragraph 5. It contains some, but not all of the elements requested by the Ambassador of Brazil. However, some of the elements requested as to the means of support to developing countries are contained in paragraph 25. I do not know if this satisfies him. We have no difficulties as a Drafting Committee but we did not have the basis to use the language which is now provided by the delegation of Brazil.

Joao Augusto de MEDICIS (Brazil): I do not wish to prolong our discussion, I could agree with the proposal by the delegation of India which is a shorter version of my idea, so if Council is prepared to accept the amendment by India, I can go along with that.

Sra. Mónica DEREGIBUS (Argentina): ¿Podemos pedir que se nos lea, para entender completamente la idea, el párrafo enmendado por la India?

LE PRESIDENT: Est-ce que l'Ambassadeur du Brésil pourrait nous donner cette note amendée ou bien le Délégué de l'Inde.

V.K. SIBAL (India): I will read what I have, but I hope my colleague from Brazil will help if there is a gap because it is a long sentence. "The Council noted that environmental issues in developing countries were closely related to their economic difficulties, and that political will on the part of all countries was needed to establish enduring arrangements to allow them to meet the basic needs of their people and to preserve their natural resources for the future generations". That is the way I have the sentence.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous avons donc l'ajout suggéré; l'idée est équilibrée; est-ce que le Conseil en est d'accord · Nous arrivons au paragraphe 24 qui est important. C'est un problème qui a été signalé par quelques Délégués et par le Directeur général ce matin.

Joao Augusto de MEDICIS (Brazil): We made an amendment this afternoon on a previous paragraph regarding the question of integration and environment concern. I think it would be only sound and proper that we equate the wording of paragraph 24 to the same wording we have this afternoon. I cannot remember exactly the number of the paragraph, but it was a suggestion made by the delegation of the Philippines and accepted by the delegations of France and myself. I propose that we change the second sentence and have this new wording which reflects exactly the same meaning and idea that was approved earlier this afternoon "It felt that" then we have the amendment going on "environmental concerns and sustainable development should be taken into account in the programmes and activities of FAO in a multidisciplinary approach." I move that what we are doing here is to have the same line of thought as previously.

Hannu HALINEN (Finland): I seek clarification now. I am rather perplexed, is this an amendment to the second sentence of paragraph 24?

LE PRESIDENT: Dans la seconde phrase, il est mis: "il a estimé que l'intégration des problèmes d'environnement et de développement durable devait être prise en considération". Le Délégué du Brésil veut-il relire sa phrase.

Joao Augusto de MEDICIS (Brazil): As I mentioned before what we are doing here is to incorporate into the paragraph the same meaning and concept that we had approved before in paragraph 25, REP/1, namely, "it felt that environmental concerns and sustainable developments should be taken into account in the programmes and activities of FAO in a multidisciplinary approach."

Hannu HALINEN (Finland): I am sorry to take the floor again. But I feel we are now missing a very important aspect, the continuity of this process, the forward looking nature of it and the integration which are in this sentence. These aspects were mentioned during the discussion, my delegation mentioned them representing five Member Countries. If the words are to be dropped from here we need another sentence saying "some Members stressed the point". I really do not see the harm in having this aspect about which we feel very strongly.

João Augusto de MEDICIS (Brazil): I think we can accommodate the very pertinent preoccupation of the delegate of Finland if we put: "It felt that environmental concerns and sustainable development should be taken into account in a continuous forward looking process in the programmes and activities of FAO through an integrated and multidisciplinary approach".

LE PRESIDENT: Est-ce que le Président du Comité de rédaction retient cela ? Je vais demander au Délégué du Brésil de bien vouloir relire sa phrase.

Joao Augusto de MEDICIS (Brazil): I will give the text to the secretariat rather than repeat it once again.

C.H. BONTE-FRIEDHEIM (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department) (Representative of the Director-General): I should like to repeat the concerns the Director-General had this morning with regard to the last sentence. His concern on the last sentence was two-fold, one, that "the Council urged" and the urged is very strong, which will mean it will have financial implications "to translate the concept of" and two, whether the Council has really urged the second point of the last sentence where it gives details of what are the sectors or what is included in these sectors, namely, natural resources, management and then there is a long list. According to the Verbatim Record the list has been made in the statement of one delegation of the Council. Therefore the proposal was made this morning first to reconsider the word "urge", and secondly to consider whether or not the sentence should be stopped after the words "fisheries sectors", and the rest should be deleted. In this case I speak on behalf of the Director-General.

LE PRESIDENT: C'est une question importante reprise longuement par le Directeur général dans les conditions que vient de décrire le Directeur général adjoint.

Amin ABDEL MALER (Liban) (langue originale arabe): Nous sommes tout-à-fait d'accord avec les observations de Monsieur Bonte-Friedheim et nous préférons bien sûr que le terme "a instamment prié" soit remplacé par: "le Conseil a recommandé" et que la phrase s'arrête après les termes: "des forêts et des pêches"; et qu'on supprime le membre de phrase: "et notamment dans la gestion des ressources..." jusqu'à la fin du paragraphe.

LE PRESIDENT: Le Délégué du Liban suggère au lieu de mettre "instamment" que l'on mette "a recommandé".

Hannu HALINEN (Finland): As far as concerns the first point, Financial Implications, I would think that all Members of the Council would naturally be very interested to see what are the financial implications of carrying out these programmes. In that sense this word would be there deliberately. I was seeking guidance from the Drafting Committee which had decided to put it there. Then one comes to the specific sectors mentioned at the end of the paragraph. It is a long and cumbersome sentence. However, as my delegation sees it these sectors are there to help the secretariat and the Member Countries to define various questions. This matter was mentioned in our statement and by other delegations. We were looking forward to an analytical paper on this question. These questions were mentioned to help formulate that paper but of course they are not completely new ones. So I do not see that mentioning them would be in any way a controversial issue. Therefore, to help future work I would rather like to see them included there.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Pensamos que los elementos que inquietan en la frase final del párrafo 24 son el término "instó", la expresión "tradujera", que es una instrucción como muy inmediata, y también el hecho de que se incluyen términos como "inversiones privadas y públicas", etcétera, que dan la impresión de ir más allá de los campos específicos de la FAO. Pero, como el colega de Finlandia ha insistido en la conveniencia de enumerar todos los factores que aparecen al final de este párrafo 24, tal vez esto podría conciliarse con la siguiente redacción: "El Consejo recomendó a la FAO que, dentro de su mandato específico y a la luz de la limitación de los recursos, trate progresivamente de introducir el concepto", etcétera, y se agregaría todo, hasta el final del párrafo 24. Así daríamos satisfacción a Finlandia y atenderíamos las preocupaciones de la Secretaría.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous sommes saisis d'une proposition concrète. Au lieu de dire "Le Conseil a instamment prié", on peut dire, pour que cela ne soit pas contraignant à l'infini pour le Directeur général: "Le Conseil a recommandé à la FAO que, dans son mandat spécifique et compte tenu des limites de ressources, elle s'efforce d'introduire progressivement", et on met toute la suite.

Ms Joan DUDIK-GAYOSO (United States of America): I would very much like to see this paragraph stay the way it is, but I understand the reasons for the proposals that are being made and I understand the problems that have been perceived by the Secretariat. I would point out to the Council that if we weaken this statement we will be making ourselves very inconsistent with paragraph 16 in which it says that the Council considered that FAO's mandate and wide experience made it the key agency within the UN system to promote environmentally-sound sustainable agricultural development. So I think in a general way what we are talking about is what is FAO's role going to be and how big a factor will environmental questions and the question of integrating environmental considerations into the programmes and thinking of FAO be in the future.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Yo creo que aunque nadie desconozca las funciones de la FAO en estas actividades, no quiere decir que el Consejo deba dar instrucciones al Director General para que todos los Programas y todos los recursos de la Organización se dediquen a estos problemas del medio ambiente. Por eso propusimos esa redacción que, a nuestro juicio conciliaría las dos posibilidades.

No podemos aceptar en su forma actual la frase final de párrafo 24.

Hannu HALINEN (Finland): The sentence as it is, I do not really know in practice what difference there is between "recommendation" and "urging". We are talking about the translation of the concept. We have nothing concrete. It is at the initiative stage at this point. I would not like to see reference to the financial implications talking about the limited resources. We have not done that with the other items on our agenda up to this point. If we have to refer to the financial implications, usually what we say is "within the existing resources". Of course, there is nothing about the extra resources mentioned at this point either. So in my understanding we do not need the reference to the financial implications in this one. But "urging", I would like to seek some clarification what difference it would really make, "urging or "recommending", here in practical terms.

James AITKEN (United Kingdom): After listening to the debate on this paragraph it does seem to us that there is a good argument to retain the original language with perhaps some of the additional language proposed by Colombia. Given the nature of the debate in Council about this item and the strength of the papers involved and indeed the response of the Director-General in the sense that he indicated a willingness to accept that there was something of importance here, it does seem to us that it is quite logical to retain the use of the word "urged". I think this gives a sense of the urgency and the importance of action and the importance of translating things into operational terms. But certainly the delegate of Colombia has a very valid point when he says that within its specific mandate. I think this is taken for granted, but on occasion it does not do any harm to spell it out, because of the catalogue of things which follow.

We have been over this question of resources before and in a way it slightly hints of an intellectual bankruptcy, if you like. When any new ideas come up the response is, "Ah, we have to have resources". Well, yes, up to a point but, as we pointed out before, the important element in this is an attitudinal one. It is a question of adopting concepts which are relatively well known, which are likely to prove, in many cases we have found, more cost-effective than the existing ones. So perhaps it is a little premature to throw up our hands and say that this is a resource allocation question entirely on its own and ignore the attitudinal aspects.

We would suggest that when these two things are taken together, the need to have a change in attitude, the need to have new perceptions, and the need to have some new forms of operation, but we are talking often here about changing approaches to existing operations, then the formulation of "urge" in what follows seems quite reasonable, especially as we are talking about translating into operational activities, operational policies.

The other point that we have listened to and again tends to suggest to us that we should retain the originally wording is this question of the help that we should try and give the Secretariat when it is faced with this problem of resource allocation on a particular issue. I well remember in COAG and in other meetings, the complaint has been that the Member States are far too general in their dialogue with the Secretariat and they are not specific enough. Here is a very specific list to try and be helpful. So again we would think that this is a good example of the Council fulfilling its role. It is pervading policy guidance, it is pervading this in a pointed and directive manner and it is pervading it with sufficient technical detail to enable the technical staff and the Secretariat to take it on. It is also making the point about policies and programmes which is another way of saying my point about attitudinal changes, intellectual resources, and not simply financial ones. So all these considerations suggest to us that we should retain the text.

Amin ABDEL MALEK (Liban) (langue originale arabe): Tout en étant convaincu de la justesse de la déclaration de la représentante des Etats-Unis du point de vue du concept, je ne suis pas d'accord avec elle ni avec le représentant du Royaume-Uni à propos du maintien des termes "Le Conseil a instamment prié". Nous préfererions dire "Le Conseil a recommandé".

Raphael RABE (Madagascar): En tant que membre du Comité de rédaction, je devrais appuyer le paragraphe tel qu'il est libellé mais, après avoir entendu les informations données par le Secrétariat, informations qui viennent du gestionnaire des ressources, je pense qu'il faut en tenir compte.

Fort heureusement le Délégué de la Colombie a fait une proposition qui devrait recevoir l'accord de tout le monde à savoir qu'il faut tenir compte du mandat et des ressources et qu'il faut mettre en oeuvre progressivement tout ce qui se trouve dans ce paragraphe.

Je pense donc que la situation n'est pas bloquée. On nuance seulement et on demande au gestionnaire des ressources, le Directeur général, de réaliser ce programme en tenant compte des ressources et du mandat.

Earl W. WEYBRECHT (Canada): We would like to support the wording as it was prepared by the Drafting Committee, and like the delegate from the United States we feel that this would be consistent with the role that has been identified for the FAO in paragraph 16. So we would like to express our position as being consistent with that outlined by the delegate of Finland with respect to the wording of that sentence.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): No tendríamos inconveniente en aceptar el término "instó", sobre el cual insisten muchos de nuestros colegas. Si se ha reconocido que todo esto debe hacerse dentro del marco específico de la FAO y dentro de los recursos existentes, no creemos que pueda haber objeción a que nuestra propuesta que ahora vamos a flexibilizar aún más, pueda ser aprobada, porque son demasiados los elementos que intervienen al final del párrafo 24, y no creo que ningún miembro del Consejo tenga intención de pedir al Director General que todo esto se haga inmediatamente. Esto debe ser un proceso progresivo. Podíamos decir simplemente: el Consejo instó a la FAO -creo que Finlandia tiene razón, no encuentro diferencias sino semánticas- a que dentro de su mandato específico y en el marco de los recursos existentes. Esto es más suave de lo que había propuesto antes, "introduzca progresivamente". Este es el cambio fundamental. En vez de introducir o introduzca, "introducir progresivamente".

Creo que esta es una propuesta racional, ya que ninguno de nosotros quiere que de la noche a la mañana todo el programa y todas las políticas de la FAO se vayan a dedicar al medio ambiente. Sinceramente Sr. Presidente creo que nuestra propuesta es muy flexible y podría conciliar todas las tendencias.

Akbar Mirza KHALEELI (India): I think there is an emerging consensus on what the distinguished representative of Colombia has suggested, but I have two observations. Firstly, in the totality of the present atmosphere and potential of FAO to delivery programmes, it seems rather ambitious to include such a large number of programmes. No-one has an objection to them progressively but, whether on environment or on development, the emphasis has already been pointed out by the distinguished representative of Brazil and supported by us.

Accordingly, if we go into these points - which are quite sophisticated - without the money, I think we are introducing an element of "progressivism" which is very remote for implementation. In case it is felt that we should proceed beyond the fisheries sector and include this, I would suggest a slight amendment. My suggestion is to stop at fisheries sector. If it is felt we should include this as part of FAO's responsibilities progressively, taking into account the factors mentioned by the distinguished representative of Colombia, I would suggest a slight emphasis on the following words "taking into account available resources and priorities including the retirement of core programmes" then you may proceed to the other things.

Rudolf de POURTALES (Suisse): Je dois dire qu'en écoutant ce débat sur le paragraphe 24 du rapport, je suis quelque peu surpris. Nous parlons de gestion des ressources naturelles, de conservation, de développement, de transmission des technologies, etc. comme si la FAO n'avait rien fait jusqu'ici dans ce domaine. Si tel est le cas, permettez-moi de trouver que c'est très grave. Si ce n'est pas le cas, je ne comprends pas les réticences du Secrétariat et de certains délégués d'accepter la rédaction telle qu'elle est. Personnellement, j'interprète ce texte d'une façon assez différente de ce qui a été fait jusqu'ici. A mon avis, il ne s'agit pas d'activités nouvelles mais d'un renforcement de l'intégration du concept de développement durable dans les programmes existants de la FAO - il ne s'agit pas de mettre sur pied de nouveaux programmes - et je pense que la FAO a la capacité de le faire.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous sommes en présence de deux propositions. La première consiste à remplacer "à instamment prié" par "à recommandé à". Je pense que le terme "recommandé" est admis par l'usage. Compte tenu du fait qu'il s'agit d'affaires nouvelles - le développement durable est quelque chose de nouveau - on doit préparer des programmes. On pourrait recommander instamment. En tout cas le terme "recommandé" me semble personnellement plus acceptable pour l'Organisation.

Reste la seconde partie qui est très importante. Il y a une notion introduite par le Délégué de la Colombie, celle des ressources et de l'aspect progressif. Peut-on concilier cette notion avec notre ambition d'intéresser la FAO, d'une manière ou d'une autre à des actions relatives au développement durable ?

Le Conseil peut-il prendre une décision sur ce point ? Il faudrait arriver à un consensus.

Hannu HALINEN (Finland): At this very late hour I would like to say, in the spirit of compromise, of these two elements which have been added here, I think I would largely accept what the delegate of Colombia said in the end, which was in the essence of retaining the urge, because I think it is sensible to note what the delegate of Switzerland mentioned: these are not really new programmes. In the report of the Secretariat is a very long list of these activities over a very long time period already done within the Organization. The approach is just to take them up, but not as a completely new concept, because the implementation already exists to a large extent. Urging, as I see it, does not put a time limit and therefore should be retained. We can accept acting within its mandate and within the existing resources, references to the text. I hope, on that basis, we could accept.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous avons une proposition concrète de la Colombie appuyée par la Finlande. Si le Conseil l'accepte, nous pourrions peut-être passer à un autre paragraphe. Quant à moi je pense que nous pouvons retenir cette proposition.

Mónica DEREGIBUS (Argentina): Yo me alegro de que las Delegaciones más interesadas en este párrafo hayan encontrado una fórmula de consenso pero debo dejar aquí sentado la opinión de mi Delegación en el sentido de que esta costumbre que están adoptando las delegaciones de incluir en el momento que más apropiado les parece la noción de la limitación de recursos, no debería generalizarse tanto en opinión de la Delegación Argentina, porque algunas delegaciones la utilizan en algunas ocasiones, y otras delegaciones la utilizan en otras ocasiones. Y todos sabemos que los recursos tanto de la Organización como de los propios Gobiernos son limitados. Entonces es absurdo seguir hablando, hacer formulaciones que no nos llevan a nada ya que la FAO no va a hacer nada fuera de los recursos que tiene.

Mlle Faouzia BOUMAÏZA (Algérie): Je voudrais simplement appuyer en entier ce que vient de dire la représentante de l'Argentine. En effet depuis quelque temps on entend dire, chaque fois que cela intéresse les uns ou les autres, que c'est "dans les limites des ressources disponibles". Cela devient une pratique dangereuse pour l'ensemble des Pays membres.

Raul LOPEZ-LIRA NAVA (México): Muy brevemente para apoyar a las dos Delegadas que me han precedido en el uso de la palabra.

LE PRESIDENT: Je voudrais savoir la position du Président du Comité de rédaction.

Yousef Ali Mahmoud HAMDI (Chairman of the Drafting Committee): In fact, my position was to keep the paragraph as drafted, because this paragraph took a long, long discussion but, in view of the decision of the Council, I have no objection and I also feel that the Drafting Committee would go along with the consensus.

LE PRESIDENT: On a retenu la notion de progressivité. On n'a pas mentionné la limitation de ressources. Nous passons au paragraphe 25. Le Brésil a demandé un ajout ce matin.

Joao Augusto DE MEDICIS (Brazil): For the sake of consensus, and the time, I will withdraw my proposal.

LE PRESIDENT: Pour le paragraphe 27, ce matin on avait mentionné que le Conseil se référerait à la Résolution des Nations Unies. Est-ce qu'il y a une observation sur cet article?

Hannu HALIHEN (Finland): I am sorry to take the floor again, but since my delegation made the suggestion concerning this paragraph in the morning, We have had some consultations and there is a somewhat amended text to be added as two final sentences. With your indulgence I would like to read them. I have the text for the Secretariat. The new text, following the prevailing text, would be: "The Council requested that at its next session, on the item of the Programme of Work and Budget 1990/91, substantial discussion be held on FAO's plans and strategies to enhance the concept of sustainable development"; the second sentence, "The Council stressed the importance of the provision of a brief outline by the Secretariat on this issue to facilitate discussion on sustainable developments." With the addition of these two sentences I leave it.

Joao Augusto de MEDICIS (Brazil): I do not believe this is the time or the occasion to come up with new suggestions for the Council. We are discussing here the Report, not new suggestions to the Council. So I suggest we reject this proposal by the Finnish delegate.

C.H. BONTE-FRIEDHEIM (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department) (Representative of the Director-General): A small point but I can inform the Finnish delegate and all others that it will be discussed in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget and it will be discussed because it will be a very important one, irrespective of whether the Council accepts the wording or not. It will be done.

Hannu HALINEN (Finland): Very briefly, I think what was mentioned by Dr. Bonte-Friedheim is already clear that this is not a new item. It is just an elaboration of what has been taken before.

James AITKEN (United kingdom): I just may have missed something but could I also have clarification from Dr. Bonte-Friedheim that there will be some short note presented to the Council, simply to facilitate its work because we have been rather concerned in the past when there has not been documentation that would help us do our work.

C.H. BONTE-FRIEDHEIM (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department) (Representative of the Director-General): There will be some internal documentation for certain, whether it will be Council documentation will depend on whether Council adopts this paragraph or not but I will certainly make this information available because we have to do it for ourselves. So there will be something, yes.

LE PRESIDENT: La réponse de M. Bonte-Friedheim a été acceptée par la délégation de Finlande.

Joao Augusto de MEDICIS (Brazil): May I be informed if we have approved these paragraphs or not?

Hannu HALINEN (Finland): I am very sorry I do not know if I missed the point. I just wanted to clarify that my understanding of Dr. Bonte-Friedheim's response was to accept the amendment as mentioned. Since there are no difficulties, of course, the amendment is as proposed. My delegation has not withdrawn it in anyway. My understanding is that there was no problem. Perhaps we can add the summary as mentioned by Dr. Bonte-Friedheim.

C.H. BONTE-FRIEDHEIM (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department) (Representative of the Director-General): I cannot accept for the Council. The Council has to accept an amendment so I am in the hands of the Council and my understanding was that the Chairman had accepted a proposal by Brazil not to include and I have given assurances from the Secretariat that irrespective of whether it is in there it will be discussed and there will be some background paper. Otherwise, I am not here to adopt the Report for the Council, I am sorry.

LE PRESIDENT: J'avais peut-être mal compris. J'avais compris que, compte tenu des explications de M. Bonte-Friedheim, les documents que vous demandiez 11 s'engageait à les fournir. Je suis désolé d'avoir mal compris. Les explications de M. Bonte-Friedheim m'avaient fait croire que le Secrétariat avait l'intention de faire ce travail dans son programme pour le prochain Conseil, de sorte que j'avais compris qu'il allait faire le travail que vous aviez demandé.

Hannu HALINEN (Finland): I think this explanation was in no way controversial. My feeling was that on the contrary it was supporting adding the specific point. Behind this whole proposition is only the assurance that we will discuss at the next Council and hopefully we will have a document, whatever can be produced on that, but this is the purpose of this amendment.

Sra. Mónica DEREGIBÜS (Argentina): Si mi Delegación comprendió bien, la enmienda que está proponiendo el Delegado de Finlandia, según nos llegó la traducción, sería "el Consejo pidió que en su próximo período de sesiones, en el tema del Programa de Labores y Presupuestos, se celebre una discusión". Yo no creo que el Consejo tenga que pedir; algunas delegaciones pueden pedir o en caso contrario, el Consejo decide. Pero no me parece que el Consejo tenga que pedir porque a quién le va a pedir. Entendemos que algunas delegaciones pidieron que se celebre una discusión y pidieron el papel, y el Secretario dijo que podría existir este papel de información, este documento de información que están pidiendo o en caso contrario, el Consejo tendría que decidir que va a llevar a cabo esta discusión. Ahora yo creo que una discusión sustantiva sobre este aspecto en el marco de la consideración del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto, tal vez no sería el lugar más adecuado porque en ese caso, algunas otras delegaciones podrían pedir una discusión sustantiva de alguna otra parte del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto. No sé si es el lugar más adecuado para llevarlo a cabo. Yo creo que esto debería ser motivo de intercambio entre nosotros.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Podríamos ensayar para ver si el colega de Finlandia pudiere quedar satisfecho con un agregado simple, al final del párrafo 27, diciendo: "El Consejo tomó nota de que la Secretaría Informó que este asunto se discutirá en la próxima reunión del Consejo".

Hannu HALINEN (Finland): I think if that is helpful for the others perhaps to replace the first sentence, that could be adopted and as regards the second sentence, I think we do have to realize that the whole Council was not stressing that point so instead of saying "The Council stressed" I think "Some delegations stressed the importance". So this is a substantive amendment to the amendment I understand but in the light of the Argentinian delegation I have to realize that this is perhaps more accurate. I hope with these amendments to the amendment we can have the Text.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous pourrions retenir la suggestion de la Colombie disant que le Conseil a pris note que le Secrétariat a dit que cette question sera discutée lors de la prochaine session du Conseil.

Bashir EL MABROUK SAID (Libya) (Original language Arabic): I am sorry I have to take the floor at this late hour but the addition by Finland has no reason to be, because the Secretariat when an item is put in the Agenda, necessarily prepares documents. The Secretariat always provides background documents for Agenda items.

Hannu HALINEN (Finland): I think there is a slight distinction here on the brief outline. We understand this is a bit different from the usual background papers which are already there. As stressing the point was to get, as it was in our statement the more analytical statement.

Bashir EL MABROUK SAID (Libya) (Original language Arabic): I would like to raise a procedural matter. This approach will just slow things up. We can stay here until 1a.m. There is a proposal, a proposal has been given, other delegations have spoken to this. It is really useless to ask this delegation, the one who submitted the proposal to express his opinion once again. I think we are just wasting time and we will have to stay on until tomorrow morning.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous étions arrivés à un consensus; le Secrétariat a informé le Conseil de ce qu'il allait discuter de cette question au prochain Conseil; le Secrétariat remettra un document; c'est une évidence; il me semble que l'on pourrait éviter de prolonger le débat sur cette question et clore cette discussion. Pouvons-nous considérer cette question comme close ?

Paragraphs 14 to 27, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 14 à 27, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 14 a 27, así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 29 to 41 (continued)

PARAGRAPHERS 29 à 41 (suite)

PARRAFOS 29 a 41 (continuación)

LE PRESIDENT: Nous passons au paragraphe 33.

Gonzalo BULA HOTOS (Colombia): Retiro mi propuesta de agregado al párrafo 33.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous passons au Point 40.

Gonzalo BULA HOTOS (Colombia): Aquí, sí, Sr. Presidente, deseamos insistir en nuestra propuesta porque se trata de un asunto importante. En la reciente Conferencia Regional para América Latina celebrada en Recife, Brasil, el director regional dijo que el PNUD estaba estimulando a aquellos países que se hallaban en condiciones de hacerlo, y cuando fuera conveniente, a que ejecutaran algunos proyectos. Esto mereció general apoyo en esa Conferencia Regional. Así consta en su informe. Por eso nos parece que esa primera frase del párrafo 40 es muy pasiva y no refleja lo que quisimos decir en el debate, y reiteramos este principio.

Por lo tanto, proponemos una redacción que todavía hemos flexibilizado aun más, Sr. Presidente, para evitarle a usted nuevas complicaciones. La primera frase del párrafo 40 diría: "El Consejo pidió al PNUD que, cuando fuera conveniente, intensifique su política de estimular a los Gobiernos para que ejecuten algunos proyectos." Espero que esto no ofrezca dificultades, Sr. Presidente.

Thomas TANGA (Cameroun): je voudrais d'une part appuyer la proposition de l'Ambassadeur de Colombie et rappeler la proposition d'amendement que j'avais faite en continuant la phrase par: "et a souhaité que la FAO y collabore dans son domaine de compétence".

Stanley Munkindia GUANTAI (Kenya): I was a member of the Drafting Committee and so I would accept whatever ruling is made by the Council. However, I would point out that this is another of the paragraphs - and the Chairman of the Drafting Committee would agree with me - that really took us a lot of time. We ended up with a very delicate balance. I hope that by opening up this debate we do not have problems with some of the original suggestions coming up again.

Yousef Ali Mahmoud HAMD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): My colleague, the distinguished delegate of Kenya, has already stated what has taken place in the Committee. As he said, we debated and debated and finally came up with a balanced draft. I think it would be better if we did not change it, but the Council has a right to change whatever it wishes.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Nosotros tomamos nota con todo respeto de lo que paso en el Comité de Redacción, pero igualmente sabemos lo que dijimos aquí, en el seno de este Consejo. Si no hay ninguna otra opinión, Sr. Presidente, nosotros nos resignamos a decir, después de donde termina la primera frase "proyectos del PNUD", "algunas Delegaciones" y sigue la frase propuesta por mí, porque esto lo dijimos, Sr. Presidente, y hay que incluirlo en el informe.

Joao Augusto de MEDICIS (Brazil): I was intending to support the first proposal made by the delegations of Colombia and the Cameroons. I saw nothing that would cause an imbalance in the wording arrived at by the Drafting Committee, but people are becoming so sensitive about their drafting that it is difficult for we who are not members of the Drafting Committee to try and amend the wording.

I could have accepted the amendment of the Colombian delegation. I see no reason why we cannot accept it.

James AITKEN (United Kingdom): Briefly, because of the lateness of the hour, to say that the second formula proposed by Colombia appears to be perfectly acceptable. If everyone can accept that we can move on.

Paragraphs 29 to 41, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 29 à 41, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 29 a 41, así enmendados, son aprobados

LE PRESIDENT: Nous pouvons aller dans cette direction et considérer que le REP/3 est adopté.

Draft Report, Part III, as amended, was adopted

Projet de rapport, III partie, ainsi amendée, est adoptée

El Proyecto de Informe, Parte III, así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT - PART IV (continued)

PROJET DE RAPPORT - QUATRIEME PARTIE (suite)

PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE IV (continuación)

PARAGRAPHS 1 to 23 (continued)

PARAGRAPHERS 1 à 23 (suite)

PARRAFOS 1 a 23 (continuación)

LE PRESIDENT: Il n'y a pas de modification de forme jusqu'au paragraphe 7 inclus. Paragraphe 8. Il y a un problème sur la phrase: "il a été reconnu que les contributions fournies pour les réfugiés au Pakistan et en République islamique d'Iran sont très appréciables, etc..".

Tawfik A.H. AL MESH-HEDANI (Iraq) (Original language Arabic): My request centered on the addition of one word in order to clarify this paragraph. In the last sentence, "while appreciating the contributions made for refugees in Pakistan and the Afghani refugees in the Islamic Republic of Iran" and we keep the sentence as it is. I base this amendment on facts, because this is referred to in paragraph 48 of document CL 94/4. The third sentence reads "and in agreement with the UNCHR it was agreed that the donor countries giving donations to these countries..." - and "these" mean Pakistan and Somalia - "and to the Afghani refugees in Iran." This is the text of the document and it was studied by the CFA.

In addition, what has been highlighted by the Director-General is that the agreement on this assistance was directed to the Afghani refugees in Iran. That was my request.

LE PRESIDENT: L'honorable Délégué du Brésil souhaitait qu'on évite de nommer les pays et qu'on dise: ".... fournies pour les réfugiés sont très appréciables...".

Taghi SHAMEKHI (Iran, République islamique d'): Dans ce texte, on voudrait une certaine flexibilité; on n'a pas mentionné les guerres et les réfugiés; en effet, si l'on veut mentionner les réfugiés afghans, il faut également mentionner les réfugiés kurdes-irakiens, parce que dans la République islamique d'Iran, ces deux groupes de réfugiés existent. La présence de ces réfugiés est reconnue par tout le monde, elle est reconnue par les Nations Unies qui l'acceptent pour pouvoir leur donner une aide.

Dans le but de ne pas entrer dans des discussions, dont nous pensions que ce n'était pas la place ici, nous étions d'accord pour qu'on mette le mot: "des réfugiés".

Mais nous serions sensibles à ce que cette demande de l'Iran soit inscrite dans ce rapport vu le grand nombre de réfugiés que nous avons en Iran; nous n'avons que très peu de soutien international; ce soutien n'a d'ailleurs commencé que depuis un an; et nous insistons pour qu'il soit reconnu que la République islamique d'Iran a des groupes de réfugiés et demande une aide pour eux.

Raúl LOPEZ-LIRA NAVA (México): Creo que es muy tarde, y quisiéramos ayudar a este Consejo a tener una buena noche. Entonces, yo quisiera apoyar muy firmemente la propuesta del Embajador de Brasil, en el sentido de que se eliminen los países y quede solamente refugiados en general. Con eso no afectaríamos a nadie y creo que estaríamos todos contentos.

LE PRESIDENT: Voilà une proposition présentée ce matin par le Délégué du Brésil, appuyée par Monsieur le Délégué du Mexique et nous aimerions avoir les réflexions du Conseil sur ce point.

Taghi SHAMEKHI (Iran, République islamique d'): Dans ce texte, le nom de plusieurs pays est marqué; on parle même d'opérations de transport pour acheminer l'aide pour ces réfugiés; on parle du sud du Soudan, qui a ses problèmes. Dans la République islamique d'Iran, nous avons un problème beaucoup plus important qui est mentionné au bas du paragraphe; c'est différent de ce qui est mentionné en haut, où l'on parle d'aide d'urgence, ainsi que de coordination avec le Haut-Commissariat pour les Réfugiés; en bas de ce paragraphe, nous demandons qu'une aide plus importante soit accordée pour les réfugiés d'Iran et leurs hôtes.

LE PRESIDENT: Si nous mettons: "les contributions déjà fournies", cela veut dire qu'elles ont déjà été fournies à des réfugiés. Est-ce que ce serait de nature à débloquer la situation ?, "il a été reconnu que des contributions déjà fournies à ce jour" c'est-à-dire au moment où nous parlons... Cela rejoindrait un peu l'avis de Monsieur le Directeur général qui consiste à dire qu'elles ont été fournies dans le cadre de requêtes faites à ce jour. Il s'agit de porter un jugement sur des contributions antérieures; si nous mettons "les contributions déjà fournies pour les réfugiés" ça peut peut-être éviter un problème, puisque c'est en réponse à des requêtes pour les réfugiés. On mettrait: "les contributions fournies à ce jour, pour les réfugiés, suite à des requêtes appropriées, etc sont très appréciables". On pourrait limiter la discussion en disant: "les contributions fournies à ce jour, dans le cadre de requêtes appropriées, pour les réfugiés au Pakistan et en République islamique, sont très appréciables" on ne cite pas de pays mais on limite les requêtes à des réfugiés qui ont déjà obtenu des contributions.

Taghi SHAMEKHI (Iran, République islamique d'): Quand je mentionne cette question, je veux dire que nous voudrions avoir une flexibilité; on n'a pas mentionné le nom des pays. En vérité, si on voulait être plus juste, il faudrait préciser dans les autres parties du document que l'on propose qu'il y ait une contribution pour les réfugiés afghans et kurdes-irakiens qui sont en République islamique de l'Iran; nous demandons effectivement cette aide pour ces pays.

Je me souviens que dans le texte qui avait été admis par le Directeur du PAM, il parlait de réfugiés afghans, il parlait de pays qui étaient source de controverses et de guerres et il a bien précisé clairement que dans un pays où il y a maintenant des centaines de milliers de réfugiés, dans des conditions très difficiles, il faudrait demander une aide pour eux.

Je ne demande pas qu'on les nomme directement; si je le demandais directement, ce serait une proposition que je ferais au nom des réfugiés afghans et kurdes-irakiens qui sont dans la République islamique d'Iran.

Nous avons seulement demandé une précision indirecte, je crois que cette demande va dans la nature des textes et qu'elle est de notre droit le plus évident. C'est la raison pour laquelle je ne la retire pas.

LE PRESIDENT: La proposition que je faisais: "déjà fournies à ce jour dans le cadre de requêtes", ne vous convient pas ? C'était une constatation sur une contribution antérieure. On laisse "que les contributions fournies à ce jour, dans le cadre des requêtes auprès des réfugiés au Pakistan et de la République islamique sont très appréciables". C'est une sorte de compromis que je vous propose pour éviter de citer des noms et nous permettre de passer à autre chose.

Mlle Faouzia BOUMAÏZA (Algérie): Par votre entremise, Monsieur le Président, je voulais simplement demander aux délégations concernées de réfléchir sur votre proposition.

LE PRESIDENT: Je crois que c'est la meilleure façon de répondre à ce qu'a dit le Directeur général.

Bashir EL MABROUK SAID (Libya) (Original language Arabic): I have a proposal which is in line with what you have referred to, namely, to keep the first paragraph as it is: "Members expressed satisfaction with the critical contribution of WFP in getting emergency food aid to people in need throughout the world." We keep that sentence as it is. Then we delete the next sentence until we reach the following: "The Council also noted with concern the recurrence of incidents of insecurity experienced by food aid convoys in some countries. While appreciating the contributions made to refugees an appeal was made for continued and increased assistance for these refugees till such time as they returned to their homeland." In this way we delete all reference to names because this is included in the report it should be couched in a general formulation.

LE PRESIDENT: Je propose la création d'un groupe de contact comprenant la Libye, l'Iran, l'Irak et peut-être d'autres pays de la région. Il faut essayer de trouver une formule acceptable. J'ai proposé un libellé. Si vous l'acceptiez, nous pourrions avancer mais je ne peux pas faire autre chose.

Muhammad Saleem KHAN (Pakistan): I reserve my opinion about what is being said. Personally I felt the word "refugees" was quite neutral. However, I would appreciate if we are included in a contact group, if a contact group is being constituted. However, I think we should decide the matter tonight.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous allons laisser cette question en suspens et avancer. Je vais demander au Vice-président, le Délégué de la Libye, d'organiser ce groupe de contact avec les représentants des pays intéressés: l'Irak, l'Iran, le Pakistan et peut-être l'Inde. Il faut essayer de trouver une formule qui ait l'agrément de tous.

Je réserve donc ce paragraphe et je continue avec le paragraphe 22. Je crois qu'on l'a trouvé très long ce matin.

Gonzalo BULA HOTOS (Colombia): Lamentamos mucho que la secretaría no haya hecho caso a la observación que hizo nuestra colega argentina esta mañana en el sentido de que en el texto español en el párrafo 22, falta por lo menos la mitad de lo que aparece en el texto inglés. Con un poquito de curiosidad hemos podido comprobar que todo eso desapareció del párrafo 22 en castellano, y pasó al párrafo 20, también en nuestro propio idioma.

Ojalá que la Secretaría confirmara esto porque nosotros no entendemos el inglés, pero dada, la extensión de los párrafos nos parece que ha sucedido así.

Después de esta aclaración que es importante, ya que el Informe debe ser correcto, queremos decir en relación con el párrafo 22 que si el distinguido Embajador de Italia no tiene ningún problema con su redacción actual, estaríamos dispuestos a apoyarla, pero no sería sensato que el Consejo causara dificultades al Embajador Valenza, el representante del país hospedante, cuya generosidad todos reconocemos.

LE PRESIDENT: Il y a deux questions. La première concerne le texte en espagnol et le Secrétariat va s'en occuper pour répondre au vœu de la Déléguée de l'Argentine, qui est tout à fait légitime, afin de permettre à nos collègues de langue espagnole de se prononcer utilement.

Il reste l'observation relative à ce paragraphe faite par le Délégué de la Colombie.

Gian Luigi VALENZA (Italie): J'avais demandé, ce matin, l'abrogation d'une phrase du paragraphe 22. Toutefois, en considération de l'observation exacte faite à ce propos par le Directeur général qui a rappelé que le paragraphe en question se réfère à l'opinion du Conseiller juridique de l'Organisation, je suis heureux de pouvoir retirer ma proposition de l'abroger.

Par ailleurs, pour mieux définir la position présente et future de mon gouvernement, je voudrais demander d'ajouter, à la dernière phrase de cet article, après le mot "entre-temps" et avant les mots "les autorités Italiennes", le membre de phrase "dans un esprit de bonne volonté".

LE PRESIDENT: La dernière phrase du paragraphe 21 serait donc la suivante: "Entre-temps, dans un esprit de bonne volonté, les autorités italiennes ont payé l'essentiel des loyers dûs pour les locaux actuels du PAM "?

Gian Luigi VALENZA (Italie): C'est exact.

Mlle Faouzia BOUMAÏZA (Algérie): Juste une observation à propos du paragraphe 20 dont parlait l'Ambassadeur Bula Hoyos. Dans la version française, on parle toujours du Programme alimentaire mondial. Je crois qu'il faudrait adapter toutes les versions.

LE PRESIDENT: C'est acquis.

Nous ajoutons donc à la fin du paragraphe 21 l'amendement présenté par l'Ambassadeur l'Italie.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL ADJOINT: A propos de la version espagnole du document CL 94/REP/4, je dois dire qu'il s'y est effectivement glissé une erreur matérielle et nous nous en excusons. Les paragraphes sont tous dans ce document mais pas dans l'ordre juste. Le paragraphe 20 est en fait le paragraphe 22; le paragraphe 21 correspond au paragraphe 20; et le paragraphe 22 au paragraphe 21. Mais tous les paragraphes se trouvent dans la version espagnole.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous passons au paragraphe 23. Adopté.

Paragraphs 1 to 23 not concluded

Les paragraphes 1 à 23 sont en suspens

Los párrafos 1 a 23 quedan pendientes

Paragraphs 24 to 26 approved

Les paragraphes 24 à 26 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 24 a 26 son aprobados

Paragraphs 27 to 29 approved

Les paragraphes 27 à 29 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 27 a 29 son aprobados

Paragraphs 30 to 35 approved

Les paragraphes 30 à 35 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 30 a 35 son aprobados

Paragraph 36 approved

Le paragraphe 36 est approuvé

El párrafo 36 es aprobado

Draft Report, Part IV, not concluded

Projet de rapport, IV partie, est en suspens

El Proyecto de Informe, Parte IV, queda pendiente

DRAFT REPORT - PART V

PROJET DE RAPPORT - CINQUIEME PARTIE

PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE V

PARAGRAPHS 1 to 10

PARAGRAPHES 1 à 10

PARRAFOS 1 a 10

LE PRESIDENT: Nous passons au Point 8: "Plan d'action pour l'intégration des femmes dans le développement".

Sra. Mónica DEREGIBUS (Argentina): Las delegaciones que asistimos al Comité de Redacción convinimos en que este viejo párrafo 5, que fue reformulado en el Comité de Redacción, pasara como primeras oraciones del párrafo 9. Estando incorporada la versión ya modificada en la dos primeras oraciones del párrafo 9, nosotros creemos que al párrafo 5 hay que eliminarlo. Si las delegaciones quieren mirar el párrafo 9, verán que la idea está reflejada allí.

LE PRESIDENT: Je crois que cette remarque est tout à fait légitime et si le Président du Comité de rédaction n'y voit pas d'inconvénient, je supprime le paragraphe 5.

Paragraphs 1 to 10, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 10, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 10, así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPH 11, INCLUDING RESOLUTION

LE PARAGRAPHE 11, Y COMPRIS LA RESOLUTION

EL PARRAFO 11, INCLUIDA LA RESOLUCION

Sra. Laurie CORDUA CRUZ (Nicaragua): En este párrafo tenemos una observación fundamentalmente de forma. Desearía leerles los cambios que propondría: un Proyecto de Resolución fue presentado por las Delegaciones de (enumerando las delegaciones que patrocinaron la Resolución), y apoyado ampliamente por los Miembros del Consejo. En él se identificaban. Sigue igual la oración, hasta donde dice la "aplicación", que proponemos se sustituya por: puesta en marcha. Lo demás quedaría igual, finalizando en: aprobó la siguiente Resolución:

LE PRESIDENT: Pouvez-vous nous indiquer d'où vous avez tiré cette phrase "appuyé largement par les membres du Conseil"? A quel endroit du paragraphe 11 proposez-vous de la mettre?

Sra. Laurie CORDUA CRUZ (Nicaragua): Después de que se numeran las Delegaciones, apoyado ampliamente por los Miembros del Consejo.

LE PRESIDENT: Y a-t-il des observations au sujet de la proposition de la Déléguée du Nicaragua ? Non. Je pense que nous pouvons la retenir.

Il nous reste la résolution elle-même. Il s'agit de la résolution créant un groupe de contact composé des délégués de la Yougoslavie, du Royaume-Uni, du Mexique, de l'Argentine, de la Finlande, du Canada et de l'Inde. Ce projet de résolution a également été transmis au Comité de rédaction. Le Conseil est-il d'accord pour qu'il soit également transmis à la Conférence ?

Le projet de résolution est adopté.

Paragraph 11, including Resolution as amended, adopted

Le paragraphe 11, y compris la résolution ainsi amendée, est adopté

El párrafo 11, incluida la Resolución así enmendada, es aprobado

PARAGRAPHS 12 to 25 PARAGRAPHES 12 à 25 PARRAFOS 12 a 25

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Quisiéramos saber cómo va a quedar este párrafo 13 a la luz de la decisión que se tomó en el párrafo 23 en el REP/2.

LE PRESIDENT: Personnellement, j'avais compris que le paragraphe 23 du document CL/94/REP/2 était éliminé et que le paragraphe 13 du document CL/94/REP/5 était maintenu car, d'après ce qu'ont dit la Déléguée de l'Algérie et d'autres membres, 11 est équilibré.

Gonzalo BULA HOTOS (Colombia): Teníamos la impresión, Sr. Presidente, de que la actitud constructiva se había aceptado que al final de la segunda frase del párrafo 13 se suprimieran las palabras: "en las medidas permitidas por la Ley y otras consideraciones de fuerza mayor". Eso tenemos la impresión de que se propuso; si fue así es mejor suprimir eso y así el párrafo no nos ofrecería ninguna dificultad.

John COOK (United States of America): I believe that the United States made clear already this afternoon that we had no problem whatsoever to delete those words "to the extent permitted by Law and overriding considerations". That is fine with us.

Mlle Faouzia BOUMAÏZA (Algérie): Je voudrais proposer à la délégation américaine de déplacer la phrase qui dit que le Conseil s'est félicité de cette déclaration, et qui vient en fin de paragraphe. Je propose qu'on mette cette phrase après la première phrase "le représentant des Etats-Unis a annoncé que son pays avait versé 25 millions de dollars E.-U. à la FAO". On ajouterait: "Le Conseil s'est félicité de cette annonce". Viendrait ensuite le reste du paragraphe avec l'amendement de la Colombie.

John COOK (United States of America): It was my distinct impression that the Council welcomed the three individual pieces of information in that paragraph and not just for payment. That was my impression. I think the drafting group was of that impression. I really do not see that it is any problem just to leave it like this.

LE PRESIDENT: Je crois que nous pouvons laisser le texte tel qu'il est parce qu' effectivement le Conseil a manifesté sa satisfaction du fait que dans le budget 1989 sont inscrites les sommes dues par les Etats-Unis aux Organisations des Nations Unies.

Mlle Faouzia BOUMAÏZA (Algérie): Je suis vraiment désolée de retarder davantage nos travaux, mais je me souviens qu'il y avait eu un murmure de satisfaction et un grand soupir de soulagement après l'annonce faite par l'Ambassadeur des Etats-Unis que son pays avait versé 25 millions de dollars. Je ne sais pas si les Membres du Conseil ont exprimé la même satisfaction vis-à-vis des autres annonces, parce que nous attendons de voir le résultat de ces mesures. Mais il est vrai que le Conseil s'est félicité de l'annonce du versement de 25 millions de dollars au titre des arriérés.

D.K- CROWTHER (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department): The delegate is absolutely right, that the Council, the Organization and everyone welcomed the announcement on the US\$25 million. But I must also say that we welcomed even more than the US\$25 million, the other announcement. That is going to mean a great deal more to us in the future than the US\$25 million. We are very pleased to welcome the entire announcement.

LE PRESIDENT: C'est un ensemble de déclarations qui ont été appréciées par le Conseil. Je crois que le fait de mettre cette phrase en fin de paragraphe marque l'attente du Conseil pour la suite des versements et l'ensemble des nouvelles qui étaient fort agréables à entendre.

Nous passons aux paragraphes suivants.

Paragraphs 12 to 25, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 12 à 25, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 12 a 25, así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPH 26 PARAGRAPHE 26 PARRAFO 26

Ray ALLEN (United Kingdom): We would like to see a mention here that the terms of reference of the Commission will remain unchanged.

C.H. BONTE-FRIEDHEIM (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department) (Representative of the Director-General): Yes, I think it will read that we noted that the terms of reference of the Commission will remain unchanged.

Paragraph 26 approved

Le paragraphe 26 est approuvé

El párrafo 26 es aprobado

Paragraph 27 approved

Le paragraphe 27 est approuvé

El párrafo 27 es aprobado

Draft Report, Part V, as amended, was adopted

Projet de Rapport, V partie, ainsi amendée, est adoptée

El Proyecto de Informe, parte V, así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT - PART VI

PROJET DE RAPPORT - SIXIEME PARTIE

PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE VI

Mlle Faouzia BODMAÏZA (Algérie): M. le Président, j'ai un problème. Je représente l'Algérie au sein du Conseil mais je suis toute seule dans ma délégation et je ne suis malheureusement pas dotée du don de l'ubiquité. Je n'ai pas pu prendre connaissance des rapports qui ont été distribués, donc si vous le voulez bien et si le Conseil en est d'accord, je demanderais que l'on fasse une interruption de 10 minutes pour que nous puissions prendre connaissance de questions très importantes. Je ne peux pas adopter des choses que je n'ai pas lues.

Bashir EL MABROUK SAID (Libya) (Original Language Arabic): I object to the proposal made by the delegate of Algeria, because if we agree to this we will not resume our meeting before another hour.

Mlle Faouzia BOUMAÏZA (Algérie): Je ne peux vraiment pas adopter un rapport que je n'ai pas lu. Ce ne serait pas sérieux de ma part vis-à-vis de mon pays. Je regrette, M. le Président, mais je voudrais avoir au moins 15 minutes pour m'informer des principaux points importants.

Joao Augusto de MEDICIS (Brésil): On pourrait peut-être trouver une solution de compromis. On pourrait peut-être approuver le Document REP/6 plus lentement, donner le temps aux délégués de lire chaque paragraphe et chaque paragraphe serait approuvé séparément. Nous pourrions ainsi concilier la position de l'Algérie et de la Libye.

Mlle Faouzia BOUMAÏZA (Algérie): L'Ambassadeur du Brésil est toujours très convainquant, mais vous ne m'en voudrez pas si je vous ralentis considérablement.

LE PRESIDENT: Je vois que le Représentant de la Libye n'est pas d'accord pour la suspension de séance. Nous allons donc parler très lentement.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Nosotros apoyamos a Argelia y nos negamos a participar en el debate sobre un documento que no hemos leído.

LE PRESIDENT: Avant de lever la séance je signale que nos interprètes sont disponibles jusqu'à une heure du matin. A 1 heure du matin, si nous n'avons pas fini, je me vois dans l'obligation légale de continuer nos travaux demain.

The meeting was suspended from 22.00 to 22.20 hours

La séance est suspendue de 22 h.00 à 22 h.20.

Se suspende la sesión de las 22.00 a las 22.20 horas

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL ADJOINT: Je voulais simplement vous signaler que nous aurons l'interprétation jusqu'à une heure mais que, malheureusement, les procès-verbalistes seront obligés de s'arrêter à 23 h.30, ce qui veut dire que les derniers Procès-verbaux seront publiés avec un peu de retard car nous devrons les transcrire à partir des enregistrements.

PARAGRAPHERS 1 to 15

PARAGRAPHERS 1 à 15

PARRAFOS 1 a 15

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie le Secrétaire général adjoint. Nous allons commencer la lecture du REP/6. Il s'agit du Point 13 (première partie) - rapport des 54ème et 55ème sessions du Comité du Programme, y compris rapport intérimaire sur l'Examen de la FAO -.

Paragraphe 1? Approuvé. Paragraphe 2? Approuvé. Paragraphe 3? Approuvé. Paragraphe 4?

José Ramón LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (México): Como le comunicamos a nuestro Presidente del Comité de Redacción, en torno a las cuestiones que se tratan en este punto numero 4, nosotros teníamos serlas dudas respecto de la forma en que el Asesor Legal interpretó las preguntas que al respecto se le formularon, y también la manera en que después de muy largas discusiones, del Comité de Redacción se recogieron aquí. Mi Delegación no quiso hacer entonces un problema, y dejó el párrafo ir tal como lo ven ustedes escrito. Sin embargo, tenemos cuatro preguntas, que nos parecen fundamentales y que entonces avisamos queríamos que las respuestas aparecieran en las Actas. Las preguntas son las siguientes al Asesor Legal:

En primer lugar, deseamos saber si para que la reunión adquiriera un carácter permanente se requiere necesariamente una reforma de los Textos Básicos. Nuestra opinión al respecto es que no se puede dar una respuesta ambigua. Es decir, que la sala no puede dar una respuesta ambigua interpretándolo como que es deseable. El Asesor Legal debe ser preciso y, a mi juicio, la respuesta es que es necesario. Pero es una pregunta que le formulamos para que aquí nos reitere su contestación.

Segundo, si el Director General, de "motu proprio", a solicitud de uno o varios países, puede hacer con carácter experimental reuniones de los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas, y si éstas pueden ser coyunturales o deben consultarse con el Consejo y con la Conferencia.

En tercer lugar, si la reunión experimental que se ha propuesto, en caso de que realice repetidamente, perdería su carácter experimental y ello podría volverse definitivo, sin necesidad, por tanto, de cambiar los textos básicos porque implicaría que se ha sentado un precedente.

Punto número 4. De acuerdo con el proyecto actual de programación y presupuestación los Estados Miembros expresan en los Comités principales y a la luz de los eventos recientes y relevantes de cada sector, las prioridades programáticas de los mismos, las cuales se transmiten a los Comités de Programa y de Finanzas. Dado que las reuniones de todos -subrayo: "de todos"- los Comités principales no pueden celebrarse en el año siguiente de la Conferencia, pregunto si estaría en ese caso violándose los textos de nuestra Organización y que cuando se celebra una reunión de los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas previa a tales reuniones de los Comités principales no se puede, en consecuencia, recibir sus comentarios. Es decir, si no se han celebrado todas las reuniones de los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas previa a tales reuniones de los Comités principales no se puede, en consecuencia, recibir sus comentarios. Es decir, si no se han celebrado todas las reuniones de los Comités principales y obtenido sus informes, el Director General estaría presentando propuestas de nivel presupuestal y programático que afectarían las áreas aun no debatidas ni consultadas con los Estados Miembros. Además, esas cuestiones se debatirían en el seno de los Comités del Programa y de finanzas, cuyos miembros lo son sólo a título personal, y, por otra parte, no son especialistas en todas las áreas.

Sr. Presidente, deseamos que esas cuatro preguntas nos las responda el Asesor Legal. Nosotros pensamos que este es un asunto muy delicado, porque, de aceptarse una interpretación ambigua, podría este Consejo estar reconociendo un procedimiento que se podría repetir año tras año, sin necesidad de reformar los textos básicos y violando quizás disposiciones de los textos. Espero que haya entendido usted mi preocupación, que no fue satisfecha en el Comité de Redacción.

Gonzalo BULA BOTOS (Colombia): Un consejero legal de una organización internacional integrada por Estados soberanos, no puede tener opinión propia; debe ser imparcial y objetivo, no puede ir más allá de los aspectos jurídicos de las decisiones de cualquier órgano rector; no puede hacer propuestas, y ni siquiera sugerencias sobre cuestiones de fondo. Creo que esto es conveniente que lo digamos en este momento, Sr. Presidente, porque el Sr. Moore está recién llegado a la Organización, está apenas aclimatándose, y conviene que sepa que quienes representamos aquí a Gobiernos soberanos no aceptamos que un funcionario, cualquiera sea, se desvie del marco dentro del cual debe cumplir sus funciones. Yo creo que para bien de la Organización, Sr. Presidente, y para preservar la seriedad con que un consejero legal debe contar, es indispensable que en este párrafo 4 no figure el término "muy conveniente", porque ésa es una opinión del consejero legal que no está llamado a expresar. Al máximo, habría que decir lo que corresponde al consejero legal: "sería necesario", pero un consejero legal no puede ir más allá de eso, Sr. Presidente.

LE PRESIDENT: Est-ce que le Conseiller juridique veut bien nous donner les réponses à ces différentes questions?

LEGAL COUNSEL: I will try to reply to these questions to the best of my ability. You will bear with me if I ask for two of the questions to be repeated. I shall reply to the first and second questions now and then we can revert to the last two questions.

As I understand it the first question was: if the Joint Committees, in this additional step to the programme budget process, were to be convened in January of the Conference year as a permanent feature of the programme budget process, would this require an amendment to the general rules of the Organization? I believe that if it were to be done on a permanent basis as a permanent feature of the programme and budget process it would become necessary to amend the general rules of the Organization to bring them into line with the new practice. That is if it is on a permanent basis. If it were merely on an experimental basis, on a short-term basis, I do not feel that it would be necessary to amend the general rules of the Organization for the reasons which I explained in my previous intervention on Tuesday. What then constitutes an experimental basis and when does it become a permanent basis? Unless there is an actual decision of the Conference, it is hard for me or for anybody to say when the new step ceases to be experimental and becomes permanent. As I *said* on Tuesday that is why, if the new step in the programme budget process were to continue on a longer term basis, it would be desirable to amend the rules; but, once it became on a permanent basis, the rules would have to be amended.

Maybe I could pass on now to the second question. Can the Director-General, on an experimental basis convene meetings of the Finance and Programme Committees in order to consider an outline Programme of Work and Budget? As I indicated on Tuesday, the rules are sufficiently broad to allow him to convene these meetings under his normal powers to convene meetings of the Finance and Programme Committees, without any changes to the general rules of the Organization. Specifically, for the Programme Committee, the Director-General has the power to convene the Committee under Rule XXVI (8) of the general rules of the Organization. For the Finance Committee, he has the power to convene that Committee under Rule XVII (8) of the general rules of the Organization.

If I may pass on to the third question, here I would ask for some clarification. Perhaps you could explain this question a little further because I did not quite catch the whole of it and I would not like to reply unless I have understood it fully.

José Ramón LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (México): Hubo una cuestión respecto a la segunda, que no me respondió, y creo que es importante. Es que nosotros aceptamos, desde la primera vez, que efectivamente el Director General tenía la capacidad, la facultad, para convocar a una reunión con carácter experimental. Sin embargo, la pregunta iba en el siguiente sentido: que si ésta -vuelvo a repetir lo que dije- puede ser coyuntural, es decir, si en cada ocasión el Director General puede decidir sobre una base coyuntural, la convocatoria de la misma reunión para enero en años sucesivos, o si después de que la primera vez ya fue experimental, la segunda vez implica el llevarlo a la Conferencia, porque ya hubo una experiencia pasada, y si eso conlleva algún tipo de modificación de los reglamentos. La segunda pregunta iba encauzada en ese sentido.

Y la tercera, que está ligada justamente a esta cuestión, o que abunda en esta cuestión, decía que si esta reunión es experimental, realizada repetidamente, pierde su carácter experimental y adquiere entonces un carácter definitivo, por sentar un precedente. Le voy a decir por qué hice esta pregunta, señor: porque en la última oración del párrafo 4 se dice que una situación análoga registrada en el 73, en relación con la introducción del proceso de presentación del resumen del Programa de Labores, implicó que la Conferencia había enmendado el Reglamento General del 75. Pareciera que se está dando a entender que de alguna manera se ha creado o se ha hecho jurisprudencia sobre este asunto. Es decir, en vista de que esto tuvo un carácter superior a una cuestión meramente experimental, conllevó a una enmienda necesaria del Reglamento, y nosotros queremos saber si la implicación que le está dando el Asesor Legal a ese asunto es que efectivamente requiere tal cambio en las reglas. De otra manera, Sr. Presidente, podríamos seguir con reuniones experimentales todos los eneros del año de la Conferencia, sin que esto implique haber sentado un precedente y, por tanto, no haber requerido cambiar los textos.

LEGAL COUNSEL: Thank you, I now understand the question. Certainly in the first year it is done it would be within the powers of the Director-General to comply on a voluntary and experimental basis. Whether or not on a second occasion it would be still experimental and temporary I cannot give any definite answer. I think that this might be something for the Conference to decide or to be referred to the CCLM. As was mentioned before, the only occasion when this has arisen before was in a rather different situation, because there it was a proposal made by the Director-General on his own initiative without being requested to do so. This was the proposal for a new step in the Programme and Budget Process, the preparation of a Summary Programme of Work and Budget. This new step was adopted in 1973 and at its June session in 1975 the Council "noted that the submission of the summary Programme of Work and Budget was not in conformity with the General Rules of the Organization and accordingly requested the CCLM to consider amendments to the relevant rules to bring them into line with current practice. The amendments were adopted by the Conference in November 1975." This is the only precedent. I do not know whether or not the precedent actually indicates that the rules had to be amended on that particular occasion, or that it could have been done at a later occasion. I think eventually it would be for the Conference to come to some decision as to what the law should be on this point.

José Ramón LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (Mexico): Perdone, Sr. Presidente, que esté haciendo tan engorroso, este asunto, pero para nosotros era muy importante. La cuarta pregunta es en el sentido de que, de acuerdo al proceso actual de programación y presupuestación, que está recogido en los textos básicos, nuestra interpretación es que, para formular el nivel del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto, el Director General recaba las observaciones, comentarlos y debates hechos en los Comités principales de la Organización para integrar entonces su documento, que irá a la reunión de los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas. Sin embargo, hay Comités que celebran en el año de la Conferencia su reunión y cuyos debates, recomendaciones y observaciones al respecto no los podría tomar y recoger el Director General para su propuesta respectiva e integración de nivel presupuestarlo y Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para hacerlos llegar a los Comités.

Y nuestra pregunta, entonces, es si celebrar una reunión en enero no estaría precisamente violando ese principio establecido y que lo que estaría, de hecho, ocurriendo es que se les estaría otorgando a los miembros de los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas, que están representados a título personal, la capacidad o la facultad de evaluar o de determinar lo que los Estados Miembros deberían, de hecho, recomendar en el seno de esos Comités principales. Esa es nuestra pregunta, Sr. Presidente.

Horacio GARANDANG (Philippines): In the light of the explanations given to us, I should like to make a small amendment. The amendment would be to paragraph 4, in the third sentence of that paragraph, "for the procedure to be established on a long-term basis on the other hand it would be highly desirable" I would put instead "it was, however, pointed out that for the procedure to be institutionalized it would be necessary for the Conference to amend the General Rules." Then omit the last sentence because it is irrelevant. Then, if necessary, it could be pointed out that the previous Conference had made provisions for the matter to be taken up in the review of the Programme and Finance Committee, and the experts, as indicated in paragraph 146. Is it necessary for me to repeat the amendment?

The reason for that is this, there is a distinction between a long-term basis, a permanent basis and an experimental basis. When we look at the debate the "institutionalized" was used by the Philippine delegation. Probably that could be a way out because the long-term basis is neither here nor there, and a permanent basis is not an institutionalization, although probably we could use that word. "It was pointed out however, that for the procedure to be institutionalized it would be necessary for the Conference to amend the General Rules" and then omit the last sentence.

James AITKEN (United Kingdom): This is surely a procedural and not a substantive point. If I have been following some of the interventions correctly particularly the distinguished delegate from the Philippines, what he seems to be doing is proposing an amendment to a paragraph which is an entire paragraph of the opinion of Legal Counsel. I suggest that a better way to do this is to leave paragraph 4 as it is, and then put any alternative or supplementary views in a separate paragraph, so that there is no confusion between what has been said by the Legal Counsel and comments thereon.

Fred J. ECKERT (United States of America): I want to concur with the view just expressed by the United Kingdom, it is a point well taken. One of the previous speakers in his opening remarks proceeded to lecture the Legal Counsel on what is the role of a Legal Counsel - and lectured him inaccurately. A Legal Counsel provides counsel. You go and have a legal opinion on matters, you go and seek legal advice. An attorney, a lawyer, does not only read what is written, he reads legislative history, he reads intent and past practice, he reads, as the distinguished delegate of Mexico so ably pointed out, precedent, and his point about precedent is important. A Legal Counsel gives counsel. I listened to him speak only a few moments ago and the point is that he did not say (as my friend and colleague from the Philippines suggested) that it was "necessary", he never said it was "necessary". He gave the advice that it was "desirable". He cited a previous example and pointed out what had been done. But, he was very careful in articulating that to make it clear that that was desired, that that was the conclusion that people arrived at, that this was a desirable course of action, but they were not compelled to take that desirable course of action - there is a difference.

I have listened to Legal Counsel explain the matters and he has explained them in a perfectly sensible, rational and intelligent basis, and has given us sound advice that ought to be adhered to. He did not specifically recommend it, but somewhat implied through the citing of a past experience that it might be a good idea, under the procedural rules of the Organization, to refer it to the CCLM. Under the constitutional rules of this Organization that is the body which would review such matters.

However, to have from the floor an amendment changing what the Legal Adviser advised is inappropriate. The record should show the advice he gave. It should not show what someone wished he had misinterpreted.

Horacio CARANDANG (Philippines): With all due respect to the previous speaker, I should like to state that I am not trying to change, in any way, what Legal Counsel said. The way the amendment is proposed is that the third sentence now is no longer attributed to the Legal Counsel but to somebody else. I am proposing this system because first of all the Legal Counsel was making a distinction between a long-term basis and a permanent basis and that is very confusing. When does it become a permanent basis? When is it a long-term basis? however, if it is institutionalized then that is more definite. It is something more determined than long-term or permanent. Therefore, to avoid that situation I have made this proposal. Probably, you may put it in another paragraph, but if we put here the words of the Legal Counsel "long-term basis" which now he is making a distinction between permanent basis then that is confusing. Therefore, I make the suggestion that we insert the words I have suggested, but in no way changing the words of the Legal Counsel. The Legal Counsel's opinion is his opinion. This is a different rendition of what happened in the Committee, namely, first you have the first two sentences referring to what Legal Counsel said, and then the last sentence referring to what somebody else said.

Yousef All Mahmoud HAMDİ (Chairman, Drafting Committee): I would just like to state that the Drafting Committee spent one and a half hours discussing this specific paragraph and we have invited the Legal Counsel to the meeting and the Legal Counsel has stated what is written here. So I would appeal, through you, Mr. Chairman, that this specific paragraph stays as drafted and if there are any other additions they go into a new paragraph.

José Ramón LOPEZ PORTILLO ROMANO (Mexico): Muy brevemente y espero que esta sea mi última intervención, no voy a molestarlo más, Señor Presidente.

Confirmando lo que ha dicho el presidente del Comité de Redacción. El día de ayer, efectivamente, discutimos esto por mucho tiempo, y la delegación de México tuvo que aceptar en vista de las actas y lo que allí se reflejaba, que esto era lo que el Asesor Legal había dicho durante la reunión de este punto. Sin embargo, aclaramos que en la Plenaria habíamos hecho reflexiones para que con esta nueva explicación pudiéramos armar un párrafo, o reformar éste, de la manera más adecuada a los planteamientos que formulábamos. Ahora contamos ya en esta Plenaria con la Asesoría Legal del señor Moore, y creo que ésta puede ser útil para todos. Quizá Señor Presidente, antes de seguir yo le pediría que le permita al Asesor Legal responder a la última y cuarta cuestión que había planteado, que quizás ayude a formular esta nueva redacción. Quizás antes de seguir los debates él podría darnos sus puntos de vista al respecto a la cuarta cuestión que planteé.

Gonzalo BULA HOTOS (Colombia): A estas alturas preferimos no hacer referencia a una tan elocuente y emocionada como absurda cátedra de ignorancia jurídica. Más bien quisiéramos decir que si el Asesor Legal insiste en que se mantenga el párrafo 4 tal como está, nosotros enjuiciaremos esa actitud en la Conferencia y pasaríamos ahora a acoger la propuesta del Reino Unido en el sentido de que las delegaciones expresen su opinión sobre el absurdo párrafo 4.

Fred. J. ECKERT (United States of America): The United States would say that it is inaccurate to characterize the work of the Drafting Committee in this paragraph as absurd. As the Chairman has just pointed out they spent one and a half hours and members of diverse countries from different parts of the world with different viewpoints came up with this language. I think it is offensive and absurd to call their work absurd. I think it is also inappropriate and absurd to characterize the views expressed by the Legal Counsel as absurd. They were quite the opposite. It was a perfectly intelligent, well-reasoned, well-articulated explanation of the process and he ably answered the questions put to him by Mexico which were a very good ably put series of questions.

There is one point of clarification that I would like to get, but before I do perhaps the whole issue could be resolved by what was suggested, and that is that there is a body within the Organization which does deal with such matters. There is a committee set up for that very specific purpose, and it might be appropriate at the end of the sentence, where it says "1975", instead of putting a period there, put a comma and say, "following a referral to the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters". In that way you would know what the Legal Counsel said. That is the sort of precedent that he was citing and that is the sort of precedent that the body has to go on. You may well want to conclude from that, that that is the appropriate next step.

The questions raised by Mexico, I repeat, are perfectly sensible good legal questions. The answers put by the legal adviser were perfectly appropriate and thorough and competent answers to his questions.

It seems to me the logical follow-through; you cannot ask the Legal Counsel to tell you when you cross the line between early and late in the game and experimental and becoming a fixture. But the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters is the appropriate body to make that judgement. It is a judgement that the Member States have to make, what is permanent, what is temporary. In our judgement, he cannot be asked to define that for us but he can give you advice that that is something that you ought to be concerned about, and that is precisely what he did.

Finally, may I end my remarks by saying that I think that we should do what the Chairman of the Council recommended, what the Chairman of the Committee recommended, and that is to move forward with this and adopt it.

With all due respect to my colleague from the Philippines, he said that his statement, which was a statement about legal advice really, was not attributed to Legal Counsel, it was attributed to somebody else, but he did not say who it was attributed to. There is nobody other than the Legal Counsel who has been asked for legal advice here - a lot of people have given it. I do not know who he is referring to as someone else making that judgement. We have a good question, a good answer, and the logical next step is to have the body which is appropriately charged with that responsibility to review the issue and report.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous passons la parole au Délégué des Philippines. Je note que nous avons une suggestion des Etats-Unis de passer la question au CQCJ. Nous aborderons ensuite la 4ème question comme l'a demandé le Délégué du Mexique.

Horacio CARANDANG (Philippines): It was us who made the statement during the debate. I would just like to refer to PV/12, page 43, right in the middle of the page. You will find there who made the intervention. Second, we are now adopting a report and I do not know whether it is appropriate for us to make proposals. If the proposal to refer this to the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters was made during the debate, then that is fine. But I do not know whether it is correct now to make a new proposal. Are we still in Plenary or are we adopting a report? Are we adopting a report of what happened during the debate or are we making new proposals? If that is so, I would make another observation. It is true that we appreciate very much the work of the drafting committee but this Council is supreme. The draft is presented to us precisely so that we can make amendments or approve their report. If we have to take everything that they give to us, then we should have finished early this morning. But we are precisely here to look whether the draft that is before us reflects the debate and what really happened. So with all due respect to the Chairman of the Drafting Committee, I think that it is necessary to make some amendments to these paragraphs, if not in paragraph 4 then it has to be put somewhere else, because it has been stated in the report during the debate and it is an important point. Indeed, I believe that it clarifies the situation.

Fred. J. ECKERT (United States of America): I would like to point out to my colleague from the Philippines that I was hinting at it as a proposal, I guess, but I did not state that as a proposal. What I stated was that putting a comma followed by "following referral to the CCLM" is a statement of fact, that that is the procedure that was followed at that time in 1973 and the Legal Counsel said that, and he said it a few moments ago. He said it matter-of-factly, and it is a matter of fact. The only reason that I suggested it is that this is an important fact that may have been inadvertently omitted. But that is the body that would normally refer to that and having that phrase in there just reminds you that that is the normal procedure. That is the only reason. It was not a new proposal that we do it but it is a fact that between the time of the introduction of the process and the Conference amending the Rules, between those two points there was a referral to that committee. That is all I was pointing out. The Legal Counsel had pointed that out and I thought that was a significant fact in the process. There was a situation, there was a referral, there was a conclusion. That was the process. He mentioned it. I simply repeated that reference to it. It is not an attempt to inject a new point.

Finally, again with all due respect to my colleague from the Philippines, unless I heard him wrong, the legal advice that he was citing on page 43 was his own. It is the delegate of the Philippines. Please do not take it wrongly, but questions of that kind on legal advice of interpretation of the Rules of the Organization are not put to me as the representative of the United States or to the representative of the Philippines, but they are put to the legal adviser of the Member States of the Organization and that is what I was addressing. It was good advice, it ought to be listened to.

Bashir EL MABROUK SAID (Libya): We have only two hours to go. If we continue our work in this fashion we reach a dead end and we make no improvements whatsoever. I do not know. I do not understand why some colleagues take the floor more than once. I think procedurally speaking we are nowhere. I have said that before. We cannot have a bilateral discussion between two delegations. It is a general discussion. We have to have very concrete proposals. Either we delete or we amend or we add a new idea. But now if we involve ourselves in general discussions we will never end.

LE PRESIDENT: Je suggère d'adopter le paragraphe 4 dans la forme présentée par le Comité de rédaction. S'il y a des amendements comme celui du Délégué des Philippines, on pourrait les mettre ailleurs. Je crois en effet que nous pouvons adopter ce paragraphe 4 du Comité de rédaction car 11 ne fait que répéter ce que dit le Conseiller juridique et il ne porte pas de jugement de valeur. Si on émet un jugement de valeur on le mettra dans un autre paragraphe.

LEGAL COUNSEL: As I understand it the fourth question is the following. According to the Rules, the Director-General is supposed to receive guidance from a number of committees and regional conferences; I will cite the Rule in a moment. If he is preparing an outline Programme of Work and Budget in January of the Conference year which precedes the date of some of these regional or committee meetings, would this procedure then be in conflict with the General Rules of the Organization? Is that correct?

The Rule in question here is Rule No. XXXVII 2 (g) dealing with the functions of the Director-General which states that he shall "prepare: (i) in the light of guidance given by the Conference and Council at previous sessions and by regional or technical conferences, commissions or committees, a summary Programme of Work and Budget for consideration by the Programme and Finance Committees, other appropriate organs of the Organization, and the Council, and (ii) in the light of observations by the aforementioned Committees and organs and by the Council, a draft Programme of Work and Budget for submission to the Conference." I should point out two things here. First of all, the rule refers to a summary Programme of Work and Budget and to a draft programme of work and budget, and not to an outline Programme of Work and Budget. Consequently, as I understand it, the procedure of the summary Programme of Work and the draft Programme of Work and Budget would go ahead regardless of the initial procedure of the outline Programme of Work and Budget, because these are rules which are binding on the Director-General. Consequently, I cannot see how the initial process of preparing an outline Programme of Work and Budget would have any impact on this at all. The proposed January joint session of the Committees would be one of the Committee meetings within the meaning of Rule XXXVII(2), whose guidance the Director-General will be taking into account when he prepares his summary Programme of Work and Budget, as required by the general rules of the Organization.

LE PRESIDENT: Il est onze heures et quart. Nous devons lever la séance à 1 heure. Je voudrais demander aux délégués, avec tout le respect qui leur est dû, de suivre la recommandation du Représentant de la Libye. Pour que nous puissions avancer nous devrions éviter que chaque délégué prenne la parole trois ou quatre fois de suite dans le même débat. Nous devrions avoir présent à l'esprit que nous ne sommes pas un Comité de rédaction, qu'une rédaction a été faite. Le Président du Comité de rédaction suggère que nous puissions retenir cette rédaction moyennant quelques modifications éventuelles, mais que nous n'ayions pas un débat de fond. Pouvons-nous canaliser le débat dans cette direction? Sinon nous ne finirons jamais.

Je propose donc que nous nous prononcions sur le paragraphe 4, quitte à ce que les amendements soient placés ailleurs.

Gonzalo BULA BOTOS (Colombia): Complacemos al distinguido Presidente del Comité de Redacción aceptando que se adopte el párrafo 4 tal como está pero que no se agregue ninguna referencia al CACJ porque es improcedente. Esto no se planteó en el debate. Se ha dicho aquí que el Asesor Jurídico lo dijo. No es cierto. Tengo aquí las Actas; no lo dijo. Pero también se acoge la propuesta del Reino Unido en el sentido de que ahora las delegaciones expresemos la opinión sobre el párrafo 4, y estoy de acuerdo con Libia. Conceda Ud. la palabra una vez a la Delegación que quiera intervenir y basta.

Horacio CARANDANG (Philippines): I can agree with the present production of paragraph 4. I would put my amendment at the end of paragraph 5. I believe it is necessary because the Legal Counsel's opinion is valid only if it is accepted by the Council, and since I took the floor after him it shows that I did not exactly agree with what he said. Therefore, I have a right to put my view. At the end of the sentence (paragraph 5) I would put: "It was however pointed out that for the procedure to be institutionalised it would be necessary for the Conference to amend the general rules."

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Le prometo que es la única vez que intervengo. Una vez y no me dé más la palabra.

Mi opinión sobre el párrafo 4 puede quedar consignada al final del párrafo 4, una frase muy ingenua; solamente: "una delegación opinó que de acuerdo con sus funciones el Consejero Legal no debió expresar la opinión que aparece en el párrafo anterior". Eso es todo.

LE PRESIDENT: Non, c'est quelque chose que l'on ne peut pas faire, je vous en prie. Cela figure au Procès-Verbal.

Avec votre permission, je propose que le paragraphe 4 soit retenu et qu'on passe au paragraphe 5.

Fred J. ECKERT (United States of America): We would have to question that statement on these grounds. The phrase pointed out connotes that it is a fact. You may point out it is raining; you may point out it is snowing; you may point that it is 11.25. Those are statements of fact. The representative of the Philippines made a statement that, in his view, this would be required. Subsequently the representative of Mexico questioned the Legal Counsel as to whether or not the view that it was necessary was true, and the Legal Counsel very carefully stated that, while it was desirable, it was not an action that was compelled. After having gone through paragraph 4, and agreeing with that, you cannot now proceed to make the precise opposite statement. We would have no problem with the representative of the Philippines exercising his prerogative to say that one country suggested that or claimed that, but it is a claim; it is an opinion; he expresses a view along those lines. To say it was pointed out, means that everybody accepts this as a fact when the Legal Counsel has stated publicly here that that is not a fact; we have just concurred. You cannot have it both ways.

José Ramón LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (México): Muy brevemente. A la luz de lo que interpretamos o escuchamos del Asesor Legal y de la ahora recomendación del Sr. Delegado de Filipinas, México se adhiere a esa propuesta. Sr. Presidente, se está diciendo en términos impersonales; se dice: "sin embargo se señaló que para que el procedimiento fuera institucional sería necesario que la Conferencia enmiende los textos básicos". Estamos en Plenaria y yo considero que está propuesta es aceptable.

András SZABO (Hungary): I am very happy that we have come back to the merit of our discussions, because it seems to me we are somewhat deviating from our main direction. We are here to adopt a report; therefore I would kindly ask the delegations to accept it on the report and not ask questions. This is not a plenary session, as has been pointed out.

Concerning paragraph 5, and the amendment made by the distinguished delegate of the Philippines, I agree with his amendment, because everybody has the right to make amendments. However, let us state very clearly, as was pointed out by one or more delegates, that the procedure be established etcetera, etcetera.

May I come back to point 4?

Gonzalo BUIA HOYOS (Colombia): Espero que quede muy claro que el párrafo 4 contiene la opinión del Consejero Legal que no obliga a que el Consejo la respalde. Luego, en el párrafo 5 como adecuadamente lo ha propuesto Filipinas, podemos expresar nuestra opinión y Colombia se suma a Filipinas y México.

Sra. Doña Laurie CORDUA CRUZ (Nicaragua): Muy brevemente también para expresar el apoyo de mi Delegación a la propuesta hecha por el Delegado de Filipinas y posteriormente apoyada por las Delegaciones de México y Colombia; y también me parece que este es un hecho de que para que se institucionalice, tiene que reformarse el Reglamento. Yo creo que eso no se ha puesto en discusión. Incluso el mismo Asesor Legal no lo ha puesto en discusión.

Sra. Miriam THZAULGARAT GARCIA de PEREZ (Cuba): Solamente para apoyar también la propuesta de Filipinas de adicionar el párrafo.

LE PRESIDENT: Un grand nombre de Délégations soutiennent la proposition du Délégué des Philippines. Peut-on mettre "un certain nombre d'Etats membres", et c'est tout?

Le Mexique, le Nicaragua, Cuba et les Philippines ont proposé "un certain nombre"; c'est une opinion que nous transmettons dans le rapport.

Horacio CARANDANG (Philippines): I want to state that my dissent is not controversial. First of all, the Legal Counsel himself has said that if it is to be on a permanent basis, that means if it is to be institutionalised, it has to go to the Conference. I do not know whether anybody contests that question. If there is anybody who does not agree with that, let him say so. I thought this was not a matter of argument. If you say "long-term basis", it would be legally desirable; if it is temporary it is not necessary. However, if you have to institutionalise, it has to be on a permanent basis; it has to go to the Conference. It first has to go to the constitutional monitors, then to the Conference. We are not saying what we said during the debate, which has to be recorded here.

LE PRESIDENT: Je crois que si on dit en revanche: "un certain nombre d'Etats membres ont signalé que pour institutionnaliser cette procédure..." c'est une opinion que nous reproduisons qui reflète un peu la teneur des débats. Sous le bénéfice de cette modification, peut-on passer au paragraphe 6?

Paragraphe 6? approuvé. Paragraphe 8? approuvé. Paragraphe 9? approuvé. Le Paragraphe 10.

C. BONTE-FRIEDHEIM (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department)(Representative of the Director-General): I will be very brief. Council has just adopted paragraph 10 but there is one sentence in the paragraph which you have approved for which I did not understand the necessity, and that is the sentence where it says that the experts were accompanied by relevant senior FAO staff on these visits. I think that I owe the Council an explanation. The working groups; of Which I am a. Chairman of one of the two, in Headquarters discussed with the groups of experts the arrangements for visiting sister agencies, and it was a matter of mutual agreement between them and us that it would be useful for a Headquarters staff member to accompany the experts. They accompanied the experts as was reported in the discussion by Mr. Shah. The experts requested for those of us who accompanied them that we should prepare summary notes of the discussions, which we did. Furthermore, it was considered very useful for the experts visiting the sister agencies and for ourselves to simultaneously see the reaction of our sister agencies to some of the questions that were put. This is certainly also of importance to us in FAO because the Director-General will have to prepare a separate report. Mr. Chairman, I felt that the sentence in the report needed some clarification from the Secretariat.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie le Docteur Bonte Friedheim pour ses informations et cet éclaircissement. Nous passons au paragraphe 11 - pas d'observations. Approuvé. Le paragraphe 12.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Solamente una aclaración que queremos pedir al distinguido Presidente del Comité de Redacción. La segunda frase del párrafo 12 dice que el Presidente del

Comité del Programa informó al Consejo de que recibiría un informe en su período de sesiones de junio, luego la frase siguiente termina diciendo de que se presentaría su informe en otoño para ser presentado al Consejo en noviembre. Preguntamos ¿los Comités van a presentar informes al Consejo en junio y en noviembre también? ¿Son dos Informes, o es uno sólo o que significa este párrafo?

James AITKEN (United Kingdom): In fact, ray point is very similar to that of Mr Bula Hoyos. We think it would perhaps recognize the discussions, the course of the discussions, a little more accurately, and also note the information we were given by the Chairman of the Programme Committee, Professor Mazoyer, if we try to point up a little more that the outcome of the report is going to be fairly complex, the outcome of the review and its examination, is going to be fairly complex, and Council will have to have adequate time for deliberation so that it can fulfil its role of advising Conference. To enable Council to have this time and to have some preliminary thoughts on the issue, we would just like to add an additional sentence here which I think makes this a bit clearer. This sentence would come after the sentence referred to by the distinguished delegate of Colombia - the sentence ends "at its June session" - we would add "the need to have a substantive discussion on this issue at the next session of Council was stressed by many delegations". This text we think is very much in line with what one can read Professor Mazoyer said, if one can turn to the verbatims CL 94/PV/12 on page 50, where he did refer to a presentation of a report and he also, I think, answered the question raised by the distinguished delegate of Colombia, in the sense that he said it would be an interim report and there would be a finalization presented to Council in November.

LE PRESIDENT: Monsieur le Président du Comité de rédaction, une question vous a été posée par l'honorable Délégué de la Colombie.

Yousef Ali Mahmoud HAMDI (Chairman, Drafting Committee): In fact, the Committee had a debate on "a" report because there was a discussion - is it an interim report or a progress report, or the report - so the Committee, after discussion, decided to put "a" report without any specification, to give the Chairman of the Programme Committee liberty in the length of this report. That is the outcome of the discussion.

C. BONTE-FRIEDHEIM (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department) (Representative of the Director-General): I was here when the Chairman of the Programme Committee made his intervention, or informed the Council, and he said that he expected that there would be a report but I do not think he said "the" report nor do I think that this was ever discussed with the Committees, neither with the Joint Committee, **so** I think that Council had better be aware that, in this particular case, he had, in my books, no mandate to say that the two Committees had empowered him to make the report available for the next Council. So in this particular case I think it is up to the Committees to decide when and how they will report to the Council. I just wanted to clarify the issue in the way I see it.

V.K. SIBAL (India): This issue was debated at length in the Drafting Committee. The Drafting Committee was very clear in line with the recognition in the Council that there was very little likelihood, because of the complexity of the task, of the completion of report of the review before the June Council. Reference was made to a comment by the Chairman of the Programme Committee, in which he said "a" report will probably come. Now "a" report is the kind of report that we can expect to have here. A number of the members of the Drafting Committee wanted to put the word "progress" report there also, but it was resisted on the grounds that the word "progress" was not used by the Chairman and therefore "a" report could be used, leaving it very open and flexible. This is by way of explanation; there should be no confusion that what is likely to come is "a" report as may be available and there is no commitment that a review report is going to come before the June Council. I think that should be very clear.

So far as the addition which is sought to be inserted after the sentence ending "in the June session", we recollect the debate very clearly and we are very clear that the Council recognized that this was not possible, although some delegates, did say this. We can reflect it suitably by saying that "a few delegates expressed this point of view" but in that case, the next sentence should say "The Council recognized". Then the balance of the paragraph will be complete and we can accept it as it is.

Hannu HALINEN (Finland): I would support the United Kingdom amendment since my delegation was one of those who were speaking on this issue. I think if you read paragraph 13, the first sentence of it is saying the Council stressed its own interest and that of all member nations in the review process. Now, the concern, why my delegation made the intervention on this issue in the discussion, regarded what kind of a discussion we could envisage to have during the next Conference, and the better one can be prepared for that, the better discussion we will have. So I have full confidence in the Chairman of the Programme Committee, and the Committee itself, to do their utmost to get as comprehensive and good report to us as possible for the next session of the Council.

On the amendment suggested, I proceed on this light, that we could help this process best if we could have a substantive discussion already at that Council because the next Council is just preceding the Conference, and there is not too much time for all members of the Organization to discuss it after that.

Gonzalo BULA HOTOS (Colombia): Después de las aclaraciones del Presidente del Comité de Redacción, había pensado que lo más conveniente era dejar tal como está este párrafo. Pero, como el distinguido colega de Finlandia ha apoyado la posición del Reino Unido y es cierto que las delegaciones expresaron ese deseo, pero también el colega de India ha dicho muy bien lo que pasó en el debate. Entonces lo mejor es aceptar la propuesta del Reino Unido y agregar después lo siguiente: "Sin embargo el Consejo estuvo de acuerdo en que el debate a fondo sobre este tema sólo se podría celebrar en el Consejo de Noviembre." Esto preserva la opinión de la minoría y luego se refleja la opinión de la mayoría que es la decisión del Consejo.

LE PRESIDENT: Si j'ai bien compris Monsieur le Délégué de la Colombie vous voudriez ajouter cette phrase à la proposition faite par Monsieur le Délégué du Royaume-Uni.

Gonzalo BUJA HOYOS (Colombia): Después de lo que ha dicho el Reino Unido se agregaría lo- que yo he propuesto y que está basado en lo que dijo India.

Bashir EL MABROUK SAID (Libya) (Original language Arabic): I fully agree with the proposal made by India although throughout the discussion of this subject some delegations did request the submission of a report for discussion, the Chairman of the Programme Committee did point out, and he was supported in this, that the matter would not be feasible and the Programme and Finance Committees would not be able to submit any reports at that stage. Therefore I do not believe that it would be at all feasible for us to determine beforehand something whose application we will not be able to guarantee later.

Earl W. WEYBRECHT (Canada): As a member of the Programme Committee, it is hard to argue against asking for more time, but it does certainly raise a question as to how this matter will be discussed in June next year and what sort of report will be submitted to Council. In going through the statement made by the Chairman of the Programme Committee, it can be interpreted in several ways. He did indicate, and I am translating this now, that certainly there would be an Interim report issued in June. The point I think that was raised by the UK delegation helps to clarify how this matter would be discussed and therefore we would support the suggestion put forward.

Joao Augusto de MEDICIS (Brazil): We have no intention to take the floor on this whole chapter because I think that the Drafting Committee accomplished a fantastic task in drafting what I believe is an extremely well balanced report. But as the delegate of UK decided to raise a point that in my opinion should not be in, I think that if this point is accepted perhaps we should say that rather than say "many delegations" say "a few delegations" - only three delegations are approving that anyway - then have the next sentence amended as suggested by the delegate of Colombia.

James AITKEN (United Kingdom): There are two points that I would like to tackle. First of all, the comment by the distinguished delegate of Brazil where he said "a few delegations". I think probably "some delegations" is a nicer word for this time of night, so would he be happy with "some" as a reflection of what happened? Secondly, too, if that is acceptable, we would very much like to accept the suggestion of an additional paragraph, made by the distinguished delegate of Colombia.

However, in order, to reflect the point being made in paragraph 13 about the need to ensure that all member nations have a part in the review process, I would suggest that the phrase should be something like "that the debate in depth of this subject could only be held in Conference in November". I think that we would all accept that the place for the debate to take place in depth is Conference, rather than Council which is an organ of Conference.

Rudolf DE POURTALES (Suisse): J'aimerais appuyer la première, proposition du distingué Délégué du Royaume-Uni. Ma délégation s'étant exprimée dans le même sens lors du débat sur ce sujet. En ce qui concerne la proposition de mon ami le Délégué de la Colombie, je crois qu'elle est redondante, vu que la phrase suivante exprime tout-à-fait clairement que le rapport principal sera présenté au Conseil de novembre et je pense qu'il est inutile de le répéter sous une autre forme.

LE PRESIDENT: Beaucoup de délégués ont fait référence à la délégation de l'Inde et j'aimerais bien que Monsieur le Délégué de l'Inde nous précise également ce qu'il a dit, et qu'il exprime sa pensée.

V.K. SIBAL (India): We had made a very simple suggestion which is in line with what our colleague from Brazil has said, and provided also that the United Kingdom agrees, that we say "that some delegations" and then the sentence that United Kingdom has proposed. In the following sentence we should say "the Council recognized" and there is no need to make other changes. But while you have given me the floor, I would also like to say that we are again falling into the pitfall of getting into a fresh discussion on issues which were not debated in the Plenary, for example, the substantive debate on this issue will be in the Conference. We never discussed this issue. We thought it would be considered in the November Council and that's all. If the report is, of course, prepared earlier in good time and we are sure, maybe the June Council can also look at it. But that is something which is still in the future.

LE PRESIDENT: En résumé la suggestion qu'il va proposer c'est qu'on mette après de "à sa session de juin", quelques délégations ont signalé qu'il conviendrait d'avoir une discussion sur ces problèmes lors de la prochaine réunion du Conseil et le Délégué de la Colombie propose cependant "Le Conseil est convenu que les Comités auront besoin de temps... et mettre au point en automne le rapport qui sera présenté au Conseil en novembre. C'est bien ça. Est-ce que nous pouvons obtenir cette formulation?

Alors disons que la phrase que quelques délégations ont signalé qu'il conviendrait qu'une discussion sur ces problèmes ait lieu lors de la prochaine réunion du Conseil conjoint cependant le Conseil est convenu que la discussion définitive aura lieu en novembre. Est-ce que nous pouvons avancer? Bien, le paragraphe 13, approuvé. Le paragraphe 14, approuvé.

Michel SAVINI (Secrétaire du Comité de rédaction): Je voudrais simplement signaler une erreur matérielle dans ce paragraphe 14 en ce sens que les phrases ne sont pas dans l'ordre où elles devraient être. La dernière phrase qui commence par "Le Conseil a noté avec satisfaction" devrait être la seconde et la seconde phrase qui se réfère au nouvel ordre économique et qui commence par "de nombreux membres" devrait être à la fin du paragraphe.

LE PRESIDENT: Merci, M. Savini moyennant ces précisions, peut-on accepter le paragraphe 14? Approuvé. Le paragraphe 15 est également approuvé.

Paragraphs 1 to 15, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 15, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 15, así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 16 to 24

PARAGRAPHE 16 à 24

PARRAFOS 16 a 24

Bashir El MABROÛK SAID (Libya) (Original language Arabic): I believe it would be better for us to merge paragraphs 20 and 21 and I have a proposal to make here, if I may. I suggest we maintain paragraph 20 as is and add a comma towards the end and say "the Council expressed appreciation for this offer of the Arab Republic of Egypt", all this in one paragraph, and then the paragraph would go on to the very end.

LE PRESIDENT: Si j'ai bien compris, la proposition de l'honorable Délégué de la Libye consiste à fusionner les paragraphes 20 et 21. Y a-t-il des objections?

Taghi SHAMEKHI (Iran, République islamique d'): Le problème ne se pose pas maintenant pour la question de mettre ces deux paragraphes ensemble, mais il concerne le paragraphe 21, où il est dit: "Le Conseil a accueilli avec satisfaction cette offre de la République arabe d'Egypte. Je voudrais mentionner que ce n'était pas tout le Conseil mais certaines délégations qui se sont exprimées. Je voudrais que cette précision soit prise en compte.

LE PRESIDENT: A ma connaissance il n'y a eu qu'une délégation qui a été réticente.

M. le Délégué d'Iran voudrait amender le paragraphe 21 dans lequel il est dit que le Conseil a accueilli avec satisfaction cette offre de la République arabe d'Egypte. IL conteste le mot "avec satisfaction". Si j'ai bien compris. C'est bien ça?

Taghi SHAMEKHI (Iran, République Islamique d'): Je dis qu'au lieu de mettre "le Conseil tout entier", il faudrait mettre "certaines délégations du Conseil".

Roberto E.E. DALTON (Argentina): Me permito formular como Miembro de la Comisión de Redacción una revisión de las Actas demuestra que nadie se opuso y la mayoría de los miembros preferimos, para no robar tiempo al Consejo en no hacer una hilera de apoyos de manera tal que yo creo que lo que el Consejo expresó es perfectamente correcto.

Taghi SHAMEKHI (Iran, République Islamique d'): C'est vrai que ceci a été discuté dans le Comité de rédaction, mais effectivement quand le temps était court. On n'a pas eu l'occasion de le discuter dans le Comité de rédaction, je m'en m'excuse et, c'est pour cela que je demandais cette précision.

Yusef Ali Mahmoud HAMDY (Chairman, Drafting Committee): With your permission, Mr. Chairman, I will defer my position as the Chairman of the Drafting Committee for five minutes and I will call on my colleague, the distinguished representative of India, to take the chair until we discuss this issue.

Bashir El MABROUK SAID (Libya) (Original language Arabic): I do not object to changing the word "Council" in paragraph 21 to "some delegates". However, I wish to draw attention to what was said by Argentina, namely that only four delegations expressed their approval for the relocation of the Near East Office.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie le Délégué de la Libye. A ma connaissance la grande majorité du Conseil était contente. J'ai présidé la réunion et je crois qu'on ne peut pas dire quelques membres.

Horacio CARANDANG (Philippines): I was wondering whether we could say "The Council expressed general appreciation for this offer".

LE PRESIDENT: Nous avons une proposition du Délégué des Philippines qui dit "Le Conseil, en général, a accueilli".

Yousef Ali Mahmoud HAMD (Egypt) (Original language Arabic): I wish to inform you that this subject was discussed in the Drafting Committee and that this is the draft we approved in the Committee. However, I wonder how many delegations did not express their support or approval of the offer made by the Arab Republic of Egypt. If the distinguished delegate of Iran insists, we may say "one delegation did not appreciate the offer of the Arab Republic of Egypt".

Taghi SHAMEKHI (Iran, République islamique d'): J'approuve le compromis que l'honorable Délégué des Philippines a mentionné mais si c'est pour insister sur les délégués qui n'ont pas voulu, d'après ce que je me souviens, il y a la plupart des délégués qui se sont exprimés en faveur du retour au Proche-Orient, mais en ce qui concerne l'Egypte ce n'étaient pas tous, ce n'était pas même la majorité. C'était moins. C'est pour cela que pour arriver à un consensus j'approuve ce qu'a dit M. le Délégué des Philippines.

LE PRESIDENT: Pourvu qu'on mette "Le Conseil, en général, a accueilli avec satisfaction". Voilà ce que proposait M. le Délégué des Philippines. Peut-on accepter cette rédaction? "Le Conseil en général a accueilli avec satisfaction". Paragraphe 21, approuvé. Nous passons au paragraphe 22.

Bashir EL MABROUK SAID (Libya) (Original language Arabic): I have a linguistic amendment. In English it says "the Council noted" and in Arabic "the Council examined". We should correct the translation into Arabic. This is one correction. The next sentence "it recalled that when the office had been moved to Rome" until the end of the paragraph: I believe that no delegation referred to this issue. I think Mr. Salah Jum'a, the Assistant Director-General, himself referred to this issue. Therefore I feel that this whole sentence to the end of the paragraph should be deleted.

LE PRESIDENT: L'honorable Délégué de la Libye propose que l'on supprime la seconde phrase du paragraphe 2 qui commence par "il a rappelé que".

Yousef Ali Mahmoud HAMD (Egypt): What is written in the paragraph 22 actually is present in the Resolution which was given by the Conference to close the office in Cairo. Some members of the Region have contributed \$1 million and we, I mean the Egyptian delegation, has put forward to the Director-General that these voluntary contributions, if they are there, could be used for the return of the office to Egypt.

Bashir EL MABROUK SAID (Libya) (Original language Arabic): What was said by the delegate of Egypt is quite true. This is really in fact the text of the Resolution. However, this Resolution was not discussed by the delegations here and therefore I do not think we should put in the report something which has not been discussed during the session of the Council.

Yousef Ali Mahmoud HAMD (Egypt): I have already indicated that this point was mentioned in our interpretation.

Taghi SHAMEKHI (Iran, République islamique d'): J'aurais approuvé la proposition de l'honorable Délégué de la Libye, c'est à dire que d'après ce que je me souviens, cette partie n'a pas été discutée.

S. JDM'A (Assistant Director-General/Regional Representative for the Near East): I would like to state here that this issue had been raised by the lady Ambassador of Egypt and I replied to her remarks regarding the unutilized balance of the contributions of some member countries for the closure of the Near East Region in 1979. I brought to the attention of the distinguished delegate to the Council that being the case, this unutilized sum could not be used unless newly authorized by the member countries themselves and we thought, that since this is a very important matter, it should be reported in our Draft Report which was submitted to the Drafting Committee for discussion and then submitted to your distinguished body here. I thought the mentioning of this is very important. It has been discussed in the Council and nobody at that time made any objection to it and I feel that since it had been discussed there would be no need to delete it or make any changes.

LE PRESIDENT: Je crois que le procès-verbal de notre réunion est là, et si le procès-verbal prouve que cela a été discuté je crois que nous n'avons pas le droit de l'enlever.

Bashir EL MABROUK SAID (Libya) (Original language Arabic): What Mr. Jum'a said is quite true, he responded to the Ambassador of Egypt. However, his response does not have to be reflected in the report. All we have to do is go back to the minutes.

S. JUM'A (Assistant Director-General/Regional Representative for the Near East): The reason for mentioning this part of the discussion in the report, if you go again to the next paragraph you will see that the Council itself had requested the Director-General to prepare a full proposal taking into consideration the response of member countries regarding the use of their unutilized balance for the reopening of the Regional Office again in the region. For this purpose we felt that some mention of this particular issue should be reported to your Council, and of course it is up to you to accept or not to accept.

LE PRESIDENT: Je m'associe à l'honorable Délégué de la Libye qui a proposé lui-même qu'on essaye de ne pas avoir plusieurs interventions des mêmes délégations au cours du débat. Je commencerai donc par donner la parole à M. Bonte-Friedheim.

C. H. BONTE-FRIEDHEIM (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department) (Representative of the Director-General): In the English language, it says "it recalled" and the "it" refers to the Council. I would like to have the Council consider saying, in the second sentence, "it was recalled" because that takes it away from the Council and it says "it was recalled that" and it leaves it open by whom and how.

Bashir EL MABROUK SAID (Libya) (Original language Arabic): I quite agree with Mr. Bonte-Friedheim because, in fact, it is a good compromise.

LE PRESIDENT: Bien, alors mettons "il a été rappelé" et on approuve le paragraphe 22. Nous passons au paragraphe 23.

Bashir EL MABROUK SAID (Libya) (Original language Arabic): It seems that the Council requested the Director-General to submit a proposal to relocate the office in the region and not in Cairo. Ten countries referred to relocating the office to the Region. We did not suggest the relocation of the office in Cairo. However, we did express our appreciation for the offer. This is the first amendment. The second amendment: we requested the Director-General to look into whether any other government would like to host the Region.

LE PRESIDENT: Je crois que la rédaction du paragraphe 23 dit "au sujet de la réouverture du Bureau régional au Caire et de s'informer si un autre gouvernement souhaiterait l'accueillir". Je crois que les deux alternatives ont été admises. Le rapport a parlé également du paragraphe 23: "en conséquence le Conseil a demandé au Directeur général de consulter les Etats membres de la région du Proche-Orient au sujet de la réouverture du Bureau régional au Caire et de s'informer si un autre gouvernement souhaiterait l'accueillir".

Bashir EL MABROUK SAID (Libya) (Original language Arabic): I do not remember any delegation asking the Director-General to consult with governments concerning the contributions. This is quite clear from the minutes, therefore I suggest that we delete the last part of the paragraph starting from the second sentence.

LE RESIDENT: M. le Délégué de la Libye propose qu'on supprime la deuxième phrase du paragraphe 23 qui commence par "Il a également invité le Directeur général à demander aux gouvernements qui avaient versé des contributions".

Taghi SHAMEKHI (Iran, République islamique d'): Je voudrais soutenir d'abord la proposition que vient de faire l'honorable Délégué de la Libye, c'est-à-dire que cette phrase qui est dans le texte français à la deuxième et troisième lignes au sujet de la réouverture du Bureau régional au Caire et de s'informer si cette partie doit être enlevée. Si on l'enlève, les autres parties sont justes. J'ai besoin de cette précision dans ce paragraphe 23.

yousef Ali Mahmoud HAMDI (Egypt): I am afraid that our delegation would like to see the paragraph stand as is and, as a member of the Drafting Committee, the paragraph has been discussed and approved by the Committee.

S. JUM'A (Assistant Director-General/Regional Representative for the Near East): In my summing up, I said that the Director-General, before attempting to prepare a full proposal on this issue to be submitted at a later stage to the Council at its next session, had to ask member governments who had contributed to the closure of the Near East, whether they would agree to utilize the unutilized balance for this purpose again, and this was part of my summing up. At the same time, I have said that the Director-General had to consult with member governments regarding the possibility of offers to provide host facilities from any of these countries for the Near East Regional Office. So I do not see that there are any conflicts with what had been mentioned in the report and what had taken place during the debate. For this reason, I would rather prefer, speaking on behalf of the Secretariat, that the text should be kept as it stands and approved by the Drafting Committee.

Bashir EL MABROUK SAID (Libya) (Original language Arabic): I apologise, what Mr. Jum'a said is quite true. However, the Council did not express this desire, the Secretariat expressed this desire. He said that the Director-General will be consulting, not the Council.

LE PRESIDENT: Je suis d'accord avec ce qu'il a dit, puisque j'ai présidé cette réunion. Le Conseil n'a pas invité le Directeur général, c'est le Secrétariat. Je crois que si on revoit le procès verbal, ceci n'est pas mentionné.

C.H. BONTE-FRIEDHEIM (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department) (Representative of the Director-General): I have not consulted with Mr. Jum'a on this one, but since you were the Chairman and as you yourself just thought, I think it should say "the Council noted that the Director-General" and then I think the rest can stand.

IE PRESIDENT: La proposition est que l'on dise que "Le Conseil a noté que le Directeur général va demander ou a demandé", je crois que c'est plus conforme à la réalité. C'est plus conforme à ce qui s'est effectivement passé.

Taghi SHAMEKHI (Iran, République islamique d'): Voyez, si ce premier point est ainsi corrigé, la deuxième phrase serait que le Conseil a noté que le Directeur général consulterait les Etats membres de la région du Proche-Orient si un autre gouvernement souhaitait accueillir le Bureau régional. C'était cela la question qu'il devait consulter; c'est-à-dire que s'il devait consulter sur la question de l'ouverture du Bureau au Caire, ce n'était pas la peine de consulter les autres

gouvernements pour une autre question. Il faudrait d'abord consulter les autres gouvernements pour savoir s'il y a une proposition ou non, et s'il n'y a pas une autre proposition, alors ce sera au Caire et donc il faudra enlever cette phrase. C'est-à-dire la phrase de "au sujet de la réouverture du Bureau régional au Caire et de s'informer"; le reste semble bien.

LE PRESIDENT: Je n'ai pas compris votre proposition, s'il vous plaît.

Taghi SHAMEKHI (Iran, République islamique d'): C'est-à-dire que ma proposition se rapporte à "En conséquence le Conseil a noté" comme vous l'avez corrigé, "au Directeur général de consulter les Etats membres de la Région du Proche Orient, si un autre gouvernement souhaiterait d'accueillir le Bureau. C'est sur cela qu'il devrait être consulté.

Yousef Mahmoud HAMDY (Egypt): We had a debate in the Drafting Committee on the words "reopening" and "relocation". My delegation wishes to have the words in line with the words that were used in the Resolution of the Conference. That Resolution says "the closure of the Near East Region" so we have to work on the "reopening" of the Near East Region. My government has already made it clear that its intention to host or to reopen the Near East Region again does not preclude the possibility or the intention of any of the countries or any of the governments of the region to make offers to host the office. I would like to again support the paragraph 23.

Joao Augusto de MEDICIS (Brazil): I think that we are going in circles here and I wonder if we couldn't have a small group headed by the head of the Middle East office meet with all the parties interested and report to us in fifteen minutes, while we are discussing the other items on our Agenda, and then they could have an agreed text. Otherwise we will stay here until the end of this meeting discussing this item. So if perhaps they could have a small group they would discuss together in friendship as is fitting to brother countries.

LE PRESIDENT: En ce qui concerne le paragraphe 23 où M. Bonte-Friedheim a proposé que l'on mette que le Conseil a noté que le Directeur général (would consult) va consulter les gouvernements qui ont versé des contributions volontaires pour la réinstallation du Bureau à Rome pour leur demander s'ils accepteraient que leur part du solde soit utilisée pour réinstaller le Bureau dans la région, ça c'est clair. Et c'est la première phrase pour laquelle il y a divergences, elle est libellée comme suit: "Le Conseil a demandé au Directeur général de consulter les Etats membres de la région du Proche-Orient au sujet de la réouverture du Bureau régional au Caire et de s'informer si un autre gouvernement souhaiterait l'accueillir. La seconde phrase "s'informer si un autre gouvernement souhaiterait l'accueillir", ça c'est une information que le Directeur général va faire. Il reste donc juste pour le bout de phrase au sujet de la réouverture du Bureau au Caire.

Yousef Ali Mahmoud HAMDY (Egypt): The first sentence, in our opinion has to stay as I have indicated. This reopening versus closure. For the second amendment that you have suggested; in a matter of compromise we will accept that, Mr Chairman. The Council noted that the Director-General etc....

Horacio CARANDANG (Philippines): I was just wondering if you are not able to resolve this question immediately that we follow the suggestion of the Ambassador of Brazil. Thank you.

S. JUM'A (Assistant Director-General/FAO Regional Representative for the Near East): We are ready but it's up to the delegates. I mean, we are the Secretariat. You cannot dictate to them but we are at their services.

Yousef Ali Mahmoud HAMDI (Egypt): With all due respect to the proposal of our distinguished colleague from Brazil I feel that there is no need because the document is so clear. The decision has been discussed in the, I mean the matter has been discussed in the Council, has been drafted again in the Council and I think we are reaching a consensus.

LE PRESIDENT: Actuellement le point qui est en litige c'est "Le Conseil a demandé au Directeur général de consulter les Etats membres de la région du Proche-Orient au sujet de la réouverture du Bureau régional au Caire", la seconde phrase est claire. "S'informer..." elle est claire. Il reste la première phrase.

Taghl SHAMEKHI (Iran, République islamique d'): Voyez, je voudrais dire que la question de la réouverture au Caire sera comme le prévoit le rapport renvoyé à la Conférence pour décision. Deuxièmement la question sera de discuter s'il y a d'autres offres d'hospitalité. Si l'Egypte est la seule, alors le Bureau régional sera le Caire. Il n'y a donc pas à présent de discussion nécessaire, il n'y a pas à consulter sur le Caire mais il faut seulement consulter si d'autres pays sont prêts à offrir l'hospitalité au Bureau régional. Je crois que c'est bien clair.

S. JUM'A (Assistant Director-General /Regional Representative for the Near East): I would like to make a concrete proposal. I hope that it will please everybody, especially my friend from Libya, and my other friend from Egypt. I would rather delete the first sentence of paragraph 23 completely since this issue has been taken care of in paragraph 21. There is no need for us to repeat it again in the beginning of paragraph 23. So I hope that this proposal will be accepted by the Council.

Yousef Ali Mahmoud HAMDI (Egypt): What we are requesting - what the Council is requesting the Director-General to do is to consult with member governments on three issues. The first issue is to reopen the office in Cairo; the second issue is if any of the member governments is interested in hosting the office, and the third issue is if any of the member countries would contribute to the process or to the costs of the relocation of the office. So, what we have in this first sentence is a mandate for the Director-General to hold these consultations, and come back to the Council to inform on the results of these consultations. I would like to keep this sentence in place.

LE PRESIDENT: La proposition de M. Hamdi est la suivante: ajouter à la fin du paragraphe 21 que le Conseil a demandé au Directeur général de prendre des mesures nécessaires à cet effet. A ce moment-là j'ajouterais "Il a demandé au Directeur général de prendre des mesures en vue de cette consultation". Peut-être faut-il éviter de mentionner le Directeur général, M. le Délégué de l'Egypte a raison, et donc dire "Le Conseil a invité le Directeur général à prendre des mesures nécessaires à cet effet", voilà. Je crois qu'on pourrait, comme M. le Délégué de l'Egypte le voudrait, mentionner "une invitation formelle par le Conseil au Directeur général..." Nous pourrions ainsi dire "et il a demandé au Directeur général de prendre des mesures nécessaires à cet effet". Est-ce que nous pouvons accepter cette formule? Pour nous dégager... je crois, qu'on a demandé effectivement au Directeur général de consulter les pays pour pouvoir, si vous voulez, avoir une vue globale de la situation, parce qu'il y a un pays qui est candidat. Alors est-ce que nous pouvons, si vous le voulez bien, aller dans cette direction pour ne pas retarder le débat? Voilà la proposition qu'on formule pour faire suite à la proposition de M. Ali Mohamed Hamdi, c'est d'ajouter au paragraphe 21 que "le Conseil a demandé au Directeur général de prendre des mesures pour réaliser cette consultation".

Horacio CARANDANG (Philippines): I would like to propose in concrete words what you have been saying and I would have the following wording: "The Council noted the suggestion that the Director-General consult with Member Nations in the Near East region on whether to reopen the office in Cairo or some other place in the region. In the latter case he should ascertain if any other government might be interested, etc. etc." In other words, the three things are noted there. The three things that Egypt wanted, that you mentioned but then there is no determination that it's Cairo, if it's in Cairo or another place. "The Council noted the suggestion that the Director-General consult Member Nations in the Near East region on whether to reopen the office in Cairo or some other place in the region. In the latter case he should ascertain " and then you would continue.. "if any other government might be interested etc..." and the sentences would follow.

Bashir EL-MABROUK SAID (Libya) (original language Arabic): I think that your proposal is quite wise because, in fact, it reflects the appreciation of some delegations for the offer made by Egypt and also invites the Director-General to look into whether other governments are interested in hosting the regional office and the need to take the necessary measures to this effect. I think we could say "The Council agreed... in paragraph, that is we delete the first and second sentence of paragraph 23 and the paragraph would start with the third sentence, "The Council agreed that the Director-General should submit the full proposal...." to the end of the paragraph.

LE PRÉSIDENT: La deuxième partie du paragraphe 23 a été retenue avec la suggestion de M. Bonte-Friedheim, acceptée par l'Egypte, dans laquelle on dit que "Le Conseil a noté que le Directeur général va demander aux gouvernements". C'est la première partie du paragraphe 23 qui pourrait être remplacée par un ajout au paragraphe 21 dans lequel on dit, et c'est la même Idée: "et il a demandé au Directeur général de prendre les mesures nécessaires à cet effet".

S.JUM'A (Assistant Director-General /Regional Representative for the Near East): I think we may go back to paragraph 22. There is already some mention about using the balance. So, I would rather add one sentence to the end of this paragraph, "The Council requested the Director-General to investigate this possibility". That's all. And then we delete first and second sentences of paragraph 23. Since we had already approved 22, all that we have to add is only one sentence, "The Council requested the Director-General to investigate this possibility".

Yousef Ali Mahmoud HAMDİ (Egypt): We believe that the first sentence of the paragraph 23 is exactly stating a fact and it is describing the type of consultation that has to take place between the Director-General and Member Nations and we could, if the word "Cairo" is irritating we could say that to Cairo in view of the request of Egypt to reopen the office. I mean, nothing is hidden, it is there in the paragraph, or one of these paragraphs, that Egypt has put a formal request to reopen the office. I mean, nothing is hidden; this is just to ask the Director-General to hold these consultations.

LE PRÉSIDENT: Je crois que l'on n'en finira jamais, je ne peux plus repasser, je crois qu'il faut arrêter ici parce qu'on ne peut pas continuer. Le Conseil attend d'autres sujets. Ou bien on prend la proposition du Brésil, et on forme un groupe de contact composé des deux ou trois pays intéressés qui se mettent en rapport avec M. Salah Jum'a et apportent une rédaction acceptable, nous permettant ainsi de continuer. Je vous propose donc d'arrêter là, on laisse cela entre parenthèses et on continue le travail. Nous avons encore du travail à faire. Alors Monsieur Salah Jum'a, je vous propose de prendre contact avec la Libye, l'Iran, l'Egypte.

Taghi SHAMEKHI (Iran, République islamique d'): Je voulais seulement mentionner que s'il y a un groupe de contact établi pour étudier le problème, j'ai encore deux autres Points sur ce Point 23, qu'il serait bon d'étudier ensemble. C'est tout.

Bashir EL-MABROUK SAID (Libya) (original language Arabic): I propose that Dr Jum'a and the delegate of Brazil can be together. In fact, four countries asked for Cairo: Sudan, Egypt and two other countries and then eleven countries were against, including my own. Dr Hamdi in fact has not looked into the Verbatim.

LE PRÉSIDENT: On va arrêter les débats à ce niveau. Je demande qu'on reprenne un groupe qui voit les procès-verbaux.

Ali Mahmoud HAMDİ (Egypt): I would like to make a reservation on what the distinguished delegate of Libya has said. This I don't think, I cannot accept it, not only because I am a Representative here in this Council but also because I am the Chairman of the Drafting Committee. I think the Chairman of the Drafting Committee should at least know what has taken place in the Plenary in order

to have the capacity to undertake the distinction or the distinguished position of the Chairman of the Drafting Committee. However, I would like to ask the Council, and ask you personally, Mr. Chairman, to tolerate the discussion and I am sure that the Council would be able to solve the outstanding issues without resolving them with a contact group.

LK PRÉSIDENT: Ma proposition est la suivante, à la fin du paragraphe 21 comme l'a dit M. Jum'a, je répète, il est dit: "cependant il n'a pas voulu exclure l'examen des anciennes propositions d'autres gouvernements de la région du Proche-Orient, il a estimé qu'il serait souhaitable de consulter à ce sujet. A cet effet le Conseil a demandé au Directeur général de prendre des mesures nécessaires pour cette consultation". Cela remplace la première phrase du paragraphe 23. Bon, c'est la même idée, mais l'on demande au Directeur général de consulter la région. C'est ce que l'on demande, et on laisse le paragraphe 2 sous la forme indiquée par M. Bonte-Friedheim; à savoir, que le Conseil a pris note que le Directeur général compte demander aux gouvernements qui avaient versé la contribution, etc. Voilà, ce que je vous propose, dans un souci de compromis.

Yousef Ali Mahamoud HAMD (Egypt): I would like to capitalize on my understanding. Your wish is to delete the first sentence of the para 23?

LE PRÉSIDENT: Oui, ajouter à la fin du paragraphe 21, comme vous le demande Monsieur Jum'a, c'est de dire après "il a estimé qu'il serait souhaitable de consulter à ce sujet", nous disons "le Conseil à cet effet a demandé au Directeur général de prendre les dispositions nécessaires à cet effet, pour cette consultation".

Yousef Ali Mahmoud HAMD (Egypt): In a matter of compromise, Mr Chairman, I will accept your ruling. We will leave out the first sentence of paragraph 23.

LE PRÉSIDENT: Et on mettrait: "Il a noté que le Directeur général compte demander aux gouvernements de verser les contributions". Y a-t-il d'autres remarques pour le paragraphe 23?

Taghi SHAMEKHI (Iran, République islamique d'): J'ai une petite remarque sur la troisième phrase. La troisième phrase commence comme cela dans le texte: le Conseil a décidé que le Directeur général devrait soumettre au prochain Conseil une proposition détaillée sur le retour d'un Bureau dans la région. Exactement c'est ici que je me souviens bien que vous aussi, dans votre propos final de la discussion, avez dit que la majorité décide comme cela ou bien la majorité dit comme cela. C'est exactement le même sens que l'on voudrait avoir dans cette précision. Effectivement, c'était pour, aller au Caire, et c'était la majorité qui demandait cela.

LE PRÉSIDENT: Le Conseil se propose de présenter la question à la prochaine Conférence. Pour qu'elle présente la question en novembre, il faut qu'il y ait une proposition détaillée du Directeur général sur le retour du Bureau dans la région pour le Conseil de juin, pour que nous puissions à la Conférence de novembre prendre une décision. C'est la technique.

Taghi SHAMEKHI (Iran, République islamique d'): Vous voyez, pour le processus, je suis bien d'accord, mais je précise bien que dans vos derniers propos vous avez dit la majorité demande comme cela. Ici aussi on précise que la majorité demande comme cela. Alors c'est effectivement la Délégation de la République islamique de l'Iran qui pense de cette manière, les autres Délégations n'ont pas encore demandé cela.

LE PRÉSIDENT: Il faut préparer ce travail, autrement on ne peut pas présenter la question au prochain conseil. Il faut bien que les délégués sachent combien cela coûte, et quelles sont les dispositions requises.

Bashir EL-MABROUK SAID (Libya) (original language Arabic): I think let's close this discussion. We have already settled that.

Yousef Ali Mahmoud HAMDY (Egypt): A question. The last sentence, "The Council agreed? Okay. Thank you very much, Mr Chairman.

LE PRÉSIDENT: Je crois qu'on peut dans cette discussion mettre une réserve en bas de page, j'accepte. Si vous mettez votre réserve le Délégué de l'Iran, je l'accepte.

Taghi SHAMEKHI (Iran, République islamique d'): Bon, d'accord, sur le deuxième point, je mettrai ma réserve comme vous le dites. Il y a un troisième point, la dernière phrase du paragraphe 23 qui dit: A cet égard, plusieurs membres ont signalé l'utilité de l'examen de la FAO en cours. Je crois que cette phrase n'est pas bien claire, c'est très mou, si vous voulez. Je demande que cette phrase soit plus précise comme il était expliqué ici dans le Conseil et pour cela je propose, enfin, avec la correction en français. A cet égard, plusieurs membres ont signalé l'utilité que le débat soit ouvert après l'examen du Programme et des Finances de la FAO en cours. C'était cela la question, effectivement c'était la proposition que nous avons faite que cette question soit débattue après l'examen du Programme qui est en cours.

Yousef Ali Mahmoud HAMDY (Egypt): In fact this sentence was resolved in the Drafting Committee and it was there according to the request of the distinguished delegate of Iran and the Committee wanted to express his view because he said so, others said so, so this sentence, Mr Chairman, takes care of the views of the members who said that and also I would request Mr Chairman, that this sentence stay as it is.

LE PRÉSIDENT: Je crois que l'idée est claire, il s'agit d'avoir des chiffres qui vont permettre de présenter l'étude détaillée au prochain Conseil pour pouvoir la soumettre ensuite à la Conférence à sa vingt-cinquième Session.

Taghi SHAMEKHI (Iran, République islamique d'): Je suis d'accord sur le principe, mais la phrase n'est pas claire. Nous avons proposé que cette discussion soit ouverte après l'examen qui est en cours à la FAO. Et je comprends que cette phrase voudrait dire cela mais d'une manière trop floue.

LE PRÉSIDENT: A cet égard, plusieurs membres ont signalé que l'utilité de l'examen de la FAO suffisait.

Yousef Ali Mahmoud HAMDY (Egypt): I am sorry to come here because this idea is not the issue. We have in the Drafting Committee adopted two different views, Mr Chairman. We have agreed to make a distinction between any decision and the Review process. That is why we said, Mr Chairman, that some members refer to the relevance of the FAO Review currently underway and that was a compromise,

Taghi SHAMEKHI (Iran, République islamique d'): Monsieur le Président, comme il est vraiment tard, si vous croyez que la phrase est claire, je suis d'accord.

LE PRÉSIDENT: Le paragraphe 24, est ainsi approuvé.

Paragraphs 16 to 24, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 16 à 24, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 16 a 24, así enmendados, son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary, part VI, as amended, was adopted

Projet de rapport de la plénère, VI partie, ainsi amendé, est adopté

El Proyecto de Informe de la plenaria, parte VI, así enmendado, es aprobado

Gonzalo BUIA HOYOS (Colombia): Sr. Presidente, son las 0.45 horas eso quiere decir que el párrafo 1 del REP/1 en el espacio que está en blanco deberá colocarse el N^o 26, por ello proponemos que los REP restantes 7, 8, 9 y 10 se adopten por aclamación y que nos vayamos a dormir.

LE PRESIDENT: Je ne peux pas accepter cela personnellement; nous avons des devoirs envers l'Organisation. Je propose qu'on regarde les paragraphes mais vite mais je ne peux pas, il pourrait y avoir une erreur, il pourrait y avoir quelque chose, personnellement je serais réticent pour une telle chose. Par contre je demanderais que maintenant une délégation qui a parlé ne reparle plus pour ne pas prolonger les débats et aller vite. Maintenant si vous voulez mettre le 26 novembre, je ne vois pas d'inconvénient.

Bashir EL-MABROÛK SAID (Libya) (Original language Arabic): This is not the first time we have adopted our reports "en bloc". Last year we adopted many reports in general and the Drafting Committee, in fact, has done a good job. That's why I think that the proposal just made by Ambassador Bula Hoyos is most appropriate.

DRAFT REPORT - PART VII

PROJET DE RAPPORT - SEPTIEME PARTIE

PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE VII

LE PRÉSIDENT: J'ai une proposition intermédiaire. Acceptez-vous qu'on vote point par point et non pas sur chaque REP. Il y a le Point 19, le Point 20. C'est-à-dire par point de l'Ordre du jour; je peux vous poser la question formellement sur l'ensemble des paragraphes, par exemple le REP. 7 c'est le Point 19. Comme Messieurs les délégués l'ont lu, je vous propose de dire si vous avez une observation sur l'un des quelconques paragraphes du point 19 de l'Ordre du jour. Considérons maintenant l'ensemble du REP/7, sur l'ensemble des paragraphes. Y a-t-il une question? Il n'y en a pas. Donc je confirme formellement que le REP/7 est approuvé en tant que document.

Paragraphs 1 to 9 approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 9 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 9 son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary, Part VII, was adopted

Projet de rapport de la plénière, VII partie, est adopté

El Proyecto de Informe de la plenaria, Parte VII, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT - PART VIII

PROJET DE RAPPORT - HUITIEME PARTIE

PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE VIII

LE PRESIDENT: Le REP/8, c'est le Point 20, de l'Ordre du jour. Point 20; procédure d'élection des membres du Comité de programme et du Comité financier. Y a-t-il des observations sur ce Point 20? Donc le REP/8 est adopté.

Paragraphs 1 to 9 approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 9 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 9 son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary, Part VIII, was adopted

Projet de rapport de la plénière, VIII partie, est adopté

El Proyecto de Informe de la plenaria, Parte VIII, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT - PART IX

PROJET DE RAPPORT - NEUVIEME PARTIE

PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTIE IX

PARAGRAPHS 1 to 16

PARAGRAPHERS 1 à 16

PARRAFOS 1 a 16

Joao Augusto de MEDICIS (Brazil): I have a brief observation; actually, a brief amendment, or a brief inclusion. There was a point raised by my delegation and a few other delegations that is not contained in this document. I just wanted to include this point. I would have said "a few delegations" but having been corrected before by the delegation of the UK I said "some" delegations, so perhaps this point could go after paragraph 15 and it would say "Some delegations called the Council's attention to the possible impact of the issue on the juridical linkage between FAO and WFP, and noted that in their opinion this linkage should not be altered." Mr Chairman, my delegation believes that this is not controversial because it only states what has been said by my delegation and a few others, including the delegations of Mexico and Peru, if I am not wrong. So it should be accepted as the expression of one group of delegations. Thank you. This is not expressing the view of the Council; we do not intend that it should. I think it should be new Sir, probably after the fifteenth.

LE PRESIDENT: Voilà une suggestion formulée par le Délégué du Brésil que je vous demanderai de bien vouloir répéter pour que nous ne fassions pas d'erreurs.

Joao Augusto de MEDICIS (Brazil): "Some members called the Council's attention to the possible impact of the issue on the juridical linkage between FAO and WFP, and noted that in their opinion this linkage should not be altered". As I said before, Mr Chairman, my delegation doesn't claim that this is the general view of the Council; it is the view of a few delegations who want it to be stated that way.

Bashir EL-MABROUK SAID (Libya) (Original language Arabic): I appreciate the addition made by the Brazilian delegation, but this idea has been reflected in paragraphs 13 and 15. At the beginning of paragraph 13 the Council noted the necessity of continued close collaboration between the FAO and the WFP. Now at the end of paragraph 15 the Council agreed that it was in the interests of all, but especially for the poorest countries, that the difficulties which had arisen between the Organization and the WFP be resolved with respect for relevant statutes and standards. Therefore we need not repeat this idea which has been reflected twice in two paragraphs.

Gonzalo BULA HOTOS (Colombia): Pensamos que el análisis hecho por nuestro colega de Libia es acertado y le apoyamos.

A.K.M. Fazley RABBI (Bangladesh): We also subscribe to the views of the distinguished representative of Libya.

LE PRESIDENT: Je pense qu'on pourrait s'en tenir là, si le Conseil ne voit pas d'inconvénient pour ne pas retarder plus nos discussions.

Joao Augusto de MEDICIS (Brazil): I really don't understand what you mean by that. I think we have the right as there are a lot of statements in this Council with minority views. I think we should have the right to express our views, Sir. I don't accept this.

LE PRESIDENT: Je n'ai pas assisté à la discussion du PAM. Combien de délégués étaient de votre avis?

Joao Augusto de MEDICIS (Brazil): I remember here that myself, Mexico and Peru, at least these three delegations stated the same view.

Raul LOPEZ-LIRA NAVA (México): Mi Delegación fue una de las que señalo esto en las deliberaciones de apoyo completamente a la Embajada de Brasil.

Roberto E-E DALTON (Argentina): Nuestro apoyo al hecho de que las opiniones minoritarias tienen cabida en el Informe del Comité.

H. HEINENS (Canada): I apologize for having to intervene at this late stage but I know, I think everyone is tired here. I also have to catch a plane tomorrow morning but I think we have taken an inordinant amount of time to deal with issues that are of interest only to certain members and I now think we are trying to sweep a lot of material out the door rather rapidly, which I think is doing a disservice to the body as a whole. On the particular question which has just been raised by the distinguished delegate from Brazil, I would think that we would not want to introduce, not withstanding the fact that perhaps some, or a few, or three, delegations raised specific points concerning the relationship issue between WFP and FAO. I think most of the interventions - and there were not all that many to begin with - I think dealt essentially with the desire that the problems, of which most of us don't know that much about, on the question of the Audited Accounts and some of the delegated authorities, be solved in harmony between the two heads of agencies. I think the discussion did not go into any detail. It did not even broach the subject of what should happen between FAO and WFP down the road. I would like to leave the text as it is. I think the delegate of Libya is quite astute In suggesting continued collaboration between FAO and WFP is highlighted in paragraph 13, and I think at this late stage it would be unfortunate if we were to raise other possibly controversial points. Well, while I do have the floor though I would like to ask for, if I may go on perhaps, to ask for one clarification and perhaps the Drafting group is suffering from fatigue, or had suffered from fatigue, when they drafted this particular paragraph, I think as most of us are now. It's the second sentence in paragraph 13. It's not particularly elegant. It suggests that some members noted that it was particularly important that policies and food aid applied should be in conformity. In terms of the correction of the English, I wonder if what was meant was that food aid policies should be applied in conformity. It then goes on and I realize that what is being reflected here are, in fact, the comments of some members and I don't wish to re-write history here. It goes on and suggests that national strategies, priorities in the context of food aid, food security plans should be carefully orchestrated with FAO and guided by the policies evaluated by the CFS. "Orchestrated" I think in English can have a rather perjorative term and it sort of suggests a conductor being surrounded by a group of second violins. I don't think that's what we have here. I wonder if perhaps some adjustment could be made to that. In terms of, I think, historical correctness there are other bodies that also deal with food aid policies and international strategies such as the World Food Council and so on. I leave my comments at that. I will make one which relates to the beginning of the document and I couldn't help but be astounded by the fact that twelve pages of verbatim - yes, I am going back now to the beginning of this document, just a very brief comment - I couldn't help but be astounded by the fact that nearly twelve pages of verbatims which included the introductions and the concluding comments of the Secretariat, as well as numerous Interventions on the Regular Programme, that is Part A, were condensed into three paragraphs. Rather striking!

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie le Délégué du Canada. Pour ce qui est de la remarque de forme de la politique de l'aide alimentaire, je crois qu'il n'y a pas de difficulté. Il y a quelques membres qui ont observé, c'est-à-dire l'avis de quelques Membres, donc cela respecte un peu l'avis, mais il y a une remarque qui a été indiquée par Monsieur le Délégué du Brésil soutenue par le Mexique et l'Argentine, c'est que la minorité a des droits et que dans le cas de textes balancés on ne peut pas l'occulter totalement. Alors sur la base de cette constatation, peut-on dire que quelques membres ont signalé, quelques Etats membres, de manière si vous voulez à ne pas engager le Conseil. Voilà on fait remarque, Monsieur le Délégué de l'Argentine me dit, on vous demande de respecter le droit de la minorité. Je crois que la tradition veut que lorsqu'il y a quelques délégués, et je crois qu'ils sont 4 ou 5 d'après ce que j'ai compris, le Brésil, l'Argentine, le Mexique, je ne sais plus qui d'autres, alors à ce moment-là on ne peut pas mettre cette phrase-là, c'est une constatation, cela n'engage pas le Conseil.

Roberto E.E. DALTON (Argentina): Perdón, Sr. Presidente, yo simplemente apoyaba el derecho de las declaraciones minoritarias, yo no dije que hubiera intervenido en el debate en ese sentido.

Horacio CARANDANG (Philippines): I did take the floor on this issue but I still think that the minority views can also be reflected here. Thank you.

David W. JOSLTN (United States of America): On this subject we'd like to adhere to the comment of the Canadian delegation and point out that at the end of paragraph 15 what controls this whole subject are "the relevant statutes and standards" that is included at the end of chapter 15, and should be sufficient.

LE PRESIDENT: Bien, nous sommes devant une proposition concrète. Quelques Etats membres souhaitent que leur opinion soit incluse dans le rapport et ils sont quatre ou cinq. Elle n'engage pas le Conseil, elle engage les Etats membres, cela a été dit et démontre que l'on respecte leur droit à exprimer leur opinion. Est-ce qu'il y a encore un inconvénient réglementaire relatif au droit à leur requête? C'est leur opinion, ce n'est pas l'opinion du Conseil. Je crois que maintenant on pourrait devoir continuer notre travail et accepter cette suggestion si le Conseil ne voit pas d'objections majeures. Le Point 15, est-ce qu'il y a une objection au Point 15? Le Point 16, est-ce qu'il y a un inconvénient? Approuvé. Maintenant je prends note de l'observation du Délégué du Canada et peut-être Monsieur le Délégué du Canada a manifesté son étonnement que l'on n'ait pas développé assez au Comité de rédaction 13 pages de rapport. Nous prenons note de cette remarque.

Paragraphs 1 to 16 approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 16 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 16 son aprobados

LE PRESIDENT: Ensuite il y a un projet de résolution de la Conférence. Est-ce que ce projet de résolution a l'agrément de votre Conseil? Adopté.

Paragraph 17, including draft resolution, approved

Le paragraphe 17, y compris le projet de résolution, est approuvé

El párrafo 17, incluido el proyecto de resolución, es aprobado

Draft Report of Plenary, Part IX, was adopted

Projet de rapport de la plénière, IX partie, est adopté

El Proyecto de Informe de la plenaria, Parte IX, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT - PART X

PROJET DE RAPPORT - DIXIEME PARTIE

PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE X

PARAGRAPHS 1 to 14

PARAGRAPHES 1 à 14

PARRAFOS 1 a 14

Michel SAVINI (Secretary. Drafting Committee): I just want to draw the attention of the Council to a small mistake in para 4 of this Report. After the first sentence, a sentence is missing. It should read "The Council in general endorsed the views of the Programme Committee." The members of the Drafting Committee will remember that the draft submitted to them was "The Council endorsed fully..." and then the Drafting Committee decided to delete "fully" and add "in general" and by mistake the whole line was deleted. It's just what was decided by the Drafting Committee, Sir.

LE PRESIDENT: Est-ce que ce qu'a dit M. Savini est assez clair pour les délégués? Sous réserve de la précision de M. Savini, y a-t-il des observations sur le REP/10?

Roberto E.E. DALTON (Argentina): Confieso que ya no recuerdo, pero me parece que ha quedado una frase también en el limbo cancelada. En algún momento de la discusión sobre este tema, Señor, a partir del párrafo 4, es decir, el Informe Jansson, se menciona que este Informe no había sido distribuido para la atención de este Consejo. Honestamente no recuerdo en qué momento que estaba incorporado, pero podíamos tal vez reconstruirlo con la ayuda de la Secretaría.

José Ramón LOPEZ -PORTILLO ROMANO (México): Nosotros también habíamos tomado esa observación en nuestras notas que son múltiples, la teníamos pero, Señor Presidente, quizás para no provocar aquí una nueva discusión, le pediríamos simplemente a la Secretaría que nos redacte lo que en el Comité de Redacción se había aceptado, es decir que se indicaba que el Consejo no discutió el Informe Jansson por no estar éste en su poder, o por no obrar éste en su poder. Esto se había dicho para aclarar que las observaciones vertidas de todos los miembros no eran sobre el Informe Jansson, si no sobre lo que el Comité del Programa había expresado. En alguna parte de la discusión se había perdido esto y quiero decirle que eso es importante porque después sí se aceptó un párrafo por parte de nosotros, es el último párrafo del REP/10, Señor Presidente, el párrafo 14, y nos dice que se remitían a las opiniones del Consejo. Si no queda claro esto parecería que el Consejo discutió el Informe Jansson, que es una falsedad y este Consejo no puede admitir una falsedad.

Gonzalo BULA HOTOS (Colombia): Tengo tres observaciones sobre el REP/10. Son breves y las expresaré juntas, esperando que no le dificulte su trabajo. Primera: proponemos que se suprima la última frase del párrafo 12, que no agrega nada y que no tiene sentido; segunda propuesta: en el párrafo 12 "debido a la cuestión de la ubicación común..." eso no significa nada. Puedo seguir? Bien. Luego en el párrafo 13, la segunda frase dice: "Se expresó la opinión"... Esa forma neutra involucra a todo el Consejo y nuestra delegación y otras no estuvieron de acuerdo con ese concepto, pero para reconocer el derecho de las delegaciones que sí lo plantearon, aceptaríamos que se dijera: "Algunas delegaciones expresaron la opinión etc. Y tercero, apoyamos a Argentina y México y esperamos que la Secretaría refleje sus opiniones en el Informe.

Sra. Laurie CORDUA CRUZ (Nicaragua): Sí, gracias Señor Presidente, yo quería expresar simplemente el apoyo a lo expresado por las delegaciones de Argentina y México.

Ms Joan DÜDIK GAYDSO (United States of America): Before I intervene, I wonder if the Council could hear some views from the Chairman of the Drafting Committee on the process under which we adopted this text.

Yousef Ali Mahmoud HAMDI (Chairman, Drafting Committee): I was just wondering which one the distinguished delegates of the United States wishes me to comment on, but if they are the notes of the distinguished Ambassador Rula Hoyos, then I must say that the paragraph 12 - again, all these paragraphs lasted hours and hours - and what you found there is a compromise between the different views. This, in fact, because of the co-location issue, one member requested information on the costs of FAO's individual country offices. It took a lot of time to discuss this, and the compromise was to put it that way, one country requested. Mr. Chairman, what are the other questions Mme the Representative of the United States wishes me to comment on? Sorry.

Ms. Joan DUDIK GAYOSO (United States of America): We have what has been reopened here, Mr Chairman and distinguished Chairman of the Drafting Committee, is the same discussion we had at least three or four times in the Drafting Group about whether a discussion of the Jansson Report was on the agenda of this Council or not. I really do not think we need to go through the whole thing but there still seems to be either a misunderstanding or a desire to say to ourselves that it was not on the agenda. My delegation accepted this text as a compromise - it is not nearly as formal or strong as we would have liked, but we did it out of respect for the fact that there were some delegations who felt, I think, at a little disadvantage since they had not been able to get the text of the Jansson Report. I would not like to see this reopened now but If that is what has to happen, it has to happen.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Yo respeto mucho la sinceridad con que el Presidente del Comité de Redacción hace referencia a la consagración y al tiempo que dedicaron a discutir este proyecto de Informe pero hay algunos asuntos que realmente no se pueden aceptar a pesar de ese trabajo adecuado que hizo el Comité de Redacción. Cuando en un informe se atribuye a un miembro alguna expresión, debe ser un asunto sumamente importante. Yo no creo que tenga ninguna importancia decir aquí, Señor Presidente, que un miembro pidió información acerca... y luego no hay ni siquiera respuesta de la Secretaría, un frase suelta y en vacío, eso no tiene sentido. Y yo hice muchas preguntas, muchísimas, y no he insistido que se ponga ahí ninguna pregunta mía. Ahora, si se insiste en que quede, pues yo pongo enseguida otra frase sin problemas, Señor Presidente: "Otro miembro opinó que ese asunto no tenía mayor importancia..." pero eso llena el Informe de necedades, de tonterías. Yo creo que es mejor suprimir la frase del párrafo 12, y en eso insisto muy decididamente.

Roberto E.E. DALTON (Argentina): Para responder a una afirmación de la distinguida delegada de los Estados Unidos, tal vez me entendió mal: Yo no dije en ningún momento que el tema estuviera o dejara de estar en la Agenda, dije simplemente que en algún momento de la discusión se nos había caído la frase que decía que el texto del Informe no había sido distribuido para esta Conferencia.

LE PRESIDENT: Si j'ai bien compris actuellement, pour ne pas nous embrouiller dans le REP/10, (vous voyez c'est l'inconvénient de discuter un rapport dans son ensemble). Je voudrais être assuré que les autres paragraphes sont acceptés. Je vais lire rapidement et je demande à Messieurs les délégués de me dire si oui ou non il y a un problème. Paragraphe 1. Paragraphe 2. Paragraphe 3.

Stanley Munkindia GUANTAI (Kenya): It is not in particular on paragraph 1 or 3, but I think the delegation of Argentina and the delegation of Mexico did mention that there is a paragraph missing. I think that is quite Important if that phrasing cannot be made, because we are suggesting that paragraph which was a very important issue and this is in the line of the fact that quite a number of people did not have the text of the Jansson Report which is referred to by the Programme Committee, and we did ask that that little paragraph be made by the Secretariat. It's not here. Now if it was here, then we would not have had the problem which was raised by the delegation of Argentina.

LE PRESIDENT: Je voudrais pour ce point qui est très important demander au Conseil de m'autoriser à aller paragraphe par paragraphe, pour éviter les erreurs. Le paragraphe 1, y a-t-il des observations? Paragraphe 2, paragraphe 3, paragraphe 4?

Mlle Faouzia BOUMAÏZA (Algérie): Compte tenu de la juste remarque qu'a faite le Délégué de l'Argentine appuyé par d'autres délégations, est-ce que le Conseil peut se permettre d'affirmer que le rapport contient une évaluation équilibrée, etc. En tout cas, ma délégation ne peut pas l'affirmer parce qu'elle n'a pas lu le rapport.

José Ramon LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (México): En el mismo sentido y en vista de que perdimos ese párrafo o esa oración, porque quizás, y eso fue el problema, lo habíamos pedido a la Secretaría, nosotros entendíamos que se iba reflejar en el texto. Pero no lo tenemos, de otra manera, Señor Presidente, yo sí quiero ser muy franco, no hubiéramos aceptado el ultimo párrafo de este Informe, que hace entonces inconsistentes todas las opiniones, porque se deja en blanco el hecho de que no disponíamos de ese Informe, entonces yo le propongo la siguiente redacción, para simplificar, en vista que no contamos aparentemente con el texto del Comité de redacción: "El Consejo examinó los criterios del Comité del Programa con respecto al informe acerca del estudio monográfico sobre las actividades Operacionales en los países (Informe Jansson). Primera oración del párrafo 4. A pesar de que (no, no, la primera oración queda tal cómo la he leído y tal cómo está en el párrafo 4, hasta dónde dice entre paréntesis Informe Jansson. Ahí se pone un punto. Luego diría "A pesar de que tal Informe no fue distribuido cómo documento de trabajo del Consejo y portanto no se solicitaba su debate y sus recomendaciones al respecto, " y entonces seguiríamos de la siguiente manera: "... escuchó las opiniones de algunos Estados Miembros que habían estudiado el Informe a fondo". Y entonces continuamos con el Informe con el resto tal cuál. Señor Presidente, para nosotros es fundamental esta precisión porque de otra manera estamos diciendo, le repito, una mentira, que debatimos un Informe que no estaba en nuestras manos.

Angel BARBERO MARTIN (España): Es que yo había pedido hace ya mucho la palabra pero parece que mi letrado no se veía y precisamente era para este tema y ya que la delegación de México ha hecho una propuesta de que alguna manera responde a la idea de que algunos miembros del Consejo de Redacción teníamos de lo que queríamos haber expresado en estos párrafos, pues creo que apoyo la propuesta de México y los párrafos que ha introducido, porque, repito, quieren expresar el que el Informe Jansson como tal y como fondo de la cuestión no debía ser expuesto en ese Informe del Consejo su examen puesto que no pertenecía a la Agenda.

Ms Joan DUDIK- GAYOSO (United States of America): The comments that have been made just now by Spain and Mexico are correct, and it is true as much as I can tell from the notes I have, that this sentence got lost. Also, I would like to emphasize very clearly that the issue that was discussed at some length in the Drafting Group was not whether or not the document was before the Council but whether or not it was available to the members of the Council. Members of this Council have said that they asked for copies of this document and they could not get it. That's what matters. It does not matter, and the issue has not been raised, as to whether it was before the Council. The question has been whether it was available, and because it was not available, there were many delegations who intervened in the debate and said they really could not comment because they could not get the document. So I do not have a problem with putting that thought into the statement along the lines that Mexico says, and we can put it in paragraph 4. I do think it is not quite accurate to say that there was no request for recommendations because the Council, the FAO, had before it the request, or the invitation in the UN General Assembly Resolution 42/1/96 which invited comments, so I do not think it would be so appropriate to have that phrase in this paragraph, otherwise its quite accurate. I think it should be reflected in the text and I do not think there needs to be too much more comment about it. I think, by the way, that it is unfortunate because it means that what is available from FAO's Governing Bodies to be submitted to ECOSOC and the General Assembly is less complete as an expression of views that the Governing Bodies of other UN organizations have been able to produce.

LE PRESIDENT: Je regrette de noter que les interprètes nous signalent qu'ils ont des difficultés à pourvoir, à cette heure tardive de la nuit, à cette discussion et je les comprends. Donc nous n'avons pas d'autre alternative que de reprendre notre travail demain, puisque ce sont des questions importantes et que faire? Il faut choisir.

V.J. SHAH (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): I refer to the discussion about the omission of the phrase and the idea regarding the distribution of the Jansson Report. If the proposal of the distinguished delegate of Mexico as discussed has been accepted, and the Secretariat has noted it, then I have not heard any other objections to this Draft Report. Perhaps the Council is ready to approve it.

LE PRESIDENT: Est-ce qu'il y a des points en suspens dans ce REP/10? Est-ce que vous nous autorisez à accepter le REP/10?

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

Draft Report of Plenary, Part X, as amended, was adopted

Projet de rapport de la plénière, X partie, ainsi amendé, est adopté

El Proyecto de Informe de la Plenaria, Parte X, así enmendado, es aprobado

LE PRESIDENT: Maintenant il nous reste deux points délicats et nous devons les finir. Il y a d'abord deux notes de bas de page.

DRAFT REPORT - PART I (continued)

PROJET DE RAPPORT - PREMIERE PARTIE (suite)

PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE I (continuación)

PARAGRAPHS 29 to 39 (continued)

PARAGRAPHEs 29 à 39 (suite)

PARRAFOS 29 a 39 (continuación)

Miriam INZAULGARAT GARCIA de PEREZ (Cuba): Me voy a referir a uno de los puntos pendientes. Mi delegación ha analizado con toda profundidad y buena voluntad el llamamiento de Brasil y de Argentina, que Usted respaldó también. Percibimos asimismo que otros delegados aspiraban a una solución conciliadora a esta controversia. No quiere mi delegación afectar la amplia y democrática discusión que ha sostenido este Consejo, por otra parte, Señor Presidente, otros párrafos del Informe ya aprobados por este Consejo recojen la esencia del planteamiento de mi delegación. En aras de contribuir a que el Informe Final de este 94° Consejo esté a la altura de los debates sostenidos, y que refleje criterios mayoritarios de este Consejo, mi delegación se acóje al llamado hecho por Brasil, Argentina y Usted también. Muchas gracias.

LE PRESIDENT: Donc si j'ai bien compris, Mme la Déléguée de Cuba dans un souci de conciliation accepterait la proposition des Délégués du Brésil et de l'Argentine de retirer sa proposition de rédaction en bas de page avec le Délégué de la Colombie. Est-ce que le Délégué de la Colombie approuve cette suggestion du Délégué de Cuba (le Délégué de la Colombie dit "si"). Donc si j'ai bien compris avec votre remarque, il y aurait si vous voulez, on pourrait avoir à ce moment-là le rapport, le texte tel qu'il était initialement.

Ms Teresa D. HOBGOOD (United States of America): The United States of America stated that it supports paragraph 39 of CL 94/REP/1 as submitted by the Drafting Committee and objects to the attempts of Cuba and Colombia to alter the impression of concern about payment, by each and every country which is in arrears, and to an erroneous impression of concern solely about US payments.

The United States of America noted that FAO document CL 94/LIM/1 reports that as of November 11 (a date which precedes a US payment of \$25 million to FAO), a large number of member countries have failed to pay their assessed contributions. Many of the outstanding contributions as a percentage of the amount owed in 1988 are proportionately greater than the outstanding contributions of the United States of America. Countries other than the United States which have outstanding contributions are: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahrain, Benin, Bolivia, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Comoros, Congo, Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic Kampuchea, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Kuwait, Laos, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Rumania, Samoa, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Saint Christopher and Nevis, St. Vincent and Grenadines, Sudan, Suriname, Syria, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yugoslavia and Zaïre.

The countries other than the United States of America in arrears are: Argentina, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic Kampuchea, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Gambia, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Iran, Israel, Liberia, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nigeria, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Romania, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, St. Christopher and Nevis, St. Vincent and Grenadines, Suriname, Syria, Tanzania, Turkey, Uganda and the United Arab Emirates.

Expressed as a percentage of 1988 outstanding contributions, the outstanding contributions of the following countries exceed those of the United States of America: Argentina (195%), Burundi (337%), Cape Verde (265%), Central African Republic (290%), Comoros (240%), Congo (174%), Côte d'Ivoire (231%), Cuba (205%), Democratic Kampuchea (561%), Dominican Republic (271%), Equatorial Guinea (313%), Guatemala (273%), Guinea-Bissau (263%), Iran (242%), Liberia (235%), Libya (259%), Nigeria (305%), Paraguay (261%), Peru (265%), Poland (189%), Romania (497%), Sao Tome and Principe (313%), Senegal (191%), Sierre Leone (250 %), Suriname (313%), Syria (251%), Tanzania (251%), Turkey (182%) and Uganda (293%).

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Señor Presidente, quiero confirmar lo que dije antes en sentido de que adhiero a la posición de la delegación cubana en el sentido de que retiro mi primera nota al pie de página. No he conocido su reacción **ni** la del Consejo sobre la nota que acaba de leerse. Si esa nota va a ser incluida en el Informe entonces yo le ruego que me permita redactar una mía brevísima y sin problemas. ¿Se pondrá todo lo que se ha leído? Bien. Entonces al final quiero que se le diga: "La delegación de Colombia declaró que el texto anterior interpreta erróneamente nuestro pensamiento, que está dirigido solamente a que el pago oportuno de las contribuciones permita el cumplimiento de las actividades de la FAO". Nada más, Señor Presidente.

Sra. Miriam INZAULGARAT GARCIA de PEREZ (Coba): Sí, lo mismo, Señor Presidente.

LE PRESIDENT:

Paragraphs 29 to 39, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 29 à 39, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 29 a 39, así enmendados, son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary, Part I, as amended, was adopted

Projet de Rapport de la Planiere, 1ère partie, ainsi amendé, est adopté

El Proyecto de Informe de la Plenaria, parte I, así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT - PART IV (continued)

PROJET DE RAPPORT - QUATRIEME PARTIE (suite)

PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE IV (continuación)

PARAGRAPHS 1 to 23 (continued)

PARAGRAPHERS 1 à 23 (suite)

PARRAFOS 1 a 23 (continuación)

LE PRESIDENT: Nous passons maintenant au dernier point qui était resté en suspens. C'est le paragraphe 8 du REP/A relatif aux réfugiés du Pakistan et de la République islamique d'Iran. J'ai une proposition à formuler. Je propose au Conseil de retirer toute cette phrase. La phrase a été reconnue jusqu'à rapatriés. Je propose au Conseil de supprimer totalement pour ne plus avoir le paragraphe du REP/4 resté en suspens. Le paragraphe a été reconnu que les contributions fournies pour les réfugiés, etc. jusqu'à la fin, je propose qu'on le supprime et puis que l'on finisse le débat. Je demande au Conseil sa décision, mais on peut adopter, Monsieur le Délégué de l'Iran, que vous avez une réserve et je suis prêt à la mettre en bas de page.

Taghi SHAMEKHI (Iran, République islamique d'): Je m'excuse, c'est bien tard, je le sais, mais je voudrais mentionner quand même quelques mots avant de nous séparer. Si j'insistais sur ce point c'est qu'il y a effectivement dans ce texte les questions des réfugiés et non pas un réfugié spécial. Je voudrais dire que nous ne voulions pas vraiment avoir un conflit. Si je voulais avoir le conflit je pouvais le faire il y a quelques jours quand on parlait de la guerre. Il a été dit que l'ennemi iranien a fait ça et ça. Je crois que c'était là que je pouvais ouvrir un conflit et discuter sur cette question. Je ne voudrais pas le faire ici. Si j'insiste sur la question des réfugiés c'est parce qu'il y a les groupes de personnes qui ont été bombardés, qui ont été renvoyés de leur pays. Ils étaient bombardés par les bombes chimiques. Maintenant ils sont dans des régions bien froides où il fait actuellement -15, ou -20 degrés. Ce que l'on demandait au Conseil, c'était qu'indirectement on parle de ces gens. Je crois que ces gens ont un seul droit: c'est que leur existence soit reconnue par une instance internationale. D'ailleurs le système des Nations Unies a accepté que ces gens existent et donc on demandait dans cette instance seulement de dire que ces gens existent. Vraiment on va retourner maintenant dans notre pays, je pourrais dire qu'on a vraiment le cœur bien touché parce qu'on pense qu'il y a des gens dans une telle situation et que dans une instance internationale on n'ait pas pu les nommer même indirectement.

LE PRESIDENT: Je vous remercie Monsieur le Délégué de l'Iran. Je crois que nous avons proposé au Conseil souverain d'enlever cette phrase et le Conseil l'a décidé. Si vous voulez mettre une note en bas de page, nous l'acceptons. Donc nous retirons ce paragraphe.

Paragraphs 1 to 23, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 a 23, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 23, así enmendados, son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary, Part IV, as amended, was adopted

Projet de Rapport de la Plénière, IVème partie, ainsi amendé, est adopté

El Proyecto de Informe de la Plenaria, parte IV, así enmendado, es aprobado

V.K. SIBAL (India): I crave your indulgence and thank you for this opportunity. After long and very gruelling work we have concluded our deliberations. I was just wondering if it was possible to make a last appeal for the withdrawal of all these footnotes in recognition of the fact that we have conducted our work successfully. I just thought that I would make that appeal, hoping it is heard.

LE PRESIDENT: Moi je veux bien, mais je crois que le délégué a pris position.

Ms Teresa D. HOBGOOD (United States of America): I appreciate the comments made by the delegate of India. I cannot withdraw my footnote.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous sommes donc arrivés à la fin de nos débats. Je voudrais m'excuser auprès de tous les délégués des Etats membres de cet horaire anormal, je crois que cela tient à la densité des débats et au sérieux du Comité de rédaction qui a dépensé 40 heures pour ce travail. Cela ne nous a pas empêchés d'ailleurs de discuter fermement ici au Conseil. Je regrette un peu du fait qu'on était obligé par la contrainte de temps de trouver un conseiller pragmatique mais légal et je me fais un devoir de remercier tous les délégués pour leur patience et leur endurance, mais nous avons eu un jour de moins et beaucoup plus de sujets. Je crois que si je peux faire mettre une observation, j'étais très fier de noter que chaque sujet qui a été soulevé au cours du Conseil a intéressé beaucoup de délégués. Nous avons presque établi des records d'interventions dans chaque texte, que ce soit le développement rural, que ce soit les femmes dans le développement ou autres. Nous avons enregistré un record dans chacun des points de notre Ordre du jour et ceci dénote le sérieux, la volonté et le sens aigu de tous les délégués sans exception. Je voudrais les remercier, je voudrais leur dire que ceci préjuge très bien de la suite de nos travaux dans le Conseil ultérieur et dénote de manière évidente notre attachement tous à notre Organisation. Je crois qu'il n'y a pas de meilleurs arguments pour notre attachement que ces interventions. Il y a eu effectivement et, c'est normal, des points de vue divers, il y a eu quelques passages animés de nos débats. J'aurais été heureux si on avait pu éviter quelques-uns d'entre eux mais les Etats sont souverains et nous sommes à leur disposition. Je retire quand même à la suite de nos débats une impression très favorable et constructive. Je voudrais remercier l'Organisation depuis le Directeur général jusqu'à tout son personnel. Je ne voudrais pas oublier les interprètes que nous avons fait souffrir. Il faut que vous sachiez qu'ils ont développé un effort exceptionnel, ce pour lequel je me permets de les féliciter et de les remercier car sans les interprètes nous n'aurions pas pu faire notre travail dans les délais voulus. Et je voudrais remercier toute la FAO, peut-être Monsieur Bonte-Friedheim voudrait ajouter quelque chose.

C.H. BONTE-FRIEDHEIM (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department) (Representative of the Director-General): The Director-General has asked me, has requested me to express in his name, his thanks to you as Independent Chairman, his thanks to the members of Council for some very hard work during the last days. His preoccupation is with the many tasks ahead for all of you and for this Organization, especially in the coming year. The financial situation for the Organization will be difficult. The largest contributor is unlikely to be able to make any further contribution until after October of next year, when its arrears have risen to over \$140 million. In addition, and let me make this quite clear, other countries will also have considerable arrears. It is the Director-General's fervent wish for 1989 that, on all the many problems and issues facing our Organization, your Organization, that a consensus will be reached, and this consensus should start this very morning, after you leave this very late session. Thank you very, very much.

Bashir EL MABROUK SAID (Libya) (Original language Arabic): I apologise for taking the floor at this late hour. However, I would like to advise the delegate of the United States to contact Mr. Crowther, because I believe that Mr. Crowther will be able to inform her of the contributions of Libya which have recently been paid.

Taghi SHAMEKHI (Iran, République islamique d'): Monsieur le Président, en vous remerciant je voudrais seulement mentionner de mettre ce point en bas de page.

LE PRESIDENT: Encore une fois merci et excusez-nous de cet horaire anormal. La séance est levée.

The meeting rose at 01.45 hours of 26.11.1988

La séance est levée à 01.h 45 du 26.11.1988

Se levanta la sesión a las 01.45 horas del 26.11.1988