

## **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 100/PV

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**Hundredth Session**  
**PLENARY**

**Centième session**  
**PLÉNIÈRE**

**100° período de sesiones**  
**PLENARIA**

**Rome, 5-8 November 1991**

**VERBATIM RECORDS OF PLENARY MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL**  
**PROCÈS-VERBAUX DES SÉANCES PLÉNIÈRES DU CONSEIL**  
**ACTAS TAQUIGRAFICAS DE LAS SESIONES PLENARIAS DEL CONSEJO**



TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE DES MATIERES  
FIRST PLENARY MEETING  
PREMIERE SEANCE PLENIERE  
PRIMERA SESION PLENARIA  
(5 November 1991)

INDICE

	<u>Page/página</u>
I. <u>INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION</u>	
I. <u>INTRODUCTION - QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE</u>	2
I. <u>INTRODUCCION - CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO</u>	
1. <u>Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable (CL 100/1; CL 100/INF/1-Rev.1)</u>	
1. <u>Adoption de l'ordre du jour et du calendrier (CL 100/1; CL 100/INF/1-Rev.1)</u>	2
1. <u>Aprobación del programa y el calendario (CL 100/1; CL 100/INF/1-Rev.1)</u>	
2. <u>Election of Three Vice-Chairmen, and Designation of the Chairman and Members of the Drafting Committee (CL 100/INF/9)</u>	
2. <u>Election de trois Vice-Présidents et nomination du Président et des membres du Comité de rédaction (CL 100/INF/9)</u>	7
2. <u>Elección de tres Vicepresidentes, y nombramiento del Presidente y de los miembros del Comité de Redacción (CL 100/INF/9)</u>	
IV. <u>CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS</u>	
IV. <u>QUESTIONS CONSTITUTIONNELLES ET JURIDIQUES</u>	10
IV. <u>ASUNTOS CONSTITUCIONALES Y JURIDICOS</u>	
18. <u>Other Constitutional and Legal Matters, including:</u>	
18. <u>Autres questions constitutionnelles et juridiques, notamment:</u>	10
18. <u>Otros asuntos constitucionales y jurídicos, en particular:</u>	
18.1 <u>Invitations to Non-Member Nations to Attend FAO Sessions (CL 100/INF/8)</u>	
18.1 <u>Invitations d'Etats non membres a des réunions de la FAO (CL 100/INF/8)</u>	10
18.1 <u>Invitaciones a Estados no miembros para que asistan a reuniones de la FAO (CL 100/INF/8)</u>	
II. <u>ACTIVITIES OF FAO</u>	
II. <u>ACTIVITES DE LA FAO</u>	11
II. <u>ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO</u>	
3. <u>Financial Position of the Organization (CL 100/4; CL 100/4-Corr.1; CL 100/LIM/1)</u>	
3. <u>Situation financière de l'Organisation (CL 100/4; CL 100/4-Corr.1; CL 100/LIM/1)</u>	11
3. <u>Situación financiera de la Organización (CL 100/4; CL 100/4-Corr.1; CL 100/LIM/1)</u>	

	<u>Page/página</u>
4. <u>Preparations for the 26th Session of the FAO Conference</u>	
4. <u>Préparatifs de la vingt-sixième session de la Conférence de la FAO</u>	26
4. <u>Preparativos para el 26° período de sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO</u>	
4.1 <u>Nomination of the Chairman of the Conference, and of the Chairmen of the Commissions of the Conference (Recommendations to the Conference) (C 91/12)</u>	
4.1 <u>Proposition de candidatures aux fonctions de Président de la Conférence et de Présidents des Commissions de la Conférence (Recommandations à la Conférence) (C 91/12)</u>	26
4.1 <u>Propuesta de candidaturas para la Presidencia de la Conferencia y de las Comisiones de la Conferencia (Recomendaciones a la Conferencia) (C 91/12)</u>	
4.2 <u>Election of the Nominations Committee (C 91/12)</u>	
4.2 <u>Election des membres de la Commission des candidatures (C 91/12)</u>	27
4.2 <u>Elección del Comité de Candidaturas (C 91/12)</u>	

SECOND PLENARY MEETING  
DEUXIEME SEANCE PLENIERE  
SEGUNDA SESION PLENARIA  
(5 November 1991)

<u>SPECIAL AWARDS PRESENTED BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL TO Dr BUSHLAND AND Dr KNIPLING. SCIENTISTS WHO DEVELOPED THE STERILE INSECT TECHNIQUE (SIT) PRESENTATION PAR LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL DES PRIX SPECIAUX DECERNES AU Dr. BUSHLAND ET AU Dr. KNIPLING. POUR LA MISE AU POINT DE LA TECHNIQUE DE L'INSECTE STERILE (TIS) ENTREGA POR EL DIRECTOR GENERAL DE PREMIOS ESPECIALES A LOS Dres. BUSHLAND Y KNIPLING. CIENTIFICOS QUE HAN PUESTO A PUNTO LA TECNICA DE LOS INSECTOS ESTERILES (TIE)</u>	30
I. <u>INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION (continued)</u>	
I. <u>INTRODUCTION - QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE (suite)</u>	35
I. <u>INTRODUCCION - CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO (continuación)</u>	

	<u>Page/página</u>
2. <u>Election of Three Vice-Chairmen, and Designation of the Chairman and Members of the Drafting Committee</u> (continued) (CL 100/INF/9)	
2. <u>Election de trois Vice-Présidents et nomination du Président et des membres du Comité de rédaction</u> (suite) (CL 100/INF/9)	35
2. <u>Elección de tres Vicepresidentes, y nombramiento del Presidente y de los miembros del Comité de redacción</u> (continuación) (CL 100 INF/9)	
II. <u>ACTIVITIES OF FAO</u> (continued)	
II. <u>ACTIVITES DE LA FAO</u> (suite)	36
II. <u>ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO</u> (continuación)	
4. <u>Preparations for the 26th Session of the FAO Conference</u> (continued)	
4. <u>Préparatifs de la vingt-sixième session de la Conférence de la FAO</u> (suite)	36
4. <u>Preparativos para el 26° periodo de sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO</u> (continuación)	
4.1 <u>Nomination of the Chairman of the Conference, and of the Chairmen of the Commissions of the Conference (Recommendations to the Conference)</u> (C 91/12)	
4.1 <u>Proposition de candidatures aux fonctions de Président de la Conférence et de Présidents des Commissions de la Conférence (Recommandations à la Conférence)</u> (C 91/12)	37
4.1 <u>Propuesta de candidaturas para la Presidencia de la Conferencia y de las Comisiones de la Conferencia (Recomendaciones a la Conferencia)</u> (C 91/12)	
4.2 <u>Election of the Nominations Committee</u> (continued)	
4.2 <u>Election des membres de la Commission des candidatures</u> (suite)	37
4.2 <u>Elección del Comité de Candidaturas</u> (continuación)	
III. <u>PROGRAMME. BUDGETARY. FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS</u>	
III. <u>QUESTIONS CONCERNANT LE PROGRAMME. LE BUDGET. LES FINANCES ET L'ADMINISTRATION</u>	38
III. <u>ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS. FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS</u>	
9. <u>Review of the Regular Programme 1990-91: for discussion</u> (C 91/8; CL 100/4)	
9. <u>Examen du Programme ordinaire 1990-91: pour examen</u> (C 91/8; CL 100/4)	38
9. <u>Examen del Programa Ordinario. 1990-91: para debate</u> (C 91/8; CL 100/4)	

	<u>Page/página</u>
10. <u>Medium-Term Plan 1992-97: for discussion</u> (C 91/23: CL 100/4)	
10. <u>Plan à moyen terme 1992-97: pour examen</u> (C 91/23: CL 100/4)	40
10. <u>Plan a plazo medio. 1992-97: para debate</u> (C 91/23: CL 100/4)	
11. <u>Programme of Work and Budget 1992-93: for discussion</u> (C 91/3; CL 100/4)	
11. <u>Programme de travail et budget 1992-93: pour examen</u> (C 91/3; CL 100/4)	45
11. <u>Programa de Labores v Presupuesto para 1992-93: para debate</u> (C 91/3; CL 100/4)	

THIRD PLENARY MEETING  
TROISIEME SEANCE PLENIERE  
TERCERA SESION PLENARIA  
(6 November 1991)

III. <u>PROGRAMME. BUDGETARY. FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS</u> (continued)	
III. <u>QUESTIONS CONCERNANT LE PROGRAMME. LE BUDGET. LES FINANCES ET L'ADMINISTRATION</u> (suite)	78
III. <u>ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS. FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS</u> (continuación)	
11. <u>Programme of Work and Budget 1992-93</u> (C 91/3; C 91/3-Sup.1; CL 100/4; CL 100/4-Corr.1) (continued)	
11. <u>Programme de travail et budget 1992-93</u> (C 91/3; C 91/3 - Sup.1; CL 100/4; CL 100/4-Corr.1) (suite)	78
11. <u>Programa de Labores v Presupuesto para 1992-93</u> (C 91/3; C 91/3 - Sup.1; CL 100/4; CL 100/4-Corr.1) (continuación)	
II. <u>ACTIVITIES OF FAO</u> (continued)	
II. <u>ACTIVITES DE LA FAO</u> (suite)	88
II. <u>ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO</u> (continuación)	
4. <u>Preparations for the 26th Session of the FAO Conference</u> (continued)	
4. <u>Préparatifs de la vingt-sixième session de la Conférence de la FAO</u> (suite)	88
4. <u>Preparativos para el 26° periodo de sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO</u> (continuación)	
4.1 <u>Nomination of the Chairman of the Conference, and of the Chairmen of the Commissions of the Conference (Recommendations to the Conference)</u> (continued) (C 91/12)	
4.1 <u>Proposition de candidatures aux fonctions de Président de la Conférence et de Présidents des Commissions de la Conférence (Recommandations à la Conférence)</u> (C 91/12) (suite)	88
4.1 <u>Propuesta de candidaturas para la Presidencia de la Conferencia v de las Comisiones de la Conferencia (Recomendaciones a la Conferencia)</u> (continuación) (C 91/12)	

III.	<u>PROGRAMME. BUDGETARY. FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS</u> (continued)	
III.	<u>QUESTIONS CONCERNANT LE PROGRAMME. LE BUDGET ET L'ADMINISTRATION</u> (suite)	89
III.	<u>ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS. FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS</u> (continuación)	
15.	<u>Reports of the 63rd Session of the Programme Committee and the 72nd Session of the Finance Committee, including: (CL 100/4; CL 100/4-Corr.1)</u>	
15.	<u>Rapports de la soixante-troisième session du Comité du Programme et de la soixante-douzième session du Comité financier, notamment: (CL 100/4; CL 100/4-Corr.1)</u>	90
15.	<u>Informes del 63° periodo de sesiones del Comité del Programa y del 72° periodo de sesiones del Comité de Finanzas, en particular: (CL 100/4; CL 100/4-Corr.1)</u>	
15.1	<u>Appointment of the External Auditor</u>	
15.1	<u>Nomination du Commissaire aux comptes</u>	90
15.1	<u>Nombramiento del Auditor Externo</u>	
15.2	<u>Other Financial Matters</u>	
15.2	<u>Autres questions financières</u>	90
15.2	<u>Otras cuestiones financieras</u>	
15.3	<u>Administration of the WFP Fund: Draft Conference Resolution</u>	
15.3	<u>Administration du Fonds du PAM: Projet de résolution de la Conférence</u>	90
15.3	<u>Administración del Fondo del PMA: proyecto de resolución para la Conferencia</u>	
15.4	<u>Personnel Matters</u>	
15.4	<u>Questions de personnel</u>	90
15.4	<u>Asuntos de personal</u>	
15.5	<u>Other Matters Arising out of the Reports</u>	
15.5	<u>Autres questions découlant des rapports</u>	90
15.5	<u>Otras cuestiones derivadas de los informes</u>	
IV.	<u>CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS</u> (continued)	
IV.	<u>QUESTIONS CONSTITUTIONNELLES ET JURIDIQUES</u> (suite)	110
IV.	<u>ASUNTOS CONSTITUCIONALES Y JURIDICOS</u> (continuación)	
17.	<u>Report of the 57th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CL 100/5; CL 100/5-Corr.1)</u>	
17.	<u>Rapport de la cinquante-septième session du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques (CL 100/5; CL 100/5-Corr.1)</u>	110
17.	<u>Informe del 57° periodo de sesiones del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos (CL 100/5; CL 100/5-Corr.1)</u>	

FOURTH PLENARY MEETING  
QUATRIEME SEANCE PLENIERE  
CUARTA SESION PLENARIA  
(6 November 1991)

	<u>Page/página</u>
II. <u>ACTIVITIES OF FAO</u> (continued)	
II. <u>ACTIVITES DE LA FAO</u> (suite)	118
II. <u>ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO</u> (continuación)	
5. <u>Report of the 58th Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems</u> <u>(Rome. 15-19 July 1991) (CL 100/6)</u>	
5. <u>Rapport de la cinquante-huitième session du Comité des produits (Rome.</u> <u>15-19 juillet 1991) (CL 100/6)</u>	118
5. <u>Informe del 58° periodo de sesiones del Comité de Problemas de Productos</u> <u>Básicos (Roma. 15-19 de julio de 1991) (CL 100/6)</u>	
6. <u>Progress Report on Preparations for the ICN (C 91/27)</u>	
6. <u>Rapport intérimaire sur les préparatifs de la Conférence internationale sur la</u> <u>nutrition (CIN) (C 91/27)</u>	138
6. <u>Informe parcial sobre los preparativos de la CIN (C 91/27)</u>	
7. <u>Developments Regarding the TFAP (CL 100/2)</u>	
7. <u>Faits nouveaux concernant le Programme d'action pour les forêts tropicales</u> <u>(PAFT) (CL 100/2)</u>	146
7. <u>Novevades en relación con el PAFT (CL 100/2)</u>	

FIFTH PLENARY MEETING  
CINQUIEME SEANCE PLENIERE  
QUINTA SESION PLENARIA  
(7 November 1991)

IV. <u>CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS</u> (continued)	
IV. <u>QUESTIONS CONSTITUTIONNELLES ET JURIDIQUES</u> (suite)	184
IV. <u>ASUNTOS CONSTITUCIONALES Y JURIDICOS</u> (continuación)	
17. <u>Report of the 57th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal</u> <u>Matters (Rome. 21-23 October 1991). including: (continued)</u>	
17. <u>Rapport de la cinquante-septième session du Comité des questions</u> <u>constitutionnelles et juridiques (Rome. 21-23 octobre 1991). notamment:</u> <u>(suite)</u>	184
17. <u>Informe del 57° periodo de sesiones del Comité de Asuntos</u> <u>Constitucionales y Jurídicos (Roma. 21-23 de octubre de 1991). en</u> <u>particular: (continuación)</u>	



	<u>Page/página</u>
17.1 <u>Proposed Amendments to the Constitution and the General Rules of the Organization to Allow for a Form of Membership for Regional Economic Integration Organizations in FAO, including the Reports of the Committee Established Pursuant to the Decision of the 99th Session of the Council</u>	
17.1 <u>Propositions d'amendements à l'Acte constitutif et au Règlement général de l'Organisation visant à permettre l'adhésion à la FAO des organisations d'intégration économique régionale, notamment Rapports du Comité établi conformément à la décision prise par le Conseil à sa quatre-vingt-dix-neuvième session</u>	185
17.1 <u>Enmiendas propuestas a la Constitución y al Reglamento General de la Organización para permitir una forma de admisión, como miembros de la FAO, de las organizaciones regionales de integración económica, e inclusive el informe del Comité establecido conforme a la decisión adoptada por el Consejo en su 99º período de sesiones</u>	
II. <u>ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP (continued)</u>	
II. <u>ACTIVITES DU PAM ET DE LA FAO (suite)</u>	207
II. <u>ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y EL PMA (continuación)</u>	
7. <u>Developments Regarding the TFAP (continued)</u>	
7. <u>Faits nouveaux concernant le Programme d'action pour les forêts tropicales (PAFT) (suite)</u>	207
7. <u>Novedades en relación con el PAFT (continuación)</u>	
III. <u>PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (continued)</u>	
III. <u>QUESTIONS CONCERNANT LE PROGRAMME, LE BUDGET, LES FINANCES ET L'ADMINISTRATION (suite)</u>	221
III. <u>ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS (continuación)</u>	
12. <u>Review of Field Programmes 1990-91</u>	
12. <u>Examen des programmes de terrain 1990-91</u>	221
12. <u>Examen de los Programas de Campo, 1990-91</u>	
13. <u>Implementation of the Review of Certain Aspects of FAO's Goals and Operations</u>	
13. <u>Mise en oeuvre des conclusions de l'Examen de certains aspects des buts et opérations de la FAO</u>	223
13. <u>Aplicación del Examen de algunos aspectos de los objetivos y las operaciones de la FAO</u>	

	<u>Page/página</u>
II. <u>ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP (continued)</u>	
II. <u>ACTIVITES DU PAM ET DE LA FAO (suite)</u>	226
II. <u>ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y EL PMA (continuación)</u>	
8. <u>Progress Report on FAO's Contribution to the Preparations for UNCED</u>	
8. <u>Rapport intérimaire sur la contribution de la FAO aux préparatifs de la</u> <u>Conférence des Nations Unies sur l'environnement et le développement</u> <u>(CUNED)</u>	226
8. <u>Informe parcial sobre la contribución de la FAO a los preparativos para la</u> <u>CNUMAD</u>	
III. <u>PROGRAMME. BUDGETARY. FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE</u> <u>MATTERS (continued)</u>	
III. <u>QUESTIONS CONCERNANT LE PROGRAMME. LE BUDGET. LES</u> <u>FINANCES ET L'ADMINISTRATION (suite)</u>	228
III. <u>ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS.</u> <u>FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS (continuación)</u>	
16. <u>Second Report on Unscheduled and Cancelled Sessions in the 1990-91</u> <u>Biennium (CL 100/3)</u>	
16. <u>Deuxième rapport sur les réunions hors programme et les réunions annulées</u> <u>pendant l'exercice 1990-91 (CL 100/3)</u>	228
16. <u>Segundo informe sobre las reuniones no previstas y las reuniones canceladas</u> <u>en el bienio 1990-91 (CL 100/3)</u>	
IV. <u>CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS (continued)</u>	
IV. <u>QUESTIONS CONSTITUTIONNELLES ET JURIDIQUES (suite)</u>	229
IV. <u>ASUNTOS CONSTITUCIONALES Y JURIDICOS (continuación)</u>	
18. <u>Other Constitutional and Legal Matters, including</u>	
18. <u>Autres questions constitutionnelles et juridiques, notamment</u>	229
18. <u>Otros asuntos constitucionales y jurídicos, en particular</u>	
18.2 <u>Invitations to International Non-Governmental Organizations which do not</u> <u>have Status with FAO</u>	
18.2 <u>Invitation d'organisations internationales non gouvernementales n'ayant pas</u> <u>de statut officiel auprès de la FAO</u>	229
18.2 <u>Invitaciones a organizaciones internacionales no gubernamentales que no</u> <u>mantienen relaciones oficiales con la FAO</u>	
18.3 <u>Latin American Forestry Commission: Change of Title</u>	
18.3 <u>Changement du titre de la Commission des forêts pour l'Amérique latine</u>	229
18.3 <u>Comisión Forestal Latinoamericana: cambio de nombre</u>	

	<u>Page/página</u>
V. <u>OTHER MATTERS</u>	
V. <u>AUTRES QUESTIONS</u>	230
V. <u>OTROS ASUNTOS</u>	
19. <u>Any Other Business</u>	
19. <u>Autres questions</u>	230
19. <u>Otros asuntos</u>	
20. <u>Date and Place of the 101st Session of the Council</u>	
20. <u>Date et lieu de la cent unième session du Conseil</u>	230
20. <u>Fecha v lugar de celebración del 101º período de sesiones del Consejo</u>	

SIXTH PLENARY MEETING  
SIXIEME SEANCE PLENIERE  
SEXTA SESION PLENARIA  
(8 November 1991)

ADOPTION OF REPORT

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT	234
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APROBACION DEL INFORME

DRAFT REPORT - PART I (CL 100/REP/I: CL 100/REP/1-Corr.1)

<u>PROJET DE RAPPORT - PREMIERE PARTIE</u> (CL 100/REP/1: CL 100/REP/1-Corr.1)	234
--	-----

PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE I (CL 100/REP/1: CL 100/REP/1-Corr.1)

- <u>Introduction</u> (para 1)	
- <u>Introduction</u> (par. 1)	234
- <u>Introducción</u> (párr. 1)	
1. 1. <u>Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable</u> (para 2)	
1. 1. <u>Adoption de l'ordre du jour et du calendrier</u> (par. 2)	234
1. 1. <u>Aprobación del programa v el calendario</u> (párr. 2)	
2. 2. <u>Election of Three Vice-Chairmen and Designation of the Chairman and Members of the Drafting Committee</u> (paras 3-4)	
2. 2. <u>Election de trois Vice-Présidents et nomination du Président et des membres du Comité de rédaction</u> (par. 3-4)	234
2. 2. <u>Elección de tres Vicepresidentes, v nombramiento del Presidente v de los miembros del Comité de Redacción</u> (párrs. 3-4)	

	<u>Page/página</u>
4. <u>Preparations for the 26th Session of the FAO Conference</u> (paras 5-6)	
4. <u>Préparation de la vingt-sixième session de la Conférence de la FAO</u> (par. 5-6)	234
4. <u>Preparativos para el 26° periodo de sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO</u> (párrs. 5-6)	
4.1 <u>Nominations of the Chairman of the Conference and of the Commissions of the Conference</u> (para 5)	
4.1 <u>Propositions de candidatures aux fonctions de Président de la Conférence et de Présidents des Commissions de la Conférence</u> (par. 5)	234
4.1 <u>Propuesta de candidaturas para la Presidencia de la Conferencia y de las Comisiones de la Conferencia</u> (párr. 5)	
4.2 <u>Election of the Nominations Committee</u> (para. 6)	
4.2 <u>Election des membres de la Commission des candidatures</u> (par. 6)	234
4.2 <u>Elección del Comité de candidaturas</u> (párr. 6)	
9. <u>Review of the Regular Programme 1990-91</u> (paras 7-8)	
9. <u>Examen du Programme ordinaire 1990-91</u> (par. 7-8)	234
9. <u>Examen del Programa Ordinario. 1990-91</u> (párrs. 7-8)	
10. <u>Medium-Term Plan 1992-97</u> (paras 9-10)	
10. <u>Plan à moyen terme 1992-97</u> (par. 9-10)	234
10. <u>Plan a plazo medio. 1992-97</u> (párrs. 9-10)	
11. <u>Programme of Work and Budget 1992-93</u> (paras 11-20)	
11. <u>Programme de travail et budget 1992-93</u> (par. 11-20)	234
11. <u>Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1992-93</u> (párrs. 11-20)	
15. (part of) <u>Reports of the 63rd Session of the Programme Committee and the 72nd Session of the Finance Committee</u> (Rome, 16-26 September 1991) (paras 21-25)	
15. (partiel) <u>Rapports de la soixante-troisième session du Comité du Programme et de la soixante-douzième session du Comité financier</u> (Rome, 16-26 septembre 1991) (par. 21-25)	235
15. (parte) <u>Informes del 63° periodo de sesiones del Comité del Programa y del 72° periodo de sesiones del Comité de Finanzas</u> (Roma, 16-26 de septiembre de 1991) (párrs. 21-25)	
15.5 <u>Other Matters Arising out of the Reports</u> (paras 21-25)	
15.5 <u>Autres Questions découlant des rapports</u> (par. 21-25)	235
15.5 <u>Otras cuestiones derivadas de los informes</u> (párrs. 21-25)	

	<u>Page/página</u>
18. (part of) Other Constitutional and Legal Matters (para. 26)	
18. (partiel) <u>Autres questions constitutionnelles et juridiques</u> (par. 26)	235
18. (parte) <u>Otros asuntos constitucionales v jurídicos</u> (párr. 26)	
18.1 <u>Invitations to Non-Member Nations to Attend FAO Sessions</u> (para. 26)	
18.1 <u>Invitations d'Etats non membres à des réunions de la FAO</u> (par. 26)	235
18.1 <u>Invitaciones a Estados no miembros para que asistan a reuniones de la FAO</u> (párr. 26)	
<u>DRAFT REPORT - PART II (CL 100/REP/2)</u>	
<u>PROJET DE RAPPORT - DEUXIEME PARTIE (CL 100/REP/2)</u>	237
<u>PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE II (CL 100/REP/2)</u>	
3. <u>Financial Position of the Organization - Collection of Assessed Contributions -Outstanding and in Arrears</u> (paras 1-13)	
3. <u>Situation financière de l'Organisation - Recouvrement des contributions courantes et arriérés de contributions</u> (par. 1-13)	237
3. <u>Situación financiera de la Organización - Recaudación de las cuotas - Pendientes v atrasadas</u> (párrs. 1-13)	
(a) <u>Status of Contributions to the Budget</u> (paras 1-2)	
(a) <u>Situation des contributions au budget</u> (par. 1-2)	237
(a) <u>Estado de las contribuciones al Presupuesto</u> (párrs. 1-2)	
(b) <u>Current Assessments</u> (paras 3-6)	
(b) <u>Contributions courantes</u> (par. 3-6)	237
(b) <u>Cuotas corrientes</u> (párrs. 3-6)	
(c) <u>Contributions in Arrears</u> (paras 7-9)	
(c) <u>Arriérés de contributions</u> (par. 7-9)	237
(c) <u>Cuotas atrasadas</u> (párrs. 7-9)	
(d) <u>Replenishment of the Special Reserve Account and Advances to the Working Capital Fund</u> (para 10)	
(d) <u>Reconstitution du Compte de réserve spécial et avances au Fonds de roulement</u> (par. 10)	237
(d) <u>Reposición de la Cuenta Especial de Reserva v anticipos al Fondo de Operaciones</u> (párr. 10)	

	<u>Page/página</u>
(e) <u>Need for all Member Nations to Pay Contributions (including Appendix...) (paras 11-13)</u>	
(e) <u>Nécessité pour tous les Etats Membres de payer leur contribution (v compris Annexe...) (par. 11-13)</u>	237
(e) <u>Necesidad de que todos los Estados Miembros paguen sus cuotas (incluido el Apéndice...) (párrs. 11-13)</u>	
<u>DRAFT REPORT - PART III (CL 100/REP/3)</u>	
<u>PROJET DE RAPPORT - TROISIEME PARTIE (CL 100/REP/3)</u>	237
<u>PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE III (CL 100/REP/3)</u>	
5. <u>Report of the 58th Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems (Rome. 15-19 July 1991) (paras 1-11)</u>	
5. <u>Rapport de la cinquante-huitième session du Comité des produits (Rome. 15-19 juillet 1991) (par. 1-11)</u>	237
5. <u>Informe del 58° período de sesiones del Comité de Problemas de Productos Básicos (Roma. 15-19 de julio 1991) (párrs. 1-11)</u>	
6. <u>Progress Report on Preparations for the ICN (paras 12-14)</u>	
6. <u>Rapport intérimaire sur les préparatifs de la CIN (par. 12-14)</u>	239
6. <u>Informe parcial sobre los preparativos para la CIN (párrs. 12-14)</u>	
<u>DRAFT REPORT - PART IV (CL 100/REP/4)</u>	
<u>PROJET DE RAPPORT - QUATRIEME PARTIE (CL 100/REP/4)</u>	239
<u>PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE IV (CL 100/REP/4)</u>	
15. <u>(part of) Reports of the 63rd Session of the Programme Committee and the 72nd Session of the Finance Committee (paras 1-22)</u>	
15. <u>(partiel) Rapports de la soixante-troisième session du Comité du Programme et de la soixante-douzième session du Comité financier (par. 1-22)</u>	239
15. <u>(parte) Informes del 63° período de sesiones del Comité del Programa y del 72° período de sesiones del Comité de Finanzas (párrs. 1-22)</u>	
15.1 <u>Appointment of the External Auditor (including Resolution.../100) (paras 1-4)</u>	
15.1 <u>Nomination du Commissaire aux comptes (v compris la Résolution.../100) (par. 1-4)</u>	239
15.1 <u>Nombramiento del Auditor Externo (inclusive Resolución.../100) (párrs. 1-4)</u>	

	<u>Page/página</u>
15.3 <u>Administration of the WFP Fund: Draft Conference Resolution</u> (paras 5-6)	
15.3 <u>Administration du Fonds du PAM: Projet de Résolution de la Conférence</u> (par. 5-6)	240
15.3 <u>Administración del Fondo del PMA: Proyecto de resolución para la</u> <u>Conferencia</u> (párrs. 5-6)	
15.4 <u>Personnel Matters</u> (paras 7-18)	
15.4 <u>Questions de personnel</u> (par. 7-18)	240
15.4 <u>Asuntos de personal</u> (párrs. 7-18)	
<u>Changes in Salary Scales and Allowances</u> (paras 7-8) <u>Modifications du</u> <u>barème des traitements et indemnités</u> (par. 7-8)	240
<u>Variaciones en las escalas de sueldos v en los subsidios</u> (párrs. 7-8)	
- <u>Professional and Higher Categories: Post Adjustment</u> (para 7)	
- <u>Fonctionnaire du cadre organique et des catégories supérieures:</u> <u>Ajustement de poste</u> (par. 7)	240
- <u>Categorías profesional v superior: Ajuste por lugar de destino</u> (párr. 7)	
- <u>General Service Staff at Headquarters</u> (para 8)	
- <u>Personnel des services généraux au Siège</u> (par. 8)	240
- <u>Personal de Servicios Generales en la Sede</u> (párr. 8)	
<u>Statistics of Personnel Services</u> (para 9)	
<u>Statistiques relatives au personnel</u> (par. 9)	240
<u>Estadísticas de Servicios Generales en la Sede</u> (párr. 9)	
<u>Recent Developments in the Activities of the International Civil Service</u> <u>Commission (ICSC) and the UN Joint Staff Pension Board</u> (paras 10-12)	
<u>Faits nouveaux résultant des activités de la Commission de la fonction</u> <u>publique internationale (CFPI) et du Comité mixte de la Caisse commune</u> <u>des pensions du personnel des Nations Unies</u> (par. 10-12)	240
<u>Novedades en las actividades de la Comisión de Administración Pública</u> <u>Internacional (CAPI) v del Comité Mixto de Pensiones del Personal de las</u> <u>Naciones Unidas</u> (párrs. 10-12)	
- <u>International Civil Service Commission</u> (paras 10-12)	
- <u>Commission de la fonction publique internationale</u> (par. 10-12)	240
- <u>Comisión de Administración Pública Internacional</u> (párrs. 10-12)	

	<u>Page/página</u>
<u>UN Joint Staff Pension Board</u> (paras 13-18)	
<u>Comité mixte de la Caisse commune des pensions du personnel des Nations Unies</u> (par. 13-18)	240
<u>Comité Mixto de Pensiones del Personal de las Naciones Unidas</u> (párrs. 13-18)	
- <u>Modifications to the Pension Adjustment System</u> (paras 14-17)	
- <u>Modifications du système d'ajustement des pensions</u> (par. 14-17)	240
- <u>Modificaciones del sistema de ajuste de las pensiones</u> (párrs. 14-17)	
- <u>Comprehensive Review of the Pensionable Remuneration of General Service Staff</u> (para. 18)	
- <u>Révision de la rémunération considérée aux fins de la pension des agents des services généraux</u> (par. 18)	240
- <u>Examen general de la remuneración pensionable del personal de servicios generales</u> (párr. 18)	
15.5 (part of) <u>Other Matters Arising out of the Reports</u> (paras 19-22)	
15.5 (partiel) <u>Autres questions découlant des rapports</u> (par. 19-22)	240
15.5 (parte) <u>Otras cuestiones derivadas de los informes</u> (párrs. 19-22)	
- <u>Staff Facilities</u> (paras 19-20)	
- <u>Installations et services destinés au personnel</u> (par. 19-20)	240
- <u>Servicios para el personal</u> (párrs. 19-20)	
- <u>Headquarters Accommodation</u> (paras 21-22)	
- <u>Locaux du Siège</u> (par. 21-22)	240
- <u>Locales de oficina en la Sede</u> (párrs. 21-22)	
<u>DRAFT REPORT - PART V (CL 100/REP/5)</u>	
<u>PROJET DE RAPPORT - CINQUIEME PARTIE (CL 100/REP/5)</u>	242
<u>PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE V (CL 100/REP/5)</u>	
8. <u>Progress Report on FAO's Contribution to the Preparations for UNCED</u> (paras 1-2)	
8. <u>Rapport intérimaire sur la contribution de la FAO aux préparatifs de la Conférence des Nations Unies sur l'environnement et le développement (CNUED)</u> (par. 1-2)	242
8. <u>Informe parcial sobre la contribución de la FAO a los preparativos de la CNUMAD</u> (párrs. 1-2)	



	<u>Page/página</u>
12. <u>Review of Field Programmes 1990-91</u> (paras 3-6)	
12. <u>Examen des programmes de terrain 1990-91</u> (par. 3-6)	242
12. <u>Examen de los programas de campo. 1990-91</u> (párrs. 3-6)	
13. <u>Implementation of the Review of Certain Aspects of FAO's Goal and Operations</u> (paras 7-8)	
13. <u>Mise en oeuvre des conclusions de l'Examen de certains aspects des buts et opérations de la FAO</u> (par. 7-8)	242
13. <u>Aplicación del Examen de algunos aspectos de los objetivos y las operaciones de la FAO</u> (párrs. 7-8)	
16. <u>Second Report on Unscheduled and Cancelled Sessions in the 1990-91 biennium</u> (paras 9-10)	
16. <u>Deuxième rapport sur les réunions hors programme et les réunions annulées pendant l'exercice 1990-91</u> (par. 9-10)	242
16. <u>Segundo informe sobre las reuniones no previstas y las reuniones canceladas en el bienio 1990-91</u> (párrs. 9-10)	
18. (part of) <u>Other Constitutional and Legal Matters</u> (para. 11)	
18. (partiel) <u>Autres questions constitutionnelles et juridiques</u> (par. 11)	242
18. (parte) <u>Otros asuntos constitucionales y jurídicos</u> (párr. 11)	
18.2 <u>Invitations to International Non-Governmental Organizations which do not have status with FAO</u> (para. 11)	
18.2 <u>Invitation d'organisations internationales non gouvernementales n'ayant pas de statut officiel auprès de la FAO</u> (par. 11)	242
18.2 <u>Invitaciones a organizaciones internacionales no gubernamentales que mantienen relaciones oficiales con la FAO</u> (párr. 11)	
20. <u>Date and Place of the Hundred-and-First Session of the Council</u> (para. 12)	
20. <u>Date et lieu de la cent unième session du Conseil</u> (par. 12)	242
20. <u>Fecha y lugar del 101º período de sesiones del Consejo</u> (párr. 12)	
<u>DRAFT REPORT - PART VI (CL 100/REP/6)</u>	
<u>PROJET DE RAPPORT - SIXIEME PARTIE (CL 100/REP/6)</u>	242
<u>PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE VI (CL 100/REP/6)</u>	
15. (part of) <u>Reports of the 63rd Session of the Programme Committee and the 72nd Session of the Finance Committee</u> (paras 1-17)	
15. (partiel) <u>Rapports de la soixante-troisième session du Comité du Programme et de la soixante-douzième session du Comité financier</u> (par. 1-17)	242
15. (parte) <u>Informes del 63º período de sesiones del Comité del Programa y del 72º período del Comité de Finanzas</u> (párrs. 1-17)	

	<u>Page/página</u>
15.2 <u>Other Financial Matters</u> (paras 1-17)	
15.2 <u>Autres questions financières</u> (par. 1-17)	242
15.2 <u>Otras cuestiones financieras</u> (párrs. 1-17)	
- <u>Measures to be Considered to Encourage Prompt Payment of Contributions</u> (paras 1-2)	
- <u>Mesures à envisager pour inciter au paiement rapide des contributions</u> (par. 1-2)	242
- <u>Medidas que han de examinarse para estimular el pago puntual de las cuotas</u> (párrs. 1-2)	
- <u>Increase in Level of the Working Capital Fund (including Resolution.../100)</u> (paras 3-9)	
- <u>Augmentation du montant du Fonds de roulement (v compris Résolution.../100)</u> (par. 3-9)	242
- <u>Incremento de la cuantía del Fondo de Operaciones (con inclusión de la Resolución.../100)</u> (párrs. 3-9)	
- <u>Replenishment of the Special Reserve Account for 1992-93 (including Resolution.../100)</u> (paras 10-16)	
- <u>Reconstitution du Compte de réserve spécial pour 1992-93 (v compris Résolution.../100)</u> (par. 10-16)	242
- <u>Reposición de la Cuenta Especial de Reserva para 1992-93 (con inclusión de la Resolución.../100)</u> (párrs. 10-16)	
- <u>Commissary Account - 1988-89</u> (para. 17)	
- <u>Compte du Groupement d'achats du personnel - 1988-89</u> (par. 17)	242
- <u>Cuenta del Economato - 1988-89</u> (párr. 17)	
- <u>Authorized Transfers to Reserves (including Resolution.../100)</u> (para. 17)	
- <u>Transferts autorisés aux réserves (v compris Résolution.../100)</u> (par. 17)	242
- <u>Transferencias autorizadas a las reservas (con inclusión de la Resolución.../100)</u> (párr. 17)	
<u>DRAFT REPORT - PART VII</u> (CL 100/REP/7)	
<u>PROJET DE RAPPORT - SEPTIEME PARTIE</u> (CL 100/REP/7)	242
<u>PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE VII</u> (CL 100/REP/7)	
17. (part of) <u>Report of the 57th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (Rome. 21-23 October 1991)</u> (paras 1-2)	
17. (partiel) <u>Rapport de la cinquante-septième session du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques (Rome. 21-23 octobre 1991)</u> (par. 1-2)	243
17. (parte) <u>Informe del 57º periodo de sesiones del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales v Jurídicos (Roma. 21-23 de octubre de 1991)</u> (párrs. 1-2)	

	<u>Page/página</u>
17.2 <u>Revision of Conference Resolution No. 46/57 and the Appendix thereto (Section R. Volume II of the Basic Texts) (including Appendix...) (paras 3-13)</u>	
17.2 <u>Révision de la Résolution 46/57 de la Conférence et de son annexe (section R. Vol. II des Textes fondamentaux) (v compris l'Annexe...) (par. 3-13)</u>	243
17.2 <u>Revision de la Resolución 46/57 de la Conferencia v del Apéndice de la misma (Sección R del Volumen II de los Textos Fundamentales) (con inclusión del Apéndice...) (párrs. 3-13)</u>	
- <u>Draft Conference Resolutions concerning financial matters (para. 8)</u>	
- <u>Projets de résolutions de la Conférence concernant les questions financières (par. 8)</u>	243
- <u>Proyectos de resoluciones de la Conferencia sobre asuntos financieros (párr. 8)</u>	
- <u>Amendments to the General Rules of the Organization regarding the Programme Budget Process (para 9)</u>	
- <u>Amendements au Règlement général de l'Organisation concernant la procédure du budget-programme (par. 9)</u>	243
- <u>Enmiendas al Reglamento General de la Organización con respecto al proceso de presupuestación por programas (párr. 9)</u>	
- <u>Observations on the Terms of Reference of the CCLM (paras 10-13)</u>	
- <u>Observations concernant le mandat du CQCJ (par. 10-13)</u>	243
- <u>Observaciones sobre el mandato del CACJ (párrs. 10-13)</u>	
<u>DRAFT REPORT - PART VIII (CL 100/REP/8)</u>	
<u>PROJET DE RAPPORT - HUITIEME PARTIE (CL 100/REP/8)</u>	243
<u>PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE VIII (CL 100/REP/8)</u>	
17. (part of) <u>Report of the 57th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (Rome. 2-4 October 1991) (paras 1-9)</u>	
17. (partiel) <u>Rapport de la cinquante-septième session du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques (Rome, 2-4 octobre 1991) (par. 1-9)</u>	244
17. (parte) <u>Informe del 57º periodo de sesiones del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales v Jurídicos (Roma. 2-4 de octubre de 1991) (párrs. 1-9)</u>	

17.1	<u>Proposed Amendments to Constitution and GRO to Allow for a Form of Membership for REIOS in FAO. including Report of the Committee Established Pursuant to the Decision of the 99th Session of the Council (including Appendix...)</u> (paras 1-9)	
17.1	<u>Propositions d'amendements à l'Acte constitutif et au Règlement général de l'Organisation visant à permettre l'adhésion à la FAO des organisations d'intégration économique régionale, notamment rapport établi par le Comité conformément à la décision prise par le Conseil à sa quatre-vingt-dix-neuvième session (v compris Annexe...)</u> (par. 1-9)	244
17.1	<u>Enmiendas propuestas a la Constitución v al Reglamento General de la Organización para permitir una forma de admisión como miembros de la FAO de las Organizaciones Regionales de Integración Económica, inclusive el informe del Comité establecido conforme a la decisión adoptada por el Consejo en su 99° período de sesiones (con inclusión del Apéndice...)</u> (párrs. 1-9)	
	DRAFT REPORT - PART IX (CL 100/REP/9)	
	PROJET DE RAPPORT - NEUVIEME PARTIE (CL 100/REP/9)	246
	PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE IX (CL 100/REP/9)	
7.	<u>Developments regarding the TFAP</u> (paras 1-8)	
7.	<u>Faits nouveaux concernant le PAFT</u> (par. 1-8)	246
7.	<u>Novedades en relación con el PABT</u> (párrs. 1-8)	
18.	(part of) <u>Other Constitutional and Legal Matters</u> (paras 9-10)	
18.	(partiel) <u>Autres questions constitutionnelles et juridiques</u> (par. 9-10)	250
18.	(parte) <u>Otros asuntos constitucionales v jurídicos</u> (párrs. 9-10)	
18.3	<u>Change of title of the Latin American Forestry Commission (including Resolution.../100)</u> (paras 9-10)	
18.3	<u>Changements du titre de la Commission des forêts pour l'Amérique latine (v compris Résolution.../100)</u> (par. 9-10)	250
18.3	<u>Comisión Forestal Latinoamericana: Cambio de nombre (con inclusión de la Resolución.../100)</u> (párrs. 9-10)	

## **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 100/PV/1

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**Hundredth Session**

**Centième session**

**100º período de sesiones**

FIRST PLENARY MEETING  
PREMIERE SEANCE PLENIERE  
PRIMERA SESION PLENARIA  
(5 November 1991)

The First Plenary Meeting was opened at 10.15 hours

Mr Antoine Saintraint. Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La première séance plèntere est ouverte à 10 h 15

sous la présidence de M. Antoine Saintraint. Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la primera sesión plenaria a las 10.15 horas

bajo la presidencia del Sr. Antoine Saintraint. 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, Messieurs, c'est pour moi un grand plaisir et un grand honneur de vous souhaiter la bienvenue en déclarant ouverte la centième session du Conseil. Je désire également, en mon nom personnel et en votre nom à tous, souhaiter la bienvenue aux ministres qui se trouvent parmi nous. Je me félicite à l'avance à la perspective d'un Conseil fructueux et utile, à la veille de la vingt-sixième session de la Conférence générale.

La centième session du Conseil a un ordre du jour particulièrement chargé, particulièrement important, et sa durée est particulièrement brève; ce qui veut dire que nous serons appelés à travailler vite et bien et à nous prononcer de manière claire et précise sur les propositions que le Conseil devra faire à la Conférence.

Le chiffre "cent" n'est pas un chiffre symbolique mais il montre à la fois l'ancienneté et la pérennité du Conseil; et je crois qu'au cours de ses cent sessions, celui-ci a joué un rôle important dans la vie de l'Organisation.

1. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable

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

1. Aprobación del programa y el calendario

**LE PRESIDENT:** Si vous le permettez, nous allons passer directement au premier point de l'ordre du jour, qui concerne l'adoption de l'ordre du jour et du calendrier provisoires. Avant de donner la parole à l'Ambassadeur de Colombie, je voudrais signaler que l'ordre du jour provisoire annoté est contenu dans le document CL 100/1 et que le calendrier provisoire est contenu dans le document CL 100/INF/1-Rev.1.

**Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia):** Señor Presidente, acaba usted de afirmar, con razón, que tenemos una agenda recargada de temas, para un periodo breve. Por ello, los representantes de Colombia proponemos que se supriman los siguientes tres temas: tema 9, Examen del Programa Ordinario; tema 10, Plan a plazo medio; y tema 12, Examen de los Programas de Campo. Son documentos interesantes y voluminosos, de los cuales pasaremos a ocuparnos la semana próxima, en la Comisión II, y creemos que no tendría sentido dedicarles tiempo aquí, sobre todo porque dispondremos de tres días y esta tarde tendremos una ceremonia.

En circunstancias semejantes podrían estar los temas 11, Programa de Labores y Presupuesto, y 13, Aplicación del Examen de algunos aspectos de los objetivos y las operaciones de la FAO, pero estos dos documentos seguramente merecerán algunas consideraciones de los miembros del Consejo, sobre todo a la luz de los informes de los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas. Por ello pensamos que no deberían suprimirse los dos últimos temas citados.

Somos conscientes de que los temas 9, 10 y 12 fueron considerados por los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas en sus últimas reuniones de septiembre pasado; y si, como lo proponemos, esos temas no serán discutidos en este Consejo, convendría tal vez que la Conferencia se beneficiara de las opiniones de esos importantes Comités, para lo cual posiblemente la Secretaría podría preparar un breve documento, un LIM, que fuese distribuido en la Comisión II, al discutirse los temas en referencia.

En resumen, proponemos que se supriman los temas 9, 10 y 12.

**Mohammad Saleem KHAN (Pakistan):** The Pakistan delegation is extremely pleased to be once again working under your guidance, Mr Chairman, through the next few days to examine the extensive and important agenda and to work out proposals for the consideration of the forthcoming Conference.

Firstly, my delegation would like to associate itself with the proposal made by Colombia on Agenda items 9, 10 and 12. In order to optimize on the time available it might be worth considering.

Secondly, I now speak on behalf of the Member Nations of the Asian Region. The Asian region has, along with some other regions, a problem on the geographical distribution of seats on the Programme and Finance Committees.

In pursuance of Conference Resolution 11/87 and the follow-up decisions at the Twenty-fifth Session of the FAO Conference, in the regional groups we are working to try and reach an agreement. There are certain difficulties, but we feel that we might be able to achieve something. We would like to have an opportunity to discuss this issue and present our recommendations in this regard to the Council under "Other Constitutional and Legal Matters".

Therefore, we propose for inclusion an agenda item on "Procedures for Elections to the Programme and Finance Committees of the FAO".

**Duane ACKER (United States of America):** Mr Chairman, we endorse and support the intervention by the delegation from Colombia regarding the suggested delay in Agenda Items 9, 10 and 12.

We would also suggest that Item 14 might well be delayed for consideration in the Conference.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Les points 9, 10, 12 et 14 ont été longuement examinés par le Comité financier et le Comité du Programme, et également dans leur session conjointe, mais ces Comités en réfèrent au Conseil et n'en réfèrent pas directement à la Conférence. L'honorable Ambassadeur de la Colombie sait que le Comité financier et le Comité du Programme sont des comités subsidiaires du Conseil.

Dès lors, je vous proposerai une autodiscipline à laquelle je veillerai, de façon à ce qu'un résumé soit donné des débats qui ont eu lieu dans le Comité financier et le Comité du Programme ainsi que dans les comités conjoints, de façon à ce que votre Conseil soit au courant de ce qui s'est passé. Il y a d'ailleurs un excellent document qui vous est soumis. Il ne

tient qu'au Conseil de raccourcir au maximum les délibérations. Mais passer directement des comités à la Conférence sans que le Conseil ait eu l'occasion d'exprimer éventuellement son point de vue, pour compléter les informations qui sont données dans le document qui nous est soumis, serait peut-être modifier quelque peu le rôle du Conseil.

Nous sommes saisis de deux propositions. La première proposition consiste à supprimer l'examen des points 9, 10, 12 et 14. Je vous proposerai une autodiscipline de façon à examiner ces points rapidement.

Une autre proposition a été faite par le Pakistan d'ajouter un point 18.4 concernant l'organisation de l'élection au Comité financier et au Comité du Programme. Sur ce point je demanderai au Conseiller juridique de nous faire connaître son avis.

**LEGAL COUNSEL:** Mr Chairman, the proposal is to add another agenda item or sub-item to the Agenda of the Council during the Session.

The relevant rule on this matter is Rule XXV 7(c), which indicates: "During any Session, the Council may, by a vote concurred in by at least two thirds of the membership of the Council, add to the agenda any item proposed by a Member of the Council."

I would draw your attention to the fact that a two thirds majority vote would be required in order to add this item to the Agenda.

I should also draw your attention to Rule XII 7(a) of the General Rules of the Organization, which states that "a vote by roll call should be taken either upon request of a delegate or representative, or if a majority of two thirds is required by the Constitution or these Rules", which means that a majority vote of two thirds will be required and a roll call vote.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Il faut savoir sur quoi on va discuter. Il faut essayer de régler cette proposition de manière opérationnelle. Après avoir entendu le représentant de l'Inde, je vous ferai une proposition.

Que ceux qui désirent intervenir, veuillez bien lever leur pancarte.

**Vishnu BHAGWAN (India):** I would like to support the proposal made by my friend from Pakistan to include this item in the Agenda. Mr Moore has already indicated the procedure.

I would request you to include this in the Agenda, and once this agenda is sorted out I think my friend, Saleem Khan, can indicate exactly the proposal that he has in mind.

**Michael KIMA TABONG (Cameroon):** Mr Chairman, first of all, the Cameroon delegation again feels it an honour to be here to work under your Chairmanship.



We have listened to our colleague, the delegate of Pakistan. On behalf of the African Group I would like to express our view on the proposal made, and to say that we at this stage will oppose the inclusion of this particular point for discussion by the Council.

**Joseph TCHIKAYA (Congo):** Je voudrais avant tout me féliciter d'être à nouveau parmi vous et surtout, M. le Président, de travailler sous votre présidence.

Je voudrais également dire que la délégation de mon pays s'associe aux propositions faites par l'Ambassadeur de Colombie pour la suppression de certains points sur lesquels nous aurons à revenir longuement au cours de la Conférence.

S'agissant de la proposition faite par le Pakistan au nom du Groupe Asie, proposition appuyée par l'Inde, je crois que le Président du Groupe africain a déjà exprimé la position de notre groupe sur cette question. Il ne s'agit pas là d'une question de principe. Nous pensons que cette question a déjà fait l'objet de discussions au sein de ce Conseil dans le passé, et vous en connaissez les résultats.

C'est pour cette raison que je ne souhaite pas que nous puissions rouvrir le débat sur cette question. Je lance un appel à nos amis d'Asie pour qu'ils puissent retirer cette proposition étant entendu que l'Asie, l'Afrique, l'Amérique latine, le Proche-Orient font partie du Groupe des 77, et je pense que toutes les questions doivent être réglées au sein de ce groupe.

**Waleed A. ELKHEREIJI** (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (Original language Arabic):

Mr Chairman, I should like to tell you how delighted we are to see you at the helm of this Council Session at this very important stage in its life.

As Chairman of the Near East Group I have had an opportunity to hear the proposal just made by the Chairman of the Asian Group, and I also listened to the reply given by the African Group, particularly that given by the delegate of Congo.

We have had an opportunity to discuss this question within the Group of 77, and we are still discussing that question with them.

If you wish to continue discussions without reaching a consensus, then we could give our approval to Pakistan's proposal. However, if we reach a solution within the Group of 77, this would be in the interest of all of us.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je vous remercie de votre suggestion. La proposition que vous faites est une proposition constructive et empreinte de sagesse. Je crois que les contacts entre les membres du Groupe des 77 devraient se poursuivre et que la question pourrait être soulevée lors de la Conférence. Si un consensus peut être dégagé, rien n'empêche le groupe de déposer une proposition de résolution qui serait examinée par la Commission III, de façon à entériner un accord qui n'est pas encore intervenu, nous l'avons entendu de manière claire.

Je ferai remarquer également qu'à ce stade une prise de position du Conseil me paraît prématurée, pour la simple raison que les membres du Conseil ne disposent pas de la documentation voulue pour leur permettre de se prononcer dans la clarté. Voter sur l'ajout d'un point à notre ordre du jour au sujet d'un document qui ne vous est pas soumis, dont vous n'avez pas connaissance, me paraît être du mauvais travail. Je crois que le mieux serait de reporter l'examen en souhaitant qu'un consensus puisse se dégager. Je crois que la Commission III pourrait se pencher sur la question. En ce qui concerne l'ordre du jour, je vous proposerai de fondre le point 14 et le point 12 qui se rapportent au même document. Le point 14 concerne les activités opérationnelles en faveur du développement et le point 12 concerne l'examen des programmes de terrain 1990-91. Ces deux points pourraient être fusionnés puisqu'ils se réfèrent au même document. Donc on pourrait facilement supprimer le point 14.

**Mohammed Saleem Khan (Pakistan):** I fully share what has been said by the Chairman of the Africa Group, but this matter was discussed following the elections after the 1985 Session of the FAO Conference when there were some problems within the group of countries belonging to the developed regions. It was again raised after the 1987 Conference when there was a problem between the group of countries belonging to the Group of 77. The matter was discussed extensively at the 90th, 91st and 92nd Sessions of the Council and by the CCLM at its Forty-eighth Session. The Conference at its Twenty-fourth Session in 1987 passed a Resolution, 11/87, which among other things underlined the need for just and equitable representation for the various regions of the Programme and Finance Committee. There were difficulties in the implementation of this resolution and the criteria envisaged in it and one region who had lost a seat, even after this resolution which raised the issue in the Council. The Asia Group at that time supported the interests of that region even though that original seat was with Asia. However, at the 1989 Conference and also at the 1987 Conference Asia did not get its second seat on the Finance Committee. We are of the view that four months after the aforementioned resolution was passed that it is now appropriate that the Council reviews how the resolution has been implemented. It is our understanding that some regional groupings are not very happy about the manner in which the resolution has been implemented, including our own. We were therefore proposing this under the title "Procedure for Elections to the Programme and Finance Committee" and we were hopeful that this matter would have been allowed to be discussed here in the Council. We are not specifically interested in having a separate agenda item but we proposed that agenda item; we could very well have picked up that item under "Other Matters". We think it is important to have a discussion on this.

Negotiations on an informal basis are continuing but these have not really reached a successful culmination and there are a lot of insurmountable difficulties over there. We do not want to hold up the Council proceedings, because it has a very heavy agenda at this moment. Therefore, in the interests of consensus of this Council, with regret on behalf of the Asia Group, with deep regrets I must say on behalf of the Asia Group, we would like to continue with the informal negotiations and hope we would be allowed the opportunity to raise the matter under "Other Business" if it is deemed necessary to do so in the Council and then continue in the Commissions and in the Conference if it is possible.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Puisqu'on n'est pas arrivé à un consensus, il serait opportun d'arriver à un vote sur cette proposition. Les contacts doivent être poursuivis et ultérieurement la question pourra être examinée à nouveau. De toute façon, le problème ne se pose pas dans le court terme, il se poserait dans la session du Conseil qui suivra la Conférence. Espérons qu'un accord interviendra d'ici là.

Nous n'allons pas discuter du fond puisque nous discutons de l'ordre du jour. Est-ce qu'il y a d'autres suggestions?... Je propose la fusion du point 12 et du point 14 et je propose que vous laissiez à la discrétion de votre Président le soin de veiller à l'autodiscipline en ce qui concerne une intervention extrêmement rapide et concise sur les différents points qui ont été présentés par l'Ambassadeur de la Colombie et par le Chef de la délégation des Etats-Unis d'Amérique.

Donc en ce qui concerne les points 9, 10, 12 et 14, l'examen sera très synthétique de façon à ne pas alourdir les travaux du Conseil. Nous nous concentrerons sur les points importants, en l'occurrence le Programme de travail et le budget, ainsi que sur toutes les décisions que nous devons prendre au sein de ce Conseil sur les questions constitutionnelles et juridiques qui font l'objet d'un point important de notre ordre du jour. S'il n'y a pas d'autres remarques, le Conseil considère l'ordre du jour approuvé comme nous l'avons décidé.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

Nous allons passer maintenant à l'adoption du calendrier qui figure au document CL 100/INF/1-Rev.1.

Dans ce document, le point 14 doit bien sûr être supprimé et fusionné avec le point 12. En ce qui concerne le calendrier je vous propose de laisser à la discrétion de votre Président et du Conseil le soin éventuellement de l'adapter en fonction des circonstances. Nous espérons tous qu'il sera possible d'approuver le rapport en fin de journée jeudi, mais il est possible également que nous n'arrivions pas à l'approbation de ce rapport. Cela tiendra bien sûr à l'activité du Comité de rédaction et à sa composition rapide, et si nécessaire je vous ferai toute proposition utile de façon à ce que le Conseil puisse soumettre à la Conférence un excellent rapport très clair, très précis, en adaptant éventuellement le calendrier qui vous est soumis. S'il n'y a pas de remarques sur ce point, il en est ainsi décidé.

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

**LE PRESIDENT:** Nous allons passer à l'élection des trois Vice-Présidents et peut-être à la nomination du Président du Comité de rédaction, CL 100/INF/9.

En ce qui concerne les Vice-Présidents, je demanderai si votre Conseil a des suggestions à faire, et je donne **immédiatement** la parole au représentant de l'Arabie Saoudite.

**Waleed A. ELKHEREIJI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (Original language Arabic):**

I would like to propose His Excellency Ambassador Mian Riaz Samee, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan as First Vice-Chairman. I would propose His Excellency because since he assumed his responsibility as Permanent Representative of his country at FAO, he has shown considerable interest in the Organization's work. He has made a positive contribution because of his wisdom and experience, and I am convinced that his contribution will be invaluable to you.

**John McGOWAN (Canada):** It gives me pleasure to second the nomination of the representative of Pakistan as the Vice-Chairperson of this particular Council.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je remercie à la fois le représentant de l'Arabie Saoudite et du Canada pour leurs propositions. Nous connaissons tous l'honorable Ambassadeur M. Mian Riaz Samee qui est le représentant permanent du Pakistan auprès de la FAO et nous le félicitons de tout coeur pour son élection en qualité de premier Vice-Président. Je propose de l'applaudir bien chaleureusement.

Applause

Applaudissements Aplausos

**LE PRESIDENT:** Nous allons maintenant passer, si vous le voulez bien, à l'élection du second Vice-Président.

**Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia):** Los representantes de Colombia felicitamos de manera muy cordial al Excmo. Sr. Riaz Samee, Embajador de la República Islámica de Pakistán, por su merecida elección a primer Vicepresidente.

Tenemos el honor de proponer para segundo Vicepresidente al distinguido Embajador de Filipinas, Don José Romero. El Embajador Romero es una persona muy competente, con amplia experiencia en actividades internacionales; ejerce en forma inteligente y activa sus funciones de embajador y además el Embajador Romero posee cualidades humanas excelentes, como son la simpatía, la cordialidad y el sentido de compañerismo. Todas esas condiciones aseguran que el Embajador Romero será un excelente segundo Vicepresidente.

**Michael KIMA TABONG (Cameroon):** Now following what our colleague of Colombia has said, he is proposing His Excellency Ambassador José Romero. For the good things the Ambassador of Colombia has said about him and also his very eminent personal qualities, the Cameroun delegation supports the candidature of José Romero as second Vice-Chairman.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je voudrais féliciter le Dr. Romero des Philippines, Ambassadeur et Représentant Permanent auprès de la FAO pour son élection en qualité de second Vice-Président et je voudrais proposer de l'applaudir.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

**Winston RUDDER (Trinidad and Tobago):** The Trinidad and Tobago delegation has great pleasure in proposing the representative of Czechoslovakia, Mr Milan Béránek as third Vice-Chairman.

**Ray ALLEN (United Kingdom):** It gives me great pleasure to second the nomination of Mr Milan Béránek from Czechoslovakia. I am sure he will perform an admirable job as third Vice-Chairman.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je voudrais féliciter le représentant de la Tchécoslovaquie, M. Béránek pour son élection en qualité de troisième Vice-Président et je vous propose de l'applaudir.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Nous allons maintenant passer, si vous le voulez bien, à la nomination du Président et des membres du Comité de rédaction. Nous avons une proposition. Je remarque que dans cette proposition, les différentes régions et les différentes langues sont bien représentées. Les sept régions sont présentes. Je vais, si vous le voulez, donner lecture de la composition proposée. Parmi les membres, il est proposé de retenir l'Allemagne, l'Australie, le Canada, la Colombie, la République de Corée, Cuba, l'Egypte, la France, le Ghana, l'Inde, la Libye, le Maroc et la Suède. Je crois que des contacts ont eu lieu entre les différents groupes et qu'un consensus s'est dégagé. Je voudrais ensuite faire les propositions concernant la nomination du Président. Je vois une pancarte qui se lève, c'est celle des Pays-Bas.

**Frederik Ch. PRILLEVITZ (Netherlands):** Mr Chairman, it is at the last minute, I must confess, but my country is also interested in serving as a member of the Drafting Committee.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je constate qu'un équilibre a été recherché et voulu et que des contacts ont eu lieu entre le groupe OCDE et le Groupe des 77. Alors si nous remettons l'équilibre en jeu, il est clair que la composition du Comité de rédaction devra être revue. Je demanderai à l'honorable représentant des Pays-Bas s'il insiste dans sa proposition, car s'il insiste nous demanderons au chef des deux groupes de reprendre contact en début de séance de l'après-midi. Je crois savoir que de nombreuses réunions de différents groupes ont eu lieu et que vous avez eu l'occasion de discuter. Toutefois, puisqu'un pays ne participe pas au consensus, nous déciderons en début de session de l'après-midi d'une proposition en ce qui concerne la nomination du Président. Il a été proposé que M. Mustapha Sinaceur du Royaume du Maroc soit élu Président du Comité de rédaction. Est-ce qu'il y a des remarques? Un accord en ce qui concerne la présidence du Comité de rédaction? Présidence qui doit être désignée par votre Conseil? Je déclare le représentant du Royaume du Maroc élu par votre Conseil en qualité de Président du Comité de rédaction. Je lui souhaite un excellent travail et bon courage. En ce qui concerne le Comité de rédaction, nous prendrons donc votre conseil. Le Conseil prendra sa décision en tout début de la séance de l'après-midi car il est important que le Comité de rédaction puisse se réunir le plus rapidement possible.

**Frederik Ch. PRILLEVITZ (Netherlands):** It is always difficult with instructions but, if you get them at the last moment, you have to follow them up. Therefore, if we can consult among our group, we can come back later on the composition of the Drafting Committee.

#### IV CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS

#### IV. QUESTIONS CONSTITUTIONNELLES ET JURIDIQUES

#### IV. ASUNTOS CONSTITUCIONALES Y JURIDICOS

##### 18. Other Constitutional and Legal Matters, including:

##### 18. Autres questions constitutionnelles et juridiques, notamment:

##### 18. Otros asuntos constitucionales y jurídicos, en particular:

##### 18.1 Invitations to Non-Member Nations to Attend FAO Sessions

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

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

**LE PRESIDENT:** Nous allons passer maintenant au point suivant qui concerne l'invitation d'Etats non membres à des réunions de la FAO. Je me réfère au document CL 100/INF.8. Ce point de l'ordre du jour est inscrit au document du programme de ce matin afin de saisir le Conseil des demandes adressées au Directeur général, respectivement par l'Union des républiques socialistes soviétiques (URSS) - demande datée du 24 septembre 1991, par les Républiques de Lettonie - demande datée du 4 octobre 1991, de la Lituanie - demande datée du 4 octobre 1991, de l'Estonie - demande datée du 8 octobre 1991, ainsi que de l'Afrique du Sud - demande datée du 22 octobre 1991, qui ont demandé à assister à la présente session en qualité d'observateurs. Le Directeur général demande l'approbation du Conseil à la participation en tant qu'observateurs des pays que je viens de citer. Est-ce qu'il y a des remarques concernant cette invitation? Je ne vois ni

remarque ni demande de prise de parole. Le Conseil approuve dès lors ces différences requêtes. Ce point est adopté.

II. ACTIVITIES OF FAO

II. ACTIVITES DE LA FAO

II. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO

3. Financial Position of the Organization

3. Situation financière de l'Organisation

3. Situación financiera de la Organización

Le point 3 concerne la situation financière de l'Organisation. Vous avez sous les yeux le document CL 104 qui contient le rapport de la réunion conjointe du Comité du programme et du Comité financier ainsi que les rapports du Comité du programme et du Comité financier qui se sont réunis dans le courant du mois de septembre de cette année. Je demanderai à M. Mehboob de nous faire l'exposé introductif sur ce point.

**Khalid MEHBOOB (Assistant Director-General, a.i. Administration and Finance Department):**

Mr Chairman, this item dealing with contribution matters is presented to the Council as required in Rule XXVII(L) of the Basic Texts which states that the Finance Committee shall examine the current financial position of the Organization and report to the Council on this matter.

The financial situation of the Organization has worsened since the Director-General reported to you at your previous session. The high amount of arrears outstanding has made the Organization's financial position precarious. If one considers that the two major contributors account for about thirty-eight percent of the contributions to the budget, and if these are late in coming, it has a disruptive effect on the Programme of the Organization.

Based on the experience of the last couple of years, there appear to be two courses of action to combat this situation. One is to have the Working Capital Fund and the Special Reserve Account at an adequate level to provide a safety net for the Organization.

The second course of action the Organization has been forced to follow in the current biennium is to go in for borrowing - both internal and external borrowing. The Organization has resorted to both these courses, internal and external borrowing, during the course of this year.

Mr Chairman, I wanted at the outset to bring to the notice of the Council this situation which the Organization is facing. Now let me walk you through the document which is before you which is CL 100/LIM 1. Paragraph 3 of the paper shows the amounts outstanding at the beginning of the year split up into "current" and "arrears", the amounts received until 4 November 1991, and finally the amounts outstanding at this date. In the right-hand column you will find the comparative figures for the year 1990.

Paragraph 4 of the paper enables the comparison to be of the rate of receipt of current contributions on a month-by-month basis, for the past five years.

Paragraph 5 gives an indication of how many Member Nations have paid their current assessments in full, in part, or not at all.

The Appendix to the document shows you in the first column the receipts credited in 1991 in respect of current contributions as well as arrears. The second column gives the current assessments outstanding. The third column refers to arrears of assessed contributions outstanding, the fourth column to the total of assessed contributions outstanding, and the last column is the percentage of total 1991 assessment outstanding.

Finally, may I draw your attention to the fact that the figures show that as at this date, because of the arrears situation, twenty-four Member Nations are at risk of losing their vote at the forthcoming session of the Conference,

Mr Chairman, my colleagues and I will be pleased to answer any questions that the Council may have.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Nous allons commencer le débat sur ce point. J'aimerais que ceux qui désirent s'inscrire le fassent dès maintenant. J'ai sur ma liste les pays suivants: Cuba, Liban, Malaisie, Pakistan, France, Ethiopie, Pays-Bas et Madagascar. La liste n'est pas clôturée mais je vous demanderai un effort tout particulier de concision.

Comme au début de chaque session du Conseil, je rappellerai l'importance de se référer au document concernant les méthodes de travail du Conseil. Il est particulièrement utile de le rappeler puisque, cette fois, la session du Conseil aura une durée très courte. Il est donc très important que nous soyons le plus concis possible.

**Juan NUIRY SANCHEZ (Cuba):** Vamos a trabajar rápido y tratar de trabajar bien, como usted lo expresó, señor Presidente, yendo rápidamente a la esencia misma que nos ocupa. Si revisamos las anteriores intervenciones de mi delegación sobre este controvertido tema "Estado financiero de la FAO", podemos observar nuestra repetida e invariable posición, pues la crisis financiera de la Organización representa un punto de partida para cualquier análisis sobre la perspectiva de la FAO como principal órgano especializado de la agricultura y de la alimentación dentro del sistema de Naciones Unidas en momentos tan imprecisos en la esfera internacional, con acuciante incidencia para los países en vías de desarrollo. Opino que en el orden interno del temario no existe otro asunto más importante y que conlleve más implicaciones que éste que nos ocupa. Y si el tema no constituyera de por sí un asunto muy serio, fundamental para el normal funcionamiento y desarrollo de la FAO; si no constituyera un asunto muy serio, repito, parecería un juego escolar, como aquello que cantaban los niños: "Vamos de ningún sitio a ninguna parte".

Observemos: Si los países en desarrollo se oponen al crecimiento cero - que, de hecho es un "crecimiento bajo cero", de acuerdo a los mecanismos financieros existentes-; si estamos contra el crecimiento cero, tendríamos que aumentar los intereses, sacándolos de nuestras escuálidas arcas; y si nos pronunciamos a favor del crecimiento cero, estamos votando contra nuestros propios intereses. Compleja situación para los países que se debaten entre el hambre y la miseria, buscando una vía para el desarrollo y



la prosperidad de sus pueblos. Más que las palabras, esto lo confirman las cifras elocuentes que se dan a conocer en los documentos que están frente a nosotros, que reflejan la situación de las regiones de Africa, Asia y América Latina.

Pero vamos a situarnos en el centro mismo del problema, para observar que esto se produce sólo porque el mayor contribuyente no contribuye, tal como fue señalado en la presentación del tema. Ejerce sus derechos, pero no sus obligaciones ¿Es justo que los países en desarrollo se vean en esta situación? Estados que, como miembros de esta Organización, acuden para buscar soluciones, y, en vez de ayudarlos, se les agrava su situación fiscal con aumentos que no pueden absorber en contraposición de tener su ayuda y desarrollo.

Esta es la problemática y encrucijada en que nos encontramos los países en desarrollo, en la cual cabe perfectamente la expresión bíblica de que tenemos que pagar justos por pecadores. Quiero que se recojan estas palabras señor Presidente; más que escarbar, el deseo de buscar soluciones como único modo de resolver este nudo gordiano. Estamos ante una situación real y como tal la estamos exponiendo. No hablamos desde posiciones antagónicas, hablamos desde posiciones objetivas. Estamos en una etapa de diálogo. Se han logrado negociaciones aún más difíciles que las que discutimos. ¿Por qué no se logra ésta, en el sentido de entendimiento, que tiene el noble proposito de mitigar el hambre y superar la pobreza?

Oímos el pasado día 29 de octubre, en la reunión informativa, al Director General, que, al hacer referencia a esta situación, hablaba de realizar un pequeño milagro. ¿Es necesario recordar lo que representa la FAO dentro de la política multilateral, en la que impera la más amplia y equitativa conformación para llevar adelante sus planes de ayuda y desarrollo a las poblaciones más necesitadas, que no pueden cumplir sus objetivos por falta de recursos? Conocemos las ingentes gestiones del Dr. Saouma y de la Dirección de la FAO para arribar a soluciones de esta difícil y compleja realidad, y, naturalmente, para este empeño la FAO encontrará de Cuba su pleno apoyo y ayuda. Pero ¿por qué, pregunto, no cooperamos todos para superar esta crisis?

Finalmente, de acuerdo con esta situación expuesta sobre las dificultades financieras por las que atravesamos los países en desarrollo, es necesario observar, en el párrafo 3.61, página 51, del documento CL 100/4, Informe de la Reunión conjunta de los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas, que en la presentación se dijo - y cito textualmente -: "El Comité tomó nota con preocupación de que veinticinco miembros debían atrasos, en cantidades tales que podrían correr el riesgo de perder su derecho de voto en el 26° período de sesiones de la Conferencia, en noviembre de 1991. La delegación de Cuba propone a este Consejo que recomiende a la Conferencia que tome todas las disposiciones necesarias para que estos países no pierdan estos derechos.

**Amin ABDEL MALEK (Liban) (Langue originale arabe):** Je voudrais annoncer que le Liban, malgré sa situation bien connue de tous, le 25 octobre, il y a douze jours, a payé 23 millions de livres libanaises, c'est-à-dire environ 25 000 dollars, à la Banque centrale du Liban, pour que cette somme soit transférée en dollars à la FAO: cinq mille neuf cent dollars au titre de

notre contribution pour 1991 et un paiement anticipé de notre contribution pour l'année prochaine.

Naturellement, cela confirme toute l'importance que le Liban attache à l'Organisation et aux efforts réalisés par le Directeur général au service des pays en développement en général. Par conséquent, nous voudrions prier instamment les autres pays membres de payer leur contribution au budget de la FAO afin que l'Organisation puisse poursuivre ses efforts.

**Dato WAN JAAFAR ABDULLAH (Malaysia):** The Malaysian delegation wishes to express its delight at seeing you again in the Chair, Mr Chairman. We would also like to congratulate the three Vice-Chairmen on their election.

The Malaysian delegation notes with regret that the financial situation of FAO has deteriorated to being the worst ever in the history of the Organization. You may recall that in almost every forum of FAO strong appeals for early payment of assessed contributions have been made to Member Nations; nevertheless, the difficult financial situation of FAO is simply getting worse and worse, with the Director-General having to resort to borrowing because of acute cash flow problems.

Malaysia has constantly appealed to Member Nations to pay their assessed contributions. My delegation appeals once again to Member Countries to honour their constitutional obligations to the Organization.

In spite of limited resources, Malaysia has always fulfilled its commitment to this Organization. It is indeed regrettable to note that a total amount of US\$138.2 million of arrears of contributions remains outstanding, including US\$116 million overdue from the largest contributor. Malaysia wishes to underline the difficulties that many developing countries face, including severe economic constraints, declined export earnings, increased debt servicing, and net outflow of resources due to high import costs, including commitments to international organizations. We therefore note with concern in this connection that 24 Member Nations which owe arrears might risk losing their right to vote at the forthcoming Session of the FAO Conference.

We believe that Member Nations should make every effort to honour their commitments and to maintain a non-arrears balance so as to enable their full commitment to the work of the Organization.

With regard to the proposals by the Director-General to increase the level of the Working Capital Fund from US\$20 million to US\$25 million and to increase the Special Reserve Account from US\$17.9 million to US\$32.6 million for the next biennium, my delegation feels that due consideration should be given to the impact which this action may have on the ability of Member Nations which are developing countries to pay this additional assessment, especially countries which are experiencing budgetary difficulties.

**Mian Riaz SAMEE (Pakistan):** It is a pleasure for my delegation to once again congregate with other colleagues under your most competent Chairmanship to deliberate and decide issues of basic but critical importance to humanity. May I also take this opportunity to express my

thanks to the brother states in the Near East region for nominating me to hold the First Vice-Chairmanship on your Bureau, and to all distinguished colleagues in this august body for endorsing this nomination and affording me - and through me my country - the opportunity to assist you in your onerous responsibilities. I feel elated and honoured by this privilege and trust.

My delegation closely followed the statement of the Assistant Director-General, a.i. of Financial Administration on the continuing grave financial situation faced by the Organization. We are perturbed to note a combination of non-payments, delayed payments, and unfavourable exchange rates which severely affect the cash resource position of FAO and its capacity to deliver on its approved programmes.

The Working Capital Fund being depleted on account of transfers to the General Fund and the Special Reserve Account being on the verge of exhaustion owing to the losses arising from unfavourable exchange rates, the Director-General was compelled to resort to unprecedented and heavy external borrowing.

Sir, we welcome the recent payments by a number of members, particularly the two largest contributors, and hope they will take all measures possible to liquidate their outstanding arrears at the earliest.

Notwithstanding the better payment position on 4 November 1991 in comparison to the previous year, the disproportionate distribution of payments over the year with higher inflows during the closing months of the year, further compounds the management of the finances of the Organization. We hope that all Member Nations will endeavour to clear their dues earlier in the year, and that those with procedural difficulties in their budgetary and legislative systems will work out possible ways to expedite their payments.

The Working Capital Fund and the Special Revenue Account have served as effective buffers at a time of resource constraint. We support the proposals to raise the level of the Working Capital Fund to US\$25 million, and the importance of preserving and maintaining the Special Reserve Account. We hope the happy spirit of consensus which has prevailed during the budgetary process so far will also demonstrate itself in evolving over these two essential and realistically based components for the financial operations of the Organization.

Finally, we observe from the statistical table on page 10 of document CL 100/LIM/1 that the Government of Pakistan stands in arrears of payment of about 120 percent. This is erroneous. We have already invited the attention of certain authorities in FAO to the non-adjustment of two payments of US\$41,857,119 respectively which were remitted to FAO by telegraphic transfers in February and September 1991, whereafter our actual arrears stand at US\$95,000, or 49 percent. Since then a further amount of US\$57,373 is in transit to the FAO account and we are making every effort to clear the balance dues of US\$37,000.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je remercie l'honorable Ambassadeur du Pakistan des précisions qu'il vient de fournir et je donne la parole au représentant de la France.

Jean-Pierre POLY: (France): Sa situation financière a trop souvent constitué, ces dernières années, le tendon d'Achille de notre Organisation, amenant sa Direction générale à faire parfois de cruelles impasses ou de sévères abattements parmi les activités et programmes dont la nécessité et le bien-fondé ont été pourtant reconnus par nos instances.

Cette situation financière délicate, qui résulte à l'évidence d'une discipline budgétaire relâchée, a conduit notre Organisation sur la voie évidemment peu recommandable des emprunts mais indispensable à l'exécution des programmes adoptés par notre Conférence. Aussi, M. le Président, ma délégation veut-elle trouver quelques raisons d'espérer des jours meilleurs parmi les signes favorables enregistrés ces derniers temps au plan du versement des contributions qui laissent augurer peut-être d'une restauration de discipline financière. Elle y voit en tout cas le gage d'une certaine confiance, d'un climat plus serein et propice au prochain examen de notre Programme de travail et budget pour 1992-1993, dont ma délégation souhaite vivement qu'il soit adopté par consensus. Naturellement, ma délégation reviendra plus en détail sur cet important sujet lors de notre prochaine Conférence.

**Assefa YILALA (Ethiopia):** First of all, may I take this opportunity of expressing my pleasure at seeing you, Sir, in the Chair. I also express my pleasure in having to work under the guidance of your Chairmanship. I congratulate the three Vice-Chairmen who have just been elected.

My delegation wishes also to thank the Programme and Finance Committees of the Organization. We are grateful to the Organization for its report on the financial position of FAO contained in the Report of the two Committees. From their report and updating information, we understand that the outstanding financial obligation needing to be fulfilled is about US\$200 million. In the report it is indicated that the two major contributors and seventy-four Member Nations have made no cash payments during the year, even though the LIM document we have received today indicates that late payments have been made.

We feel that this situation, the failure to fulfil the obligation of financial contributions to the Organization whose responsibility in the area of food and agriculture has always been considered as top priority, amounts to nothing less than closing the eyes on the priority area of common interest, and in this case the effects could truly worsen the present prevailing situation of malnutrition and hunger. Therefore, we make a strong appeal to those Member Nations with contributions outstanding to pay their arrears in full and as soon as possible.

In stating this, we are fully aware of the increased economic difficulties facing developing countries, including my own, and the reduced impact of contributions coming from the group of Member countries, even though the need to fulfil obligations, whether small or large, seems to be equally valid. Looking at it from the point of view of the increasing economic difficulties being faced by developing countries and also the relevant impact of this group of contributions, our appeal to the largest contributors, whose contributions could greatly affect the programme implementation of the Organization, is a strong one.

At this point we would like to request you to come into the discussion if there is any need.

**Frederik Ch. PRILLEVITZ (Netherlands):** I must confess that I am not ready with my statement, but let me start anyway.

My delegation is not pleased with the present financial situation of FAO. Borrowing internally and externally, according to the Secretariat, was once more inevitable this year. Borrowing by an international organization does not have the sympathy of my Government. Other measures to avoid this practice of borrowing must be considered. In that context, several proposals have been mentioned - cuts in the programme during the course of the year is one of them. In the documents in front of us we now have other proposals. There is the proposal in the Report of the Finance Committee that this amount could be given for early payment by Member Countries. Another proposal is an increase of the Working Capital Fund and an increase for the Special Reserve Account. Mr Chairman, I have to tell you that these proposals are still being studied by my Government. However, we have the impression that the Working Capital Fund can be replenished by the payment of arrears. If that is the case, there is no necessity for a special assessment for that Fund.

With regard to an increase in the Special Reserve Account, we would like more information about the practice of the Organization in the case of the exchange of currencies. It would be nice to have more information about the present practice and what we can do if another practice is to be applied during the course of the next biennium.

**Raphaël RABE (Madagascar):** La délégation malgache se félicite de travailler à nouveau sous votre présidence et elle adresse ses félicitations aux trois Vice-Présidents.

Nous remercions le Secrétariat d'avoir préparé des documents très clairs et pragmatiques.

Nous pouvons nous permettre d'être brefs, car nous partageons ce qui a été dit par les délégations qui nous ont précédés, à savoir que la situation financière de la FAO est devenue intenable et qu'il est vraiment temps d'y porter remède.

Les pays qui jusqu'à présent ont boudé l'Organisation, pour des raisons qu'eux seuls peuvent comprendre et justifier, devraient maintenant changer d'attitude pour être plus positifs, car il nous semble que la plupart, sinon la totalité, de leurs exigences ont été satisfaites.

Voici quelques exemples. Nous savons que l'examen de la FAO a été réalisé. Nous savons que le projet de Programme de travail et budget 1992-1993 que nous allons examiner accusera une croissance zéro. Nous savons que le PCT est à son plus bas niveau. Alors, quelles autres exigences peuvent-ils inventer ou imposer?

Nous souhaitons qu'il n'y ait pas de nouvelles exigences et que la volonté politique nous aidera à résoudre cette situation pour le moins déplorable. Nous voudrions à nouveau lancer un appel pour que ces pays prennent toutes dispositions afin d'honorer leurs obligations statutaires.

Bien entendu, nous élargissons cet appel à tous les Etats qui ont encore des arriérés pour qu'ils continuent à faire les sacrifices qui s'imposent, qu'ils ont déjà faits d'ailleurs, pour faire face à leurs obligations, car en fait ce sont eux qui ont le plus besoin d'une FAO vigoureuse capable de répondre à leurs appels.

**Gonzalo Bula Hoyos (Colombia):** Los representantes de Colombia, señor Presidente, pensamos que en el informe sobre este tema el Consejo debe reiterar su preocupación, ya que estos documentos confirman una vez más que la Organización sigue sometida a la más grave crisis financiera de su historia.

El Gobierno de Colombia reitera su reconocimiento y pleno apoyo al Director General por los esfuerzos que ha hecho el Jefe de esta Organización en medio de tantas dificultades para cumplir el programa en aspectos esenciales para los países en desarrollo. Naturalmente el apoyo que el Director General necesita para proseguir esa tarea, no debe estar limitado a buenas intenciones, a literatura, a declaraciones y a los llamados que hacemos siempre. Por ello creemos que es indispensable que este Consejo se manifieste en favor de la reconstrucción de la Cuenta Especial de Reserva que fue agotada para hacer frente al incumplimiento del pago de las cuotas y que apoye, igualmente, la propuesta de aumentar el humilde 5 millones de dólares al Fondo de Operaciones.

Esas medidas podrían significar esfuerzos y sacrificios, sobre todo para algunos países en desarrollo; pero nosotros que representamos a un Gobierno del Tercer Mundo nos sentimos orgullosos de que los países en desarrollo hayan respondido a esta emergencia con dignidad y alta responsabilidad.

Hemos oído esta mañana la declaración del representante del Líbano, nuestro colega y amigo, Abdel Malek, quien ha dicho que ese país ha cumplido otro compromiso con el pago de sus contribuciones de la FAO. Pensamos que es admirable esa actitud de un país como Líbano que, afortunadamente, está superando sus dificultades y avanza satisfactoriamente hacia su reconstrucción.

Colombia, también ha hecho esfuerzos, y no sólo ha pagado oportunamente sus contribuciones, sino que ya hemos anticipado contribuciones para el bienio entrante. En los cuadros que se distribuyeron esta mañana en el documento CL 100/LIM/1, después de la última columna donde dice: "Total pendiente en porcentaje de la cuota corriente", Colombia 0 por ciento, buscamos una columna ulterior donde dijera: cuotas anticipadas para el bienio entrante. Ojalá que esto se haga en el futuro.

Esto nos lleva, señor Presidente, a apoyar la declaración que ha hecho esta mañana nuestro colega y amigo de Madagascar, Raphaël Rabe. Si como todos sabemos la próxima Conferencia no tendrá otra alternativa que someterse al funesto crecimiento cero, sería realmente lamentable que de nuevo se siguieran incumpliendo el pago de las contribuciones aún bajo el

crecimiento cero, lo cual nos llevaría a la desintegración progresiva de nuestra Organización.

Es injusto también, y es inaceptable para el Gobierno de Colombia, que debido a la situación del pago de las contribuciones, situación bien conocida, países como el nuestro y otros países en desarrollo, tengan que pagar intereses por los préstamos a que forzosamente se ha visto obligado el Director General. Sobre esto, hablaremos en el tema 15.

Esto nos lleva también a apoyar plenamente lo que ha dicho nuestro colega y amigo, Embajador Nuiry Sánchez, de Cuba: la Conferencia próxima debe buscar todos los medios para que no se penalice a los 24 países que por causas ajenas a su voluntad no han podido pagar sus contribuciones y están a punto de perder el derecho al voto. Castigar a esos países en un período excepcional como éste, sería, para calificarlo benevolamente, incoherente e injusto.

Finalmente, señor Presidente, apoyamos lo que ha dicho el distinguido Embajador de Pakistán, nuestro ilustre Primer Vicepresidente, como una nota positiva, y como otra demostración del apoyo que este Consejo quiere ofrecer al Director General para bien del futuro de nuestra Organización, en nuestro informe reflejemos, también, la satisfacción que nos ha causado el pago de algunas contribuciones de importantes donantes que han permitido una ligera mejoría en esta situación. Naturalmente, el Consejo deberá decir que esa buena voluntad, ojalá, no sea coyuntural, sino sostenida para que a breve término esos países pongan al día todas sus contribuciones y permitan así, como todos los deseamos, normalizar la vida financiera de esta Organización.

**Adel EL-SARKI (Egypt) (Original language Arabic):** My country's delegation repeats what it said when we discussed this situation earlier. The lack of funds is such that this leading Organization in development will be unable to do its job in helping developing countries despite the efforts made by the Director-General. There is no denying the tremendous efforts that he has made.

My country's delegation wishes to stress its concerns. Egypt has done its best to make certain that its contributions have been paid in order to assist the activity of the Organization on behalf of world-wide development. My country's delegation believes that we need to examine the proposals made by the Director-General with regard to increasing the Special Reserve Account and the Working Capital Fund in order to help countries that are facing certain economic difficulties.

We trust that the financial situation of the Organization will improve in the future.

We should like to congratulate the three Vice-Chairmen who have been elected. My delegation will be pleased, Mr Chairman, to work under your guidance.

**Sture THEOLIN (Sweden):** Mr Chairman, I have the honour again to address you on this item on behalf of the four Nordic countries.

The Nordic countries note with considerable regret, as we have done in the past, the financial situation of FAO, which continues to give cause for concern. The financial situation threatens the stability and orderly function of the Organization.

In my brief comment on this item I would like to refer you to CL 100/LIM/1 concerning comparative figures, which shows that the pattern of payment indicates a continuing and disappointing trend. Of 157 Member Nations, only 59 have met their obligations in full, 74 Member Nations have not paid at all, and 24 countries have made partial payments, leaving approximately half of the membership of this Organization having made no payments for this year. This situation clearly is untenable.

The Nordic countries, therefore, urge Member Nations to take all possible measures in order to fulfil their obligations in full and on time as stipulated in the Financial Rules and Regulations.

The CL 100/LIM/1 document contains useful information on an important part of the Organization's financial position. The reasons for the critical view that the Nordic countries hold on borrowing are well known and will not be repeated here.

Mr Chairman, further information concerning the Organization's debt situation would be greatly appreciated since this is not contained in the present document.

At least 24 states, as has been noted by other Members of the Council, risk losing their voting rights in the next Conference and may be barred from membership of the Council. The contributions of Member Nations are assessed precisely to place an equal financial burden on all Member Nations regardless of whether they are large or small. Every Member Nation should contribute according to its ability, not more, not less. The Conference may, nevertheless, return the voting rights to countries that face circumstances beyond their control.

In order to improve the discipline of payment of assessed contributions, the status of which is reflected in this document, the rules of the Constitution and Regulations should, in the Nordic view, be applied much more strictly.

**John Bruce SHARPE (Australia):** I would like to support the remarks of my colleague from the Netherlands regarding the payment of arrears and contributions, which would make it unnecessary to replenish the Special Reserve Account and the Working Capital Fund. Contributions and arrears form a major source of funds for both of those accounts.

Australia joins all others who urge the Members who have not paid their current assessment in full and arrears to do so. We consider it inequitable that those countries that have paid their contributions should be required a second time to make contributions to replenish accounts depleted because of non-payment by others. We also see it as inequitable that interest costs on borrowings fall to those who have paid.



As the representative of the Southwestern Pacific region I would like to indicate that there are a number of countries in this region who have paid in full and I list here New Zealand, the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, and of course, Australia.

There are other countries, very small countries, Samoa and Tonga who have only very small proportions of their contributions outstanding.

We cannot support an increase in the Working Capital Fund and replenishment of the Special Reserve Account. We also continue to oppose borrowing because of the extra costs it imposes in the form of interest which detracts from the amount of money available for programmes.

**Takayoshi ISHIDERA (Japan):** First of all I am pleased to inform you that Japan has paid the full amount of the 1991 contribution, about US\$38 million on the 29 October. The Government of Japan is fully aware of the financial regulation of FAO that requires all Member States to pay in January of each year but as was said at the last Council the fiscal year of our country is from April to March so it is impossible to meet this obligation. Furthermore, the Government of Japan has had problems concerning the approval of the budget by the Diet and the exchange rate loss between the dollar and the yen.

With regard to a new proposal of making a special assessment in the Working Capital Fund and the Special Reserve Account this would be necessary for FAO urgently but the necessary reserve of these funds should be asked not as a further burden to the Member Countries but from FAO's efforts to cut the unneeded and non-urgent programme and budget by restraining expenditures, for example, to coordinate with other United Nations agencies in order to reduce staff numbers.

FAO's financial crisis is not contemporary but long-lasting because the revenue will not increase by the limiting of the resource. On the contrary, the expenditures will increase by the cost increase and inflation. We think it is indispensable for FAO to reform the budget and the administration system in order to make a slimmer body in the future.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je crois que, dans le cadre du Programme de travail et budget, le Japon pourra, peut-être, faire des propositions en ce qui concerne ces priorités et non priorités. C'est dans ce cadre que ce problème devra être débattu. Je vais maintenant passer la parole au représentant du Canada.

**Earl W. WEYBRECHT (Canada):** My delegation wishes to thank Mr Mehboob for his introduction to this item and for the updated information provided on the financial situation in FAO. Canada joins other delegations in expressing appreciation for the recent payments made to the Organization, including the substantial payments made by the two largest contributors. Although these payments have been made late in the year we trust that they will alleviate the need for any further borrowing and that indeed, outstanding loan commitments can now be fully paid up. We would welcome confirmation from the Secretariat that this will be the case.

The position of Canada on the issues of late payment of contributions and recourse of organizations within the UN system to external borrowing has been clearly stated in FAO fora on previous occasions. We remain opposed to external borrowing and regret for the second year in a row it was found necessary to seek recourse to such action. At the same time we note the serious problems faced by the Organization, in particular over the past few months, resulting from unpaid assessments and arrears. The problem is clearly highlighted in the document that was circulated this morning which points out that some 74 Member Nations have failed to make any payment on their contributions this year. In principle it remains our position that adjustments should be made to the programme to reflect realistically the level of available resources. Nevertheless, we are receptive to looking at ways to encourage the early payments of contributions to ensure that sufficient funds are available to the Organization to carry on its operations.

Several references have been made to the Special Reserve Account and to the Working Capital Fund. It was our intention to comment on these particular proposals under Item 15 of our agenda when we discuss the Report of the Finance Committee and we believe that that would be the most appropriate time in which to address these particular points.

**Jesús SABRA (Argentina):** Quisiera en primer lugar aprovechar esta oportunidad para felicitarle por su designación como Presidente de este Consejo, así como a los tres Vicepresidentes que han sido designados esta mañana.

Quisiéramos agradecer a la Secretaría las informaciones actualizadas que nos ha hecho llegar a través del documento CL 100/LIM/1, como también las gestiones realizadas por el Director General a lo largo de estos años en los que, en medio de la crisis financiera en que se encuentra la Organización, ha sabido sobrellevar los objetivos básicos de la misma y mantener la Organización en pie frente a las necesidades del desarrollo del sector agropecuario.

Como Ud. sabe, nuestro país, como otros países en desarrollo, se encuentran en graves dificultades en su desarrollo económico, teniendo en cuenta el alto endeudamiento externo que posee que nos ha llevado a muchas dificultades para el mantenimiento de los pagos actualizados de sus cuotas. Sin perjuicio de ello, y en la medida de nuestras posibilidades, hacemos esfuerzos especiales para mantener la contribución de nuestras obligaciones frente a la FAO. Ante esta cuestión, nos encontramos en una situación muy difícil de poder apoyar las indicaciones surgidas del documento CL 100/4, en el que se propone el incremento de la cuantía del Fondo de Operaciones y la reposición de la Cuenta Especial de Reserva. Por ello, entendemos que sería de interés mantenerlas en los actuales niveles para que nuestros países, como en el caso de Argentina donde tiene atrasos en sus deudas, no vea incrementada esta situación con nuevos pesos financieros que son difíciles de solventar en los próximos años.

**Waleed A. ELHEREIJI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (Original language Arabic):** We have listened to Mr Mehmoob's introduction to this item on our agenda. Broadly speaking we are among those countries which pay their contributions at the beginning of the year. Nonetheless, due to certain administrative

problems, this year we made two contributions and there is only one outstanding which amounts to about four percent of our contribution. This last part will be paid during this present Conference.

The Organization's financial situation is really critical and we have to take into account the situation of certain countries which are not able to pay their contributions. We hope therefore that the situation with these countries is discussed one by one so that we are made aware of the reasons why these countries cannot pay their contributions. We are not against the proposals made by the Director-General as far as increasing the Working Capital Fund and the Special Reserve are concerned in order that the Organization can fulfil its work.

**Jean YENNIMATAS (Grèce):** Ma délégation a l'habitude de faire de brèves déclarations. Dans ce contexte, je voudrais dire que, comme tous ceux qui viennent de prendre la parole, nous regrettons la situation actuelle de l'Organisation due au fait qu'une grande partie des contributions n'ont pas été payées. Nous faisons chaque fois face à la même situation; nous nous trouvons chaque fois dans la même impasse financière.

Nous sommes conscients du fait que chaque pays a ses problèmes, que nous respectons entièrement. Mais nous croyons qu'il est impérieux d'essayer de trouver une solution. Quelle solution? Serait-ce une solution magique? Peut-être; je ne sais pas, mais il faut prendre des mesures. Que doit faire l'Organisation si elle voit ses moyens réduits et n'est pas en mesure de remplir son mandat?

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je remercie le représentant de la Grèce de son intervention. Je me permets de signaler que le point 3 - "Situation financière de l'Organisation" - nous est soumis pour examen. Il me semble que la plupart des délégués ont exprimé leur point de vue.

En ce qui concerne le Fonds de roulement et le Compte de réserve spécial, je crois que les délégués devraient faire connaître leur position dans le cadre de la discussion des rapports du Comité financier et du Comité du Programme, au titre du point 15 de l'ordre du jour.

S'il n'y a pas d'autres interventions, je vais donner la parole à M. Mehboob.

**Khalid MEHBOOB (Assistant Director-General a.i., Administration and Finance Department):** I should like to thank delegates for a very full discussion on this item and their comments have been carefully noted and they will be dealt with. As you pointed out, Mr Chairman, the debate on the Working Capital Fund and the Special Reserve Account would take place under Item 15 but I should like to give some information on one or two points which were raised in this regard, particularly the comments of the delegates from the Netherlands and Australia about arrears being used to fund the the Working Capital Fund or the Special Reserve Account.

The arrears: first of all experience shows that the arrears do not come in with the speed and the regularity which one hopes that they should. Secondly, arrears go into the General Fund. They can only go into the

Working Capital Fund if there is a cash surplus. For the moment because of the deficit being brought forward from previous biennia, any arrears which may be received between now and the end of the year would be utilized to cover that deficit, so there would not be a cash surplus to transfer to the Working Capital Fund.

Similarly, on the Special Reserve Account there would not be the payment of arrears which we would expect for them to generate a balance which we could put in the Special Reserve Account. I just wanted to provide this information now since comments were raised about arrears.

Secondly, Mr Chairman, there have been no questions to answer other than the information really provided by the distinguished delegates from Lebanon and from Pakistan about their Governments having made payments to the Organization for their contributions. We should like to thank both the delegates for this information.

Pakistan raised another point about having made certain payments which had not been credited to them, and the document shows that. I have had a meeting with the Pakistan delegation, as well as with the FAO bankers. The payments have not been received in FAO; they are somewhere in the international banking channels. The Bank manager has assured me that he will follow this up, and as soon as we have some information we will share it with the Pakistan delegation.

**LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL:** Il y a une question qui a été posée, je crois, par le délégué de la Suède. Il a demandé quelle était la situation de l'endettement. C'est l'occasion pour moi de dire que, cette année, je me suis servi de l'autorisation que la Conférence m'avait accordée d'emprunter lorsque le Fonds de roulement et le Compte de réserve spécial sont épuisés. Nous avons trois digues pour faire face aux retards dans le paiement des contributions: le Fonds de roulement, le Compte de réserve spécial, puis, lorsqu'il n'y a plus d'argent dans les deux, l'emprunt. Nous n'avons pas le choix, ou alors nous devons mutiler le programme de travail adopté par la Conférence. Malgré cela nous ne disposons pas de ressources financières suffisantes pour exécuter la totalité du programme; nous devons toujours laisser de côté certaines activités. Je l'ai dit, d'ailleurs, dans le document relatif à la mise en oeuvre du programme pour 1990-91.

Cette situation est due essentiellement au retard de paiement des deux gros contributeurs. Il ne faut pas ignorer la vérité. Il y a à présent effectivement 200 millions de dollars d'arriérés et un seul pays doit 75 pour cent de cette somme. Inutile alors d'essayer de se rattraper sur le paiement des arriérés des petits pays pour sauver la situation financière. Lorsque le premier et le deuxième pays contributeur règlent leur contribution, soit près de 38 pour cent du total des sommes à recevoir, durant les deux derniers mois de l'année, vous comprendrez que nous nous trouvons dans une situation financière fort difficile, et cela chaque année.

Face à cette situation, je ne peux pas arrêter la machine, couper 30 millions de dollars d'un seul coup et renvoyer les gens chez eux! Il y a toutefois cette année une légère amélioration dans le règlement des arriérés, mais il faudra au moins cinq ans pour que la situation soit en partie rétablie. Nous avons l'espoir que les Etats-Unis résoudront le

problème de leurs arriérés avec la FAO, mais ceci ne se fera que progressivement. Il n'y a donc pas de solution miracle.

L'endettement: nous faisons des emprunts à terme de 12, 18, ou 30 millions de dollars. Nous avons une ligne de crédit à la Banque commerciale italienne - je cite son nom, le Comité financier est au courant - pour 25 millions de dollars et auprès d'une banque européenne pour 60 millions de dollars. Nous avons eu des lignes de crédit pour 105 millions de dollars. M. Mehboob vous dira combien il nous reste encore de dette à rembourser. Nous attendons des paiements des Etats-Unis à la fin de l'année; j'espère qu'ils seront importants et qu'ils arriveront à temps. D'ici là, nous n'envisageons pas de faire d'autres emprunts.

Vous avez examiné le point 4 de l'ordre du jour. Vous examinerez le même point à la Conférence. Vous allez également étudier le budget. Je crois personnellement qu'il y a une relation très étroite entre le budget de 1992-93 - au niveau tel qu'il sera en définitive approuvé par vous - et votre décision concernant la reconstitution du Fonds de roulement et du Compte de réserve spécial. Je ne veux pas en discuter maintenant mais je vois une certaine relation entre les deux.

Je vais demander à M. Mehboob de vous dire quelle est la situation, quels sont les emprunts extérieurs et internes à rembourser.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je remercie M. le Directeur général des précisions qu'il vient de fournir.

**Khalid MEHBOOB (Assistant Director-General, a.i., Administration and Finance Department):** The Organization's external and internal borrowing - perhaps borrowing is not the right terminology, shall we call it credit facilities - is that we draw money as and when it is needed. We have a credit facility of US\$60 million with the bank. That does not mean we have taken all US\$60 million. That means that, as and when we need it, the bank allows us to draw on that money. As the Director-General has said, we deal with two banks. From those two banks we have drawn a total of US\$55 million on various dates. Of this US\$55 million, we have repaid US\$30 million and US\$20 million is outstanding at the moment. A further US\$10 million of this US\$20 million will be repaid on 7 November when the amount matures. That would leave us with an external borrowing situation of US\$10 million.

In addition, we borrowed US\$30 million from internal sources. The whole lot of the US\$30 million is outstanding. That has been borrowed from funds which we have internally like the Terminal Payments Fund or an advance from the Working Capital Fund. The US\$30 million of internal borrowing is all outstanding. From 7 November we will have US\$10 million left of the external borrowing, the balance having been paid. Our policy is not to keep the external borrowing for more than is actually necessary because of the interest charges, but the interest charges are not the charges which normally an individual borrower would pay. We repay the inter-bank lending rate, plus a small servicing charge on top, so that they are concessional rates.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je crois également qu'il y a une interrelation étroite entre un programme de travail et budget et une situation de trésorerie permettant l'exécution de ce programme. Nous avons eu un échange de vues très intéressant sur la situation financière de l'Organisation. En ce qui concerne la situation de trésorerie, le Fonds de roulement et le Compte de réserve spécial, nous aurons l'occasion d'en discuter lors de l'examen du point 15 de l'ordre du jour, dans le cadre du Programme de travail et budget. Nous pourrions alors examiner cette interrelation compte tenu de ce qui vient d'être dit.

Je me propose de clore le point 3 de l'ordre du jour, relatif à la situation financière de l'Organisation, en émettant le vœu que tous les Etats fassent un effort particulier pour s'acquitter de leurs obligations.

- 4. Preparations for the 26th Session of the FAO Conference
- 4. Préparatifs de la vingt-sixième session de la Conférence de la FAO
- 4. Preparativos para el 26º periodo de sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO
- 4.1 Nomination of the Chairman of the Conference, and of the Chairmen of the Commissions of the Conference (Recommendations to the Conference)
- 4.1 Proposition de candidatures aux fonctions de Président de la Conférence et de Présidents des Commissions de la Conférence (Recommandations à la Conférence)
- 4.1 Propuesta de candidaturas para la Presidencia de la Conferencia y de las Comisiones de la Conferencia (Recomendaciones a la Conferencia)

Ce point traite d'une question particulièrement importante: la préparation de la vingt-sixième session de la Conférence de la FAO. Ce point comporte deux sous-points et, à son titre, le document C 91/12 vous est soumis.

Le sous-point 4.1 concerne les propositions de candidatures aux fonctions de Président de la Conférence et de Présidents des Commissions de la Conférence: la Commission I, qui traite de toutes les matières relevant de l'agriculture; la Commission II, qui traite des questions financières; et la Commission III, qui traite des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques.

Vous vous souviendrez qu'à la quatre-vingt-dix-neuvième session du Conseil, au mois de juin dernier, lors d'une réunion à huis clos des chefs de délégation, il a été convenu de proposer la candidature du Ministre de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture du Pakistan, S.E. Malik Abdul Majid, au poste de Président de la vingt-sixième session de la Conférence. Monsieur le Directeur général a pris contact avec le Ministre du Pakistan pour s'assurer qu'il serait disponible et pourrait occuper les fonctions de Président de la vingt-sixième session de la Conférence. La réponse a été positive. Il vous est demandé maintenant d'entériner officiellement cette candidature et de la proposer à la Conférence.

Y a-t-il des interventions au sujet de cette proposition relative à la présidence de la prochaine Conférence? Il n'y en a pas. Je propose, dès lors, au Conseil de proposer la candidature de M. Malik Abdul Majid au poste de Président de la vingt-sixième session de la Conférence.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

**Mian Riaz SAMEE (Pakistan):** I want to take this opportunity to express on behalf of my country, the Minister and myself, our gratitude and thanks to the Members of the FAO Council for the confidence they have reposed in us by the election of His Excellency Abdul Malik Majid to the Chairmanship of the Twenty-Sixth Session of the FAO Conference.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Nous ne procédons pas à l'élection du Président de la Conférence puisque c'est la Conférence qui élit son Président; mais le Conseil décide, à l'unanimité, de proposer à la Conférence la candidature du Ministre du Pakistan.

Il nous reste à proposer les candidatures aux postes de Président des trois Commissions. Je pense que nous sommes proches d'un accord; il y a eu de très nombreuses discussions au sein des différents groupes et je proposerai, pour concrétiser cet accord, de reporter cette décision au début de l'après-midi, immédiatement après la nomination des membres du Comité de rédaction dont nous avons déjà élu le Président.

4.2 Election of the Nominations Committee

4.2 Election des membres de la Commission des candidatures

4.2 Elección del Comité de Candidaturas

En ce qui concerne le point 4: Election des membres de la Commission des candidatures, je crois que l'on est également proche d'un accord et les pays proposés pourront être acceptés, avec l'accord de tous, en début de session de cet après-midi.

Donc en début de session de cet après-midi, nous examinerons: le Comité de rédaction; les propositions de présidence des trois Commissions; l'élection des membres de la Commission des candidatures.

Ce sont des points importants parce que la Commission des candidatures devra se réunir le 8 novembre.

Il n'y a plus de points à l'ordre du jour de la séance de ce matin.

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 100/PV/2

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**Hundredth Session**

**Centième session**

**100° período de sesiones**

SECOND PLENARY MEETING  
DEUXIEME SEANCE PLENIERE  
SEGUNDA SESION PLENARIA  
(5 November 1991)

The Second Plenary Meeting was opened at 15.00 hours

Mr Antoine Saintraint. Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La deuxième séance plèntere est ouverte à 15 heures

sous la présidence de M. Antoine Saintraint. Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la segunda sesión plenaria a las 15 horas

bajo la presidencia del Sr. Antoine Saintraint. Presidente Independiente del Consejo

SPECIAL AWARDS PRESENTED BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL TO Dr BUSHLAND AND Dr KNIPLING. SCIENTISTS WHO DEVELOPED THE STERILE INSECT TECHNIQUE (SIT)

PRESENTATION PAR LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL DES PRIX SPECIAUX DECERNES AU Dr. BUSHLAND ET AU Dr. KNIPLING. POUR LA MISE AU POINT DE LA TECHNIQUE DE L'INSECTE STERILE (TIS)

ENTREGA POR EL DIRECTOR GENERAL DE PREMIOS ESPECIALES A LOS Dres. BUSHLAND Y KNIPLING. CIENTIFICOS QUE HAN PUESTO A PUNTO LA TECNICA DE LOS INSECTOS ESTERILES (TIE)

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je vais immédiatement donner la parole au Directeur général, M. Edouard Saouma, pour la présentation des prix spéciaux décernés au Dr Bushland et au Dr Knipling, pour la mise au point de la technique de l'insecte stérile.

**DIRECTOR-GENERAL:** It is with a sentiment of pride and a sense of accomplishment that today we pay tribute to one of FAO's most recent successes - the New World Screwworm Eradication Programme in the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and neighbouring countries.

The emergency phase of the campaign ended on 16 October 1991 when the last flies from Tuxtla were dispersed, and will now be followed by an intensive surveillance campaign that will continue until next summer.

The success of this campaign has brought relief not only to Libya but also to neighbouring countries and has removed the threat of a catastrophic spread of this pest to the African continent, where it could have become endemic.

Indeed, it is widely acknowledged that had its spread not been halted, the effect on the great wildlife resources of Africa, and the continent's reservoir of livestock, on which so many people depend, would have been devastating.

The campaign has also demonstrated the capacity of the world community to respond to a major emergency with commendable speed and generosity.

A consortium of 14 countries and 6 agencies have financed the international costs of the programme.

Against an initial estimate of US\$91 million, the actual programme cost has been approximately US\$40 million, due to the early success of the campaign.

The Libyan contribution to the programme has been approximately US\$12 million in cash and US\$15 million in kind.

FAO detected the infestation and took early measures and then provided the expertise and management structure necessary for the organization and execution of the eradication programme.

UNDP, IFAD and IAEA provided finance and valuable research support throughout the programme.

Mr Chairman, a special word of thanks is extended for the major role played by the Government of Libya and, in particular, its veterinary service which mobilized a large and effective team of specialists to conduct the essential ground operations.

Similarly, our thanks go to Libya's neighbours for the practical cooperation given and the solidarity shown from the earliest days of the programme.

However, fundamental to this success was the unstinting support of the Mexican-US screwworm commission which gave us free access to their technology and experience and supplied us with more than 1.3 billion sterile flies over a period of ten months.

Mr Chairman, unlike other pest control methods, the sterile insect technique is environmentally friendly, since no chemicals are used, no residues are left behind and there are no effects on non-targeted species.

The technique involves a large number of flies, bred in captivity, sterilized by means of irradiation and dispersed over the infested area.

The results are simple and direct: the native female fly, mates with a sterile male and lays eggs that will not hatch, thus breaking the life cycle and leading to the eventual extermination of the species.

But what is little known, is that this technique was developed by two outstanding and farsighted American entomologists who became, during the mid-fifties, the leading proponents in the USA for the development of ecologically selective methods of pest control.

We are honoured to have them here with us today.

Dr Edward Fred Knipling and Dr Raymond Cecil Bushland are the inventors of the Sterile Insect Technique which has been used not only in the eradication of screwworm infestations, but also to eradicate the Mediterranean fruitfly from Mexico and parts of Guatemala and California, the melon fly from Okinawa, the Mexican fruitfly from areas of the USA that adjoin Mexico as well as to clear tsetse flies from areas of Tanzania, Nigeria and Burkina Faso.

In addition, this technique is currently being used to combat the pink bollworm in California, the codling moth in Canada and the onion fly in the Netherlands.

We thus have a striking example - indeed a model - of how a scientific idea can be nurtured, developed, and finally brought to bear on problems of real concern.

And it is a great privilege for this Organization to pay tribute to the insight, persistence and dedication of two eminent scientists who have given the world this technique.

Mr Chairman, I would now like to invite Dr Knipling and Dr Bushland to come to the podium to receive our modest award comprising a silver Leonardo da Vinci medal which FAO struck in 1986 to underline the importance of science in the historical development of agriculture and in improving agriculture

for the future, as well as a scroll in recognition of their outstanding work since 1935 in reducing so many serious threats to agriculture.

**CHAIRMAN:** Now I would like to give the floor to the delegate of the United States of America.

**Duane ACKER (United States of America):** On behalf of the United States of America I express my sincere appreciation and I commend FAO for the recognition given to these outstanding scientists. I thank and commend the scientists for their outstanding leadership. The United States of America is exceedingly proud of these men and the contribution they have made to the scientific base for this successful eradication effort led by FAO. The United States is exceedingly proud of FAO for the leadership of this effort in amassing resources to carry it out. It is appropriate that this recognition be given at this FAO Council meeting. Science does not know country boundaries; insects do not know country boundaries, and FAO assists in part to bridge country boundaries. These scientists, the workers involved in this effort from the several countries and FAO deserve our thanks and our congratulations. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN:** I would like to give the floor to Dr Bushland.

**Dr R.C. BUSHLAND:** Ladies and gentlemen of the FAO, never before in my career have I felt so honoured as I do today. In the presence of your distinguished company I begin by expressing my gratitude to FAO, as directed by Director Saouma, Dr Cunningham and their associates in the United States and Italy who have made this such a happy event always to be treasured in my memory.

My pleasure began with reading Dr Cunningham's generous remarks in his newsletters depicting progress in the eradication programme. The credit he gave to us old research workers at the USDA and the praise he accorded the present staff of the USA Screwworm Commission are part of the permanent working record of FAO's remarkably efficient successful campaign. Basic research and small-scale field trials were an important beginning which this Organization has highlighted by selecting Dr Knipling and me for recognition. We made a beginning, that success was only through the dedicated service of our many colleagues in the USDA and the United States agricultural agencies. I am particularly mindful of voluntary organizations such as the Southwest Animal Health Research Foundation. The farmers and ranchers of the southwestern United States donated their own private funds to make an equal matched amount of money to the United States Government to take the necessary political measures to begin screwworm eradication in Texas and the American southwest. Mexican leaders in their livestock industry cooperated to expand the organization and to extend eradication to Central America. Because of their effort a sterile screwworm factory now exists to supply the flies that FAO so efficiently used in your remarkable and effective programme for animal and human welfare. My congratulations to you and to all. You have my profound gratitude.

**Dr E.F. KNIPLING:** Mr Chairman, Director-General, Members of the Council and delegates and guests, it is a pleasure for me to be here to receive the prestigious award given by FAO. It has been almost forty years since the screwworm population on the small island of Curaçao was eliminated by the use of a new method of control that my colleague Dr Bushland and I had proposed and discussed more than fifteen years earlier.

Whilst we are being honoured by the FAO for the roles we played in the development of the new approach to insect control, I am mindful of the important contributions of the many other individuals from different countries who made possible the several screwworm eradication programmes that followed and ensured their success. These individuals included pioneering research scientists, innovative pest managers and engineers who perfected the technology and put it into practice, and livestock producers who were responsible for obtaining the resources and for prompting the initiatives that had to be taken to get the programmes under way. These individuals, and their many able and dedicated assistants, should share in the recognition and awards achieved today. Well-informed biologists realize that the complete elimination of well-established pest populations is a demanding and difficult undertaking. No matter how sound the basic technology might be, unless the technology is applied in the proper manner and with precision, such programmes will not be successful.

The eradication of the screwworm from Libya in such a short period of time is clear evidence that the programme was well-planned and extremely well-executed by those responsible for various aspects of the programme. In this connection, I would like to take this opportunity to pay a special tribute to two colleagues and two personal friends who made major contributions to these programmes. I refer to Dr Arthur W. Lindquist, who unfortunately is no longer with us but who played a prominent role in developing the basic technology involved in the sterile insect technique. I also pay reference to his son, Dr Donald A. Lindquist, who played such a prominent role in the success of the programme in Libya. Art Lindquist would have felt doubly honoured and filled with great pride if he could have been here for this occasion.

All people who have an interest in agriculture, and the additional millions who want our wildlife resources protected and preserved, should be grateful to the leadership of the FAO and the supporting organizations for their decision to undertake the important programme conducted in Libya. Only those familiar with the screwworm can fully appreciate the extent of the damage and suffering by livestock, wild animals and possibly humans this obnoxious pest would have caused if it had spread and become firmly established on the continent of Africa.

I wish to close my remarks by commending FAO on its accomplishments but also I wish to remind the administrators of organizations, having responsibility in the area of pest management, that there are other important pest problems in various parts of the world which need to be resolved. It is my conviction that we have the knowledge and the basic technology for dealing with many other important insect pest problems more effectively in the future than we have done in the past. Moreover, this can be done in an ecologically acceptable manner and with highly favourable benefit-cost ratios that would be comparable to those attained in the various screwworm programmes. However, to achieve these goals we must be

bold in our thinking and planning. It is imperative that provisions be made for the technology that we have to be applied in the proper manner.

Again, may I express my appreciation for the great honour accorded me. I wish to thank you for the courtesy FAO has extended to me and to the members of my family who are privileged to be here.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

**Milad Abdessalam SCHMEYLA (Libya) (Original language Arabic):** I would like to take this opportunity to express the appreciation and the thanks of Libya to the Food and Agriculture Organization and its Director-General for the technical and material support they have given us in order to combat this pest which was a threat not only to Libya, but to all the North African countries and Africa in general, and also to the Mediterranean countries.

I would also like to express our gratitude for the financial support given by the donor countries and organizations, and I would like to thank the team which supervised this campaign. Had it not been for its perseverance, we would not have been able to combat the screwworm. When the screwworm was discovered for the first time in Libya, it was not well-known by us at that time. In spite of the efforts Libya made during that period, with our limited resources and our laboratories and technicians, to a large extent we were not able to combat this dangerous screwworm. We were not able to know the reasons for its spread. Thanks to science and the scientists who have researched this, and especially Dr Bushland and Dr Knipling, and all the other scientists who have contributed and devoted their lives to science, and thanks of course for what has been done by the FAO and the donor countries and organizations, we have been able to combat this pest and nip it in the bud.

I would like once again to say thank you in appreciation of the international effort made in this respect. This, of course, is proof of the best of international cooperation for the benefit of mankind in general.

**John McGOWAN (Canada):** Canada would like to join others in congratulating Dr Bushland and Dr Knipling for their outstanding contribution to agriculture and the world. The FAO has also played a vital role by supporting the application of their sterile insect procedures to avert the potential scourge of the New World screwworm in North Africa. By alerting the international community to the danger posed by that insect and by utilizing the most up-to-date techniques developed by these distinguished scientists, the FAO has added to an already impressive track record in this type of work. Canada believes that only the FAO can have organized an operation on this scale.

The sterile insect technique has been used effectively in Western Canada and so it is with particular gratitude that Canada thanks Dr Bushland and Dr Knipling for their exemplary work in the service of mankind.

On a personal note, I would also like to wish them both well in the pursuit of their favourite hobbies, hunting and fishing, and wish them both well in the future.

**UE PRESIDENT:** Au nom de tout le Conseil, je voudrais remercier à la fois les deux grands hommes de science qui nous ont fait l'honneur d'être présents ici, mais je voudrais également remercier la FAO pour le travail qui a été fait. J'ai eu l'occasion, au cours de ces derniers mois, de voir que certaines autres organisations ont tenté de s'attribuer le bénéfice de ce qui fut réalisé. Ce qui a été réalisé, l'a été grâce à la compétence du personnel de la FAO, du service SECNA et de l'intérêt que, dès le début, le Directeur général, M. Edouard Saouma, a porté à l'opération. Il était important de souligner le rôle de la FAO dans l'action qui a été menée et, au nom du Conseil, je remercie le Directeur général pour tout ce qui a été fait.

Thank you, Dr Bushland and Dr Knipling. I hope you have a very good stay in Rome. Goodbye and thank you for your kind cooperation.

I. INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION (continued)

I. INTRODUCTION - QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE (suite)

I. INTRODUCCION - CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO (continuación)

2. Election of Three Vice-Chairmen, and Designation of the Chairman and Members of the Drafting Committee (continued)

2. Election de trois Vice-Présidents et nomination du Président et des membres du Comité de rédaction (suite)

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

**LE PRESIDENT:** Vous vous souviendrez que nous avons laissé ce matin trois points en suspens: le problème du Comité de rédaction. Nous avons réglé le problème de la présidence en votant pour la présidence de ce Comité de rédaction qui a été élu par vos soins, M. Mustapha Menouar Sinaceur.

Je vous donne lecture de la proposition de composition du Comité de rédaction en demandant à son honorable Président de bien vouloir, au cours des travaux et en tenant compte des différents sujets qui nous seront soumis, prendre toutes les mesures et les initiatives nécessaires pour que le Comité de rédaction puisse travailler vite et bien avec la participation de tous les membres du Conseil, étant entendu que le Président du Comité de rédaction prendra ses responsabilités et que l'équilibre qui a été prévu dans la composition du Comité de rédaction sera et doit être respecté. Les membres du Comité de rédaction proposés sont: Allemagne, Australie, Canada, Colombie, République de Corée, Cuba, Egypte, France, Ghana, Inde, Libye, Maroc et Suède.

Je crois avoir été suffisamment clair. Je passe la parole au Président du Comité de rédaction en lui demandant s'il a un ou plusieurs points à ajouter à ce que je viens de dire.

**Mustapha Menouar SINACEUR (Président, Comité de rédaction):** Nous avons bien pris note du vœu que vous avez formulé et personnellement j'ai bien pris note du vœu formulé par le Directeur général il y a quelques instants quant à la tâche difficile qui attend les membres du Comité de rédaction. J'aimerais faire une suggestion si vous me le permettez. Pour cela je demande l'assentiment du Conseil. Nous avons affaire cette fois à une session du Conseil un peu particulière sur deux jours et demis contrairement à l'habitude, et je ne vous cache pas que cela ne va pas faciliter les travaux du Comité de rédaction; aussi bien du Comité de rédaction que du Secrétariat, d'ailleurs. Pour cela je propose, compte tenu de l'habitude de la FAO et compte tenu des retards que nous vivons généralement pour l'adoption de rapports, retards dûs à la préparation des documents des rapports, je voudrais donc proposer que nous reportions l'adoption du rapport du jeudi après-midi au vendredi matin. Cela pour permettre au Secrétariat de faire le travail qui est le sien, c'est-à-dire la traduction, le tirage des documents, pour éviter aux délégués de se présenter le jeudi après-midi et d'attendre qu'une partie du rapport soit prête en telle ou telle langue. Je pense qu'ainsi nous faciliterons la tâche aussi bien du Secrétariat que du Comité de rédaction qui pourra travailler avec tous les moyens à disposition demain soir, jeudi matin s'il le faut et surtout dans l'après-midi du jeudi. Bien sûr, il y a des engagements qui ont été pris pour la journée de vendredi, par exemple il y a la réunion de la Commission des candidatures. Aussi, me permettrai-je de proposer qu'elle se réunisse tôt le matin, par exemple aux environs de 9 heures et que nous convoquions avec votre accord et l'accord de la plénière, une séance vers 11 h 30 pour l'adoption du rapport. Il aurait été préférable, bien sûr, de convoquer la séance pour l'après-midi mais nous sommes à la porte de la Conférence, les délégations arrivent et donc, il faut peut-être penser à laisser l'après-midi libre aux délégués et également au Secrétariat pour peaufiner ce qu'ils auront à faire. Aussi je souhaite que l'adoption du rapport se fasse vendredi matin ou en fin d'après-midi.

**LE PRÉSIDENT:** Je remercie le Président du Comité de rédaction de son vœu. Je crois qu'il est prématuré de prendre une quelconque décision pour le moment car nous ne savons pas très bien comment évolueront nos travaux durant les différentes journées de session. Je vous demanderais de me faire confiance. S'il est possible de réaliser certaines performances tant mieux, sinon je vous consulterai et nous prendrons la décision opportune au moment opportun. Je crois qu'il est prématuré, comme nous commençons ce mardi, de savoir quand on terminera et quel sera l'état du rapport et si les documents seront distribués à temps et bien traduits dans toutes les langues. Laissons le temps s'écouler. Nous verrons en temps opportun. Je ferai une proposition en temps utile.

II. ACTIVITIES OF FAO (continued)

II. ACTIVITES DE LA FAO (suite)

II. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO (continuación)

4. Preparations for the 26th Session of the FAO Conference (continued)

4. Préparatifs de la vingt-sixième session de la Conférence de la FAO (suite)

4. Preparativos para el 26° período de sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO (continuación)



- 4.1 Nomination of the Chairman of the Conference, and of the Chairmen of the Commissions of the Conference (Recommendations to the Conference)
- 4.1 Proposition de candidatures aux fonctions de Président de la Conférence et de Présidents des Commissions de la Conférence (Recommandations à la Conférence)
- 4.1 Propuesta de candidaturas para la Presidencia de la Conferencia y de las Comisiones de la Conferencia (Recomendaciones a la Conferencia)

**LE PRESIDENT:** Demain matin, à 9 h 30, en toute hypothèse nous devons faire une proposition en ce qui concerne la présidence des trois Commissions et si nous n'aboutissons pas à un consensus il faudra que chaque pays prenne ses responsabilités et que de manière très claire nous puissions décider demain à 9 h 30 en début de séance.

- 4.2 Election of the Nominations Committee (continued)
- 4.2 Election des membres de la Commission des candidatures (suite)
- 4.2 Elección del Comité de Candidaturas (continuación)

Il nous reste à régler le problème de la Commission des candidatures qui se réunira vendredi, dans la perspective de la Conférence. Je crois qu'on est arrivé à un accord entre les différents groupes, en tout cas entre le groupe OCDE et le Groupe des 77 et même avec les pays qui ne sont membres d'aucun des deux groupes. Les propositions sont les suivantes: Commissions des candidatures: Arabie Saoudite, Bangladesh, Canada, Cuba, Espagne, Guatemala, Japon, République démocratique de Corée, Soudan, Tunisie, Turquie. Donc nous avons pour la Commission des candidatures 11 membres de la Commission des candidatures.

Y-a-t-il des remarques? Il y a un large accord je crois. La Commission des candidatures est ainsi constituée. Il en est ainsi décidé. Nous allons maintenant passer au point suivant de notre ordre du jour, l'examen du Programme ordinaire 1990-1991. Nous avons deux documents qui nous sont soumis: le document C 91/8 et le document CL 100/4, qui est le rapport de la Commission conjointe et des deux Comités financier et du Programme. Sur ce point, je demanderais, s'il le veut bien, à M. Shah, qui est l'assistant du Directeur général de nous faire un très bref exposé introductif et je demanderai au Conseil de faire, s'il le désire l'une ou l'autre remarque à l'intention de la Conférence mais en style télégraphique.

Je crois qu'il faudrait éviter de s'étendre sur ce point de l'ordre du jour. Nous avons déjà eu l'occasion de discuter beaucoup du Programme ordinaire 1990-1991 et je ne crois pas qu'un large débat apportera des éléments supplémentaires pour la préparation de la Conférence. Dès le départ ce matin, j'ai insisté sur la concision indispensable dont devaient faire preuve les délégations. Supprimer des points à l'ordre du jour serait étouffer et enlever à certaines délégations la possibilité de faire des remarques en style télégraphique. Je vous demanderais avec beaucoup d'insistance d'être le plus bref et le plus concis sur ce point.

**Frederik Ch. PRILLEVITZ (Netherlands):** Mr Chairman, you did not read out the name of my country, and I indicated particular interest this morning; but we have found a good solution - a very elegant one, and I know that my neighbour the Chairman of the Drafting Committee will give consideration to the possibility that perhaps my country will be in a position to give support to the drafting of our Report on an item which is of special interest to us in our capacity as Chairman of the European Community.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je crois avoir été suffisamment clair en demandant au Président du Comité de rédaction de prendre ses responsabilités compte tenu des éléments qui viennent d'être soulevés par son voisin de droite. J'ai été clair et je crois que vous pouvez difficilement l'être davantage. Faisons confiance au Président du Comité de rédaction. Il le mérite.

Le second point que nous avons réservé ce matin concernait les présidences des Commissions de la Conférence. Il est prématuré de vous faire une proposition à ce stade, car je crois que des consultations sont encore en cours et elles ont lieu déjà depuis un certain temps mais la dead-line, la date limite sera demain matin à 9 h 30.

III. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

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

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

9. Review of the Regular Programme 1990-91: for discussion

9. Examen du Programme ordinaire 1990-91: pour examen

9. Examen del Programa Ordinario, 1990-91: para debate

**V.J. SHAH (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation):** I shall limit myself to highlighting only a number of points which the Programme and Finance Committees have covered in their examination of the Review of the Regular Programme 1990-91, as these are points to which they attach importance.

Firstly, the Programme Committee has expressed satisfaction, for which the Secretariat is grateful, with the document itself. This, after all, is an important document: it is the main mechanism for informing the Governing Bodies of the achievements and results under the Regular Programme. This document forms an important part of FAO's evaluation structure, which also includes the Review of Field Programmes, and the evaluation structure which includes internal and external evaluations of particular programmes; auto-evaluation by Programme Managers in the Secretariat, and as regards the Field Programme, a tripartite system of project evaluations including donor governments and organizations and the governments in whose territories the projects are executed.

With this Review, the number of sub-programmes covered has reached 46 percent of all the Technical and Economical Sub-Programmes which make up our Programme of Work.

I think the next point for me to stress is that the Programme Committee commended the informative and comprehensive nature of the Review. We have tried to make the document analytical and result-oriented, as has been desired by Member Nations in the Governing Bodies in the past. Various improvements have been introduced, and I would draw attention to the incorporation of evaluation findings and the more self-contained nature of the Summary.

We were pleased that the Programme Committee agreed that the four Sub-Programmes which are evaluated in Part Two of the Review are topics which are particularly relevant to the current priority of sustainable agriculture and environment, as is the topic of the Technical Cooperation Networks, which is the subject of the in-depth evaluation in Part Three of the Review.

The document is clear about the adverse effects on programme implementation of the financial constraints which have been, and continue to be, faced by the Organization, and which were the subject of your brief debate this morning. All I can say on that is that to recover the lost ground will require considerable effort and time, as well as assured resources.

In view of the attention which the Programme and Finance Committees have devoted to this document, if I may take up a suggestion which was made this morning and which was also a practice which the Council has followed in the past, the Council may wish to draw the comments of the Programme and Finance Committees on this document to the attention of the Conference at the time it discusses the subject. This could be done, as was suggested, in the form of a LIM document which would be presented to Commission II.

**LE PRESIDENT :** Nous avons sous les yeux un excellent document à l'attention de la Conférence, document C 91/8, Examen du Programme ordinaire 1990-1991 qui a été amplement examiné et débattu par le Comité du Programme, tout spécialement et par les comités conjoints. Je vous demanderais dans toute la mesure du possible, de faire part de vos observations mais en style télégraphique car je crois et vous avez eu l'occasion de vous pencher sur les comptes rendus d'activités des différents comités que l'examen a été complet. Je vois à ce stade une demande d'intervention. Je souhaite qu'il n'y en ait pas beaucoup d'autres et s'il y en a qu'elles soient le plus court possible

**Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia):** Como siempre, señor Presidente, el Sr. Shah hizo una excelente presentación. Proponemos que en nuestro informe el Consejo tome nota de este interesante documento y, asimismo, que registre complacido el hecho de que un resumen de las opiniones de los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas será enviado a la Comisión II cuando se discuta este tema.

Recordará Usted, y los miembros del Consejo, que éste fue uno de los temas que Colombia propuso suprimir.

**LE PRESIDENT:** La suggestion de l'Ambassadeur de Colombie me semble concrète et opérationnelle. Tout le monde a eu l'occasion d'étudier le document et la Commission II aura l'occasion d'en débattre longuement sous une

présidence qui, en ce moment, est encore inconnue, mais qui sera connue demain, à 9 h 30. S'il n'y a pas d'autres remarques, nous allons prendre acte du point 9, de l'introduction faite par le Directeur général adjoint et des remarques faites par les Comités.

10. Medium-Term Plan 1992-97: for discussion

10. Plan à moyen terme 1992-97: pour examen

10. Plan a plazo medio, 1992-97: para debate

Le point 10 concerne le Plan à moyen terme 1992-97, qui nous est soumis pour examen. Il s'agit de la résultante de l'examen de la FAO que l'on a appelé improprement la "réforme". Un excellent document nous a été soumis. Il s'agit du document CL 100/4, qui est le même document que le précédent relatif au rapport de la réunion conjointe des deux Comités ainsi qu'aux rapports de la session du Comité du Programme et de la session du Comité financier.

Ce Plan à moyen terme a été longuement examiné par les Comités. Je crois que nous pouvons féliciter le Secrétariat d'avoir réalisé le voeu exprimé par la Conférence lors de sa précédente session, qui était de disposer d'un plan à moyen terme. Le document est particulièrement intéressant et substantiel. Je pense que nous pourrions procéder pour le point 10 comme nous l'avons fait pour le point 9. S'il y a quelques éclaircissements à obtenir, il serait souhaitable de consulter le Conseil, notamment en ce qui concerne les perspectives d'avenir et les recommandations à présenter à la Conférence au sujet des deux possibilités qui se présentent. Je crois qu'il serait bon, à cet égard, que le Conseil soit se range à l'avis de ces Comités, soit éventuellement complète l'avis de ces Comités, étant entendu qu'un consensus n'est pas intervenu mais qu'il existe quand même un large accord sur les grandes lignes de ce Plan à moyen terme.

Je vais demander à M. Shah de bien vouloir introduire le point 10 de l'ordre du jour.

**V.J. SHAH (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation):** Sir, if at all I will only be fractionally longer in the introduction of this Item.

This Medium-Term Plan is submitted by the Director-General to the Conference in response to Conference Resolution 10/89 and as directed by the same Resolution this Plan has been submitted through the Council. You have already drawn the attention of the Council to the views of the Programme and Finance Committees and once again, if so be your wish, it may be useful for the Council to consider forwarding these views of the two Committees to the Conference.

There are five points which I would like to emphasize as they emanate from the work done by the Programme and Finance Committees. Firstly, the Committees - and I should say that the Committees considered this document individually as well as in their joint meeting - considered the Medium-Term Plan a fitting response to the Conference Resolution. The Programme and Finance Committees feel that as a policy synthesis document it will facilitate a constructive and rich debate at the Conference. I am conveying

the words and the wishes of the Committees, Sir, even though, as you can imagine, the Secretariat is proud to associate itself with these views.

Secondly, the Committees appreciate the coverage of the issues in the Medium-Term Plan including the many factors likely to affect FAO action through the 1990s, the proposed relevant priorities of both a cross-sectoral and sectoral nature, the regional dimensions of our action and the indication of cooperative links with other organizations and partners in our Programmes. The Plan also highlights the complementarity between it and the biennial Programme of Work and Budget document.

The third point is that the Plan builds on the results of the FAO Review. The two Committees consider that the Plan provides a useful framework for more refined priority-setting in successive Programmes of Work and Budget. The two Committees support more particularly the major policy orientations which are outlined in the conclusions to the Medium-Term Plan, and they have expressed the hope for, and look forward to, their consensus adoption by the Conference.

The fourth point is one on which there were differences of perception; this concerns the tentative resource projections which are indicated in the conclusions to the Medium-Term Plan. The Programme and Finance Committees recalled that Members of this Organization hold differing views as to the desirability of the Plan covering the resource aspects. This is a fact. Nevertheless, the Committees stress that the resource projections should not be considered to be of a binding character on Member Nations, and they urged that the resources aspect should not detract - and I repeat, should not detract from the possibility of unanimity on the substance of the Plan.

The fifth point, Sir, is one to which you have drawn attention, about the future versions of the Plan. The Director-General has presented two options, the Committees have considered them and given their views, and the Committees bear in mind that whatever option may be selected by the Conference in the future there is at least one point of agreement; that is that the future version of the Plan should be concise.

Finally, may I convey on behalf of our Director-General his hope that this Medium-Term Plan will fulfil the expectations of Member Nations, and that it will provide a sound basis for frank, fruitful and constructive discussions. As he said in his introduction to the Medium-Term Plan, differences of perception and opinion among Member Nations on individual issues are to be expected. Nevertheless, the Medium-Term Plan provides an opportunity and a context for Member Nations to unite on a platform for strengthening their Organization, the FAO, through the 90s.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je crois qu'il est important de disposer d'un plan à moyen terme; cela est conforme au vœu clairement exprimé par la Conférence. Le problème est évidemment de savoir quelle est celle des deux hypothèses proposées par le Directeur général qui mérite le soutien du Conseil, qui fera subséquemment une recommandation à la Conférence. Au sein des Comités, les avis étaient partagés mais tout le monde a marqué son accord pour un examen du plan à chaque session de la Conférence ainsi qu'une projection sur une période de six ans. Les différences de points de vue ne sont ni antagonistes, ni contradictoires. Il serait quand même utile de demander à ceux qui n'ont pas pu participer aux travaux des deux Comités s'ils ont des

remarques à présenter en ce qui concerne ce plan à moyen terme. Il s'agit d'un document important pour la vie de l'Organisation. Il est évident qu'une planification ne peut être qu'indicative, qu'elle doit pouvoir se baser sur une assurance de flux financiers normaux et stables et qu'il n'y a pas de programme de travail sans une vue à moyen et long terme, laquelle nécessite également une prise de conscience des responsabilités de tous les Etats Membres vis-à-vis de l'Organisation.

**Gonzalo BUIA HOYOS (Colombia):** Con el propósito de apoyar sus esfuerzos para avanzar en nuestros trabajos, le rogarla que me permita que en las actas se reproduzca, sobre este tema, la misma intervención mía sobre el tema anterior.

**Jacques WARIN (France):** Je vais intervenir brièvement, simplement sur le Plan à moyen terme puisque mon pays était représenté au Comité du Programme par le Président de ce Comité, M. Mazoyer, qui a eu l'opportunité de faire entendre sa voix. Je remercie également beaucoup M. Shah pour les explications brèves et concises qu'il nous a données.

Il est clair que personne d'entre nous ne remet en cause l'utilité du Plan à moyen terme qui est, je crois, l'un des acquis majeurs de l'examen qui a été effectué pendant les deux années qui avaient précédé la vingt-cinquième Conférence de la FAO. Alors, comme vous venez de le répéter, nous sommes tous d'accord pour qu'il y ait un plan de six ans à moyen terme, qui définisse les grandes orientations de l'Organisation, et pour que ce plan soit glissant, comme l'on dit en français, c'est-à-dire qu'il soit révisable tous les deux ans.

L'option qui se présente est la suivante: est-ce que, tous les deux ans, on va revoir le plan pour l'avancer de six ans et, ainsi, chaque examen biennal sera un petit peu le même, le risque étant d'aboutir à une certaine routine dans la conception et l'organisation de ce plan à moyen terme? L'autre option, qui est celle que ma délégation va proposer, est qu'il y ait un examen sexennal, beaucoup plus important que l'examen biennal. En d'autres termes, quand on lance un plan - et c'est ce que nous allons faire aujourd'hui - on le regarde à fond. Ensuite, il y aura deux examens biennaux: en 1993 et en 1995. Mais ce que j'aimerais que nous puissions décider tout de suite, c'est que l'examen de 1997 ne sera pas du tout de même nature, que ce sera l'occasion pour nous de lancer un deuxième plan à moyen terme complètement différent, peut-être dans sa structure et sa conception.

Je me prononce donc, au nom de ma délégation, pour une conception plus opérationnelle, plus révolutionnaire allais-je dire, du Plan à moyen terme, c'est-à-dire des examens biennaux, oui, mais un examen tous les six ans qui soit beaucoup plus important et qui permette de remettre en cause tout le plan à moyen terme. Je ne sais pas si ce sont ces deux options-là que vous nous proposiez tout à l'heure, mais voilà celle pour laquelle je voudrais aujourd'hui me prononcer, et je vous remercie de me l'avoir permis.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Il va de soi que nous sommes tous d'accord avec une approche révolutionnaire, puisque c'est la première fois que nous disposons d'un plan à moyen terme et qu'il est clair que l'examen de ce plan devra faire,

à la Commission II, l'objet d'un examen approfondi. Il a déjà fait l'objet d'un examen très minutieux de vos comités.

La suggestion que fait la délégué de la France me paraît tout à fait raisonnable, étant entendu que, de toute façon, il ne s'agit que d'une planification indicative. Le monde change et il change vite. Les besoins des pays en développement et d'un certain nombre d'autres pays peuvent évoluer mais les objectifs fixés par les statuts de la FAO, s'ils sont valables aujourd'hui comme ils l'étaient hier, resteront fondamentalement valables demain.

Je crois, en effet, que l'un des résultats les plus concrets de ce que l'on a appelé l'Examen de la FAO - qualifié, comme je l'ai dit antérieurement de "réforme" - a été de constater que les statuts de la FAO avaient été bien rédigés et que les buts et objectifs de l'Organisation en 1945 restaient fondamentalement valables en 1989. Ils sont certainement encore valables en 1991 et je crois qu'ils seront valables dans les années qui viennent.

Je remercie le délégué de la France de la suggestion qu'il a faite. Je crois qu'il est malgré tout important de garder la perspective d'un plan continu de six ans dont l'examen se ferait d'une manière plus exhaustive au bout de six ans. Nous aurons l'occasion, cette fois, d'effectuer un examen très complet du document qui nous est soumis. Au cours des sessions ultérieures de la Conférence, comme l'a très bien souligné l'Ambassadeur de France, il sera possible d'apporter éventuellement un addendum ou des addenda au plan de façon à infléchir ou corriger certaines perspectives de ce plan ou à souligner l'importance de certains points qui auraient été laissés quelque peu dans l'ombre en déterminant, de façon plus précise, grâce à l'intervention de tous, les grandes priorités. On parle depuis très longtemps des priorités: ce sont les besoins du monde. Il nous appartient de rendre ce plan adéquat en fonction de ces besoins.

Je crois qu'il est quand même utile, sur une question aussi importante, que le rapport reflète l'opinion du Conseil.

Le point que nous vaudrions soulever - M. Shah l'a très bien souligné - c'est que les points de vue ne sont pas contradictoires. Ils peuvent parfaitement devenir complémentaires. Ils le seront dans la mesure où en Commission II, ultérieurement, on parviendra - et je suis convaincu qu'on y parviendra - à se mettre d'accord sur les procédures. La suggestion, telle qu'elle vient d'être faite, est une bonne suggestion, mais il y en a peut-être d'autres qui désireraient compléter cette suggestion ou exprimer un point de vue quelque peu différent.

**C.B. HOUTMAN (Netherlands):** I shall try to respond in a small way to what has been said so far.

The request is made to express in a final way an opinion on the two possibilities that are mentioned in the Medium-Term Plan during the Conference. I could imagine that, while dealing with the subject during the Conference, due to all the remarks that have been made there could be a position that the Secretariat and the Council may think it justifiable to have another new Medium-Term Plan, and thereafter to decide to have it adopted every two years. Therefore, we would have a Medium-Term Plan from 1993 to 1999, and from 1999 another six-year Medium-Term Plan.

Therefore, we would have a compromise between what France has suggested and the other option. I think that, from what we have heard, the reaction of the Council to the Medium-Term Plan is positive, and that there is still a possibility for reshaping it. As you said, Mr Chairman, possibly it should be more concise. That can have some implications on the final shape. We can possibly have a decision now, but from a new starting point for the next two years. That may be a third option, and I just want to present it here and then perhaps come back to it later in the Conference.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je crois qu'en fait le plan qui nous est soumis n'est pas un plan rigide. Il n'est certainement pas coercitif. Il s'agit d'un plan indicatif qui doit être adapté en fonction des circonstances. Il peut l'être tous les deux ans. Je crois même qu'il peut être infléchi par votre Conseil si des éléments nouveaux interviennent dans la vie de l'Organisation. Le but du plan n'a pas été de tracer une ligne coercitive pour notre Organisation mais uniquement de tracer une ligne prospective dans un certain nombre de domaines importants.

La position médiane qui est proposée par le représentant des Pays-Bas nous paraît sage.

Y a-t-il d'autres propositions sur ce point?... Je ne vois aucune pancarte se lever. Il serait peut-être souhaitable d'en arriver à retenir ce qu'on appelle l'option I, mais corrigée comme vient de le proposer le représentant des Pays-Bas. Il va de soi que l'option I ne peut être une option rigide. Il peut entraîner constamment des modifications, notamment dans les priorités, en fonction des circonstances. Donc une formule intermédiaire pourrait être retenue et soumise à la Conférence. Est-ce que vous pourriez marquer votre accord sur cette formule?

Je vais demander à M. Shah de nous faire part de son point de vue en ce qui concerne les suggestions qui viennent d'être faites.

**V.J. SHAH (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation):** May I first take the suggestion of the Ambassador of France. If I did not misunderstand him, his suggestion is on the line of Option I and, of course, I have taken careful note of the particular nuances that he gave in his suggestion.

The suggestion of the representative of the Netherlands, as I have understood it, is that the Council need not express a particular recommendation at this stage, that the Council could suggest to the Conference that the Conference examine another Medium-Term Plan in two years, which would be responsive to whatever debate takes place at the Conference, and which could be more concise. In another two years the Conference could take a decision on how it wishes to deal with the subject both with regard to scope and as regards the nature of the document.

I have no problem on the part of the Secretariat. As the Director-General has said in the Conclusions, we will abide by whatever the Conference decides. We will not only abide by what the Conference decides, we will try to give you satisfaction.



**LE PRESIDENT:** Pour clore ce point de l'ordre du jour, nous avons entendu deux suggestions importantes. Nous avons un excellent document qui résume les points de vue des différents membres, spécialement du Comité du Programme qui a longuement examiné les deux options qui ne sont pas contradictoires. Dans le rapport du Conseil on reflétera les opinions qui ont été émises en recommandant à la Conférence de trouver la formule de synthèse, qui me paraît facile à trouver à la condition que le plan ait une série de lignes directrices indicatives, non impératives, devant être adaptées en fonction des circonstances dans l'esprit des décisions et des résolutions de la Conférence et dans le cadre des missions imparties à la FAO.

S'il n'y a pas d'autres remarques, je déclare clos le point 10 de notre ordre du jour et nous passons maintenant au point 11: Programme de travail et budget pour 1992-93.

Nous avons deux documents de la Conférence: le document C 91/3 et le document C 91/3-Sup.1, et le document du Conseil CL 100/4 qui contient les rapports du Comité du Programme, du Comité financier et de la réunion conjointe des deux Comités.

11. Programme of Work and Budget 1992-93

11. Programme de travail et budget 1992-93

11. Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1992-93

Comme vous le savez, le Programme de travail et budget pour 1992-93 est un document très important. Il est utile que, dès à présent, nous préparions dans de bonnes conditions les travaux de la Conférence, sans rouvrir l'ensemble de la discussion.

Je voudrais quand même attirer votre attention sur le fait que ce Programme de travail et budget pour 1992-93 conditionne la vie de l'Organisation et qu'il est très important que le Conseil, après les Comités, puisse, à l'intention de la Conférence, faire état de son approche et de son point de vue concernant ce Programme de travail du prochain biennium.

Nous pourrions procéder peut-être avec une participation plus active et plus large des membres du Conseil. Je ne crois pas qu'il soit bon de prendre uniquement acte de ce qui a été fait par le Comité financier et le Comité du Programme. La Conférence tiendra compte du Conseil sur un de ses points majeurs qui sera examiné en Commission II et qui fera certainement l'objet de nombreuses heures de discussions. Si nous pouvions retenir le principe d'interventions courtes mais substantielles, avec dans toute la mesure du possible des prises de position claires, cela serait de nature à faciliter beaucoup les travaux de la Conférence.

Vous savez qu'un grand effort a été fait par le Secrétariat de la FAO et par le Directeur général, depuis de nombreux mois, pour aboutir à un large accord. Large accord veut dire un accord complet, veut dire consensus - qui est peut-être un terme un peu vague parce que tout le monde n'entend pas le terme consensus de la même façon - mais un large commun dénominateur qui permettrait à l'ensemble des Etats Membres de se mettre d'accord sur un programme de travail qui n'aura bien sûr de véritable valeur que dans la mesure où il pourra réellement être assumé, et pour être assumé, il doit

pouvoir être exécuté. Exécuter, ce n'est pas dans le sens de lui couper la tête, et je songe notamment à une intervention de ce matin en ce qui concerne certains points qui semblent moins prioritaires. Nous avons eu de très longues et très fructueuses discussions sur le Programme de travail et budget. L'ensemble de ce programme est conditionné par les moyens financiers nécessaires pour le réaliser. Sur ce point, toutes les interventions des membres du Conseil seront non seulement utiles, mais indispensables pour mener à bien le travail de la Conférence.

Puis-je demander à M. Shah de bien vouloir présenter le Programme de travail et budget; il l'a déjà présenté bien souvent avec sa compétence habituelle et il peut nous le présenter une fois encore.

**V.J. SHAH (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation):** Thank you, I am proud to do so, I am proud to do so on behalf of the Director-General and I will never tire to do so as long as he asks me to do it.

This subject is one which you do intend to discuss at this Session. There has been no suggestion that the debate on it be restrained or kept pending any further discussion at the Conference itself. However, my introduction can be mercifully short for the reason that the Council at its last Session in June considered the Summary Programme of Work and Budget and therefore I believe my main task should be to submit to the Council what action has been taken subsequent to the Summary Programme of Work and Budget in response to the views which were expressed at the Council in June. The Council was very helpful to us at its Session in June because it did reach a consensus in inviting the Director-General to proceed to finalize his proposals for the full Programme of Work and Budget on the basis of the Summary and the Council's reaction to it. I should therefore firstly like to confirm that the proposals now before you in the full Programme of Work and Budget respond to this recommendation of the Council and this has been endorsed also by the Programme and Finance Committees.

The substance of the Programme of Work and Budget document is really what you want this Organization to do; what you want your Secretariat to do in the next two years. We are very encouraged by the reaction that you Member Nations have shown in the Programme and Finance Committees and at the last Session of the Council to the proposals in terms of relative priorities, in terms of which are the areas that should get more resources, which are the areas which unfortunately have to get less resources, which are the changes in the manner in which we can carry out our programmes. All this can be under the heading of programme priorities.

The Programme Committee itself has given what we think is a very clear signal, because no matter what differences in perception there are between Member Nations, the Programme Committee has given its full support to the programme priorities and has expressed the hope that the Conference will approve them unanimously. In accordance with the consensus which you reached in the Council at your last Session the proposals in the full Programme of Work and Budget still provide for no real programme increase.

This takes me to the second point, the second point about cost increases and I realize that if not in the Council, certainly in Commission II, Member Nations may wish to have an in-depth debate on this but let me even

at this stage give you the parameters. The cost increase is the provision that we indicate in a proposed Programme of Work and Budget as the resources which we consider necessary to implement the programme of work which will eventually be approved by the Conference. The cost increases are not just a matter of accountants' delight, they are not a matter of abstract speculation, they are a very sober and realistic attempt to cost in a realistic way what we estimate will be the cost of implementing the programmes which are proposed and let there be no mistake, the methodology is the same one that we have used in the past. The review is one which as in the past is carried out by the Finance Committee, the cost increases are based on facts ; on facts about the increased costs which have already occurred and which need to be taken account of for the next two years and assumptions, assumptions of cost increases which have not yet occurred but we know, whether it be due to inflation or whether it be due to salary surveys, or whether it be due to the recommendations of the International Civil Service Commission, will result in higher costs.

In the Summary Programme of Work and Budget the cost increases were estimated at US\$87.3 million. That amount already excluded US\$3.2 million of cost increases for consultants and official travel, duty travel. Since the Summary Programme of Work and Budget you will have noticed that for the full Programme of Work and Budget the cost increases have been further reduced by US\$4.4 million to US\$82.9 million. So the total reduction of cost increases is by US\$7.6 million.

The third point I would like to draw to your attention is in relation to a proposal of the Director-General which was not in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget but is quite a prominent feature of the full Programme of Work and Budget and that concerns the Technical Cooperation Programme. In the Summary Programme of Work and Budget he had only indicated the level of the resources that the Technical Cooperation Programme was proposed to receive in the next biennium and he indicated a programme increase which made the TCP one of the priority areas for increased resources. The provision for the Technical Cooperation Programme in the current Programme of Work and Budget for this biennium is US\$67.8 million which makes the TCP 11.9 percent of the total programme budget. The Director-General has been very very conscious of what Conference Resolution 9/89 on the subject of increases in allocation for the Technical Cooperation Programme in forthcoming biennia requested him to do. That resolution, we all recall, invited the Director-General to make every effort in order to restore the resources available to the TCP to the former level of fourteen percent of the total regular programme budget and if possible to raise them to seventeen percent.

For the next biennium, the Director-General has proposed that the level of the TCP should rise by US\$9.6 million, that is the programme increase and the related cost increases for the TCP, to a total of US\$77.4 million. Therefore, you have US\$67.8 million in this biennium to rise to US\$77.4 in the next biennium, and yet I state this quite frankly - and looking everyone in the eye - that the Director-General regrets that he has not been able to respond to Conference Resolution 9/89. In the context of the overall limitation of no programme increase, it has not been possible to channel further resources to the TCP or even to propose it for 1992-93. However, the Director-General is fully aware of the directives of that Conference Resolution and will not cease in his efforts to respond as time permits.

The second aspect of the proposal of the TCP is an entirely new matter. This is a proposal for the use of TCP resources in the next biennium, based on a formula permitting indicative country allocations, after setting aside amounts for emergencies, for regional projects and a small margin for contingencies. The formula is expanded in Chapter 4 of the Programme of Work and Budget, and I will certainly not take your time by going through it. I will be happy to do so, of course, if the debate in the Council so requests me to provide clarification.

The Director-General has made this proposal on the possible distribution of TCP resources by country only in the general interest of greater transparency. He considers that by its very nature the TCP is unprogrammed. This was one of the basic characteristics to which the Conference attached importance when it approved the establishment of the TCP. He is very well aware that Member Nations receiving TCP assistance have not expressed any wish to change the present practice. Above all, the Director-General fervently hopes that the Conference will seek to avoid any course of debate which may lead to controversy, misgivings, jealousies, regrets, among Member Nations themselves. However, in the interests of greater transparency, as I have said, the Director-General has proposed a formula, and that formula is based on the UNDP indicative planning figures. The UNDP indicative planning figures are a model which work in the context of UNDP. They have been accepted by governments in that context, and no matter what the eventual reaction may be of the Conference to this proposal, the Director-General hopes that the Council and the Conference will consider his proposal as an honest one which you may consider with whatever variation you may wish to introduce.

Having drawn the attention of the Council to these major aspects, I limit myself to saying in conclusion that the Director-General continues to hope, as does the Council, that the Programme of Work and Budget for 1992-93 will be adopted at the Conference by consensus. The Director-General spares, and continues to spare, no effort in helping to bring about this consensus, and he hopes that the Council will see its way to commending these proposals to the Conference with the same level of understanding, acceptance and support that it accorded to the Summary Programme of Work and Budget.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je voudrais au nom du Conseil vous remercier pour votre complète et substantielle intervention. Je vois que vous avez touché à beaucoup de domaines concernant le Programme de Travail et Budget et je voudrais me permettre de souligner que les augmentations de coûts, les "costs increases", reposent sur des éléments objectifs, que ces augmentations de coûts si elles sont contestées par certains, devraient l'être sur la base des éléments qui ont servi à les déterminer. Je voudrais aussi dire qu'en principe une résolution est une résolution et n'est pas un vœu et qu'en ce qui concerne le Programme de coopération technique, une résolution de la Conférence est en principe contraignante, qu'il y a peut-être des circonstances impérieuses qui ont fait qu'une résolution n'est plus une résolution et devient un vœu mais je crois qu'il est extrêmement dangereux de transformer les résolutions en souhaits. Une résolution est une décision de la Conférence et je crois que nous devons veiller à ce que les résolutions restent des décisions de l'organe souverain compétent. En ce qui concerne ce que l'on appelle la transparence du PCT, je voudrais faire remarquer que le secrétariat, en 1989, a fait un effort de publication d'un document contenant la liste de tous les projets finances

par fonds fiduciaires de différentes sources, qu'il s'agisse du Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement, de fonds fiduciaires nationaux ou d'un certain nombre de donateurs et que la transparence se trouve dans ce document. Je crois qu'il est dans les intentions du secrétariat de publier le plus vite possible et que le document est même à l'impression en ce moment, un document 91 reprenant cette liste. La transparence du PCT se trouve dans le document et je ne crois pas qu'il ait jamais été refusé par le secrétariat de fournir tous les renseignements qu'un certain nombre de pays souhaiteraient obtenir concernant l'un ou l'autre aspect du Programme de coopération technique. Je ne sais pas si beaucoup de questions ont été posées dans le passé, en tous cas elles peuvent l'être à tout moment par le service compétent du Programme de coopération technique et sur chacun des projets de coopération technique des réponses complètes peuvent être fournies. Je crois qu'il faut respecter l'esprit du PCT et que programmer l'imprévisible ne correspondrait plus à l'esprit dans lequel la Conférence a voulu le Programme de coopération technique. Je crois qu'il relève d'une autre philosophie que le Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement. C'est un avis personnel. J'aimerais que le Conseil donne un certain nombre d'indications. Le PCT vise à mettre au point les projets, à stimuler les projets, à trouver les sources de financement pour des propositions précises et concrètes soumises à l'attention soit d'organisations internationales, soit d'un certain nombre de donateurs, à répondre à un certain nombre de besoins présents et urgents provenant soit d'événements politiques ou de catastrophes naturelles. Je crois donc que vouloir programmer de manière mathématique, dans une répartition proche, passez-moi le terme un peu de "boutiquier", ne paraît pas relever de l'esprit dans lequel vous avez tous voulu ce Programme de coopération technique. Je crois qu'il est quand même indispensable que le Conseil fasse connaître ses vues sur les augmentations de coûts, sur ce que l'on a appelé le "lapse factor" sur les grandes lignes du Programme de travail et budget ainsi que sur le Programme de coopération technique, ainsi que sur ce qui a été expérimenté, avec succès.

Enfin, ce n'est pas à moi à donner un qualificatif à l'expérience qui a été mise en route de mise au point du budget-programme avec la procédure suivie parce que la Conférence devra se prononcer sur la procédure pour les biennia ultérieurs. Alors il serait fort important que de manière très concise, de manière très brève vous puissiez faire connaître votre position, la position des pays membres du Conseil sur ces différents points de façon à faciliter et à éclairer les travaux de la Commission II., La Commission II travaillera dans de meilleures conditions sur la base d'un rapport circonstancié de votre Conseil. Je sais que le but du Conseil n'est pas d'arriver à prendre les décisions, nous avons simplement, dans le cadre du Programme de travail et budget, à examiner ce programme de travail et non pas à décider sur un certain nombre d'autres points, demain et probablement après-demain nous aurons décider, et à nous prononcer en l'espèce; nous devons examiner, mais examiner nécessite quand même la nécessité de faire connaître son opinion, ses avis et ses considérations, ses points de vues sur les points qui ne sont pas des points litigieux puisqu'on est arrivé à un large accord avec les différents comités et au terme de la longue procédure de la mise au point du budget-programme.

J'ai pour le moment deux pays qui sont inscrits, en premier, le Pakistan et la Colombie et je demanderai aux pays qui comptent intervenir de vouloir s'inscrire dès maintenant étant entendu que la liste n'est pas clôturée. Y a-t-il d'autres pays? Allemagne, France, Japon, Australie, Etats-Unis,

Indonésie, République de Corée, Suède, Congo, Chine, Royaume-Uni, Canada, Madagascar.

**Mohammad Saleem KHAN (Pakistan) :** May I voice my thanks to Mr Shah for his presentation. As usual, he made a very succinct and excellent presentation on this Agenda Item, and may I thank you, Mr Chairman, for your extensive reflections on the statement made by Mr Shah and the contents of the documents.

My delegation had the opportunity to express its detailed views on the Programme of Work and Budget at its summary stage in the Ninety-ninth Session of the Council. As you have said yourself, I can therefore be brief, confining my remarks to a few major points.

We commend the Director-General for his all-out efforts to achieve a consensus on Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium, both in the FAO Council and the Conference Session following it.

We also commend the efforts of the Programme and Finance Committees for their endorsement of their proposals, while seeking the same ends. We look forward to such a consensus continuing during the Council and Conference sessions on the budget level, and note that this should be without further direct or indirect incisions in the effective size of the proposals before us.

We have never endorsed the concept of zero or negative growth, as not being conducive to the sound operations of FAO, or responsive to the numerous needs placed on the Organization by its Member States, particularly the large number of developing and poor countries. While we may welcome any consensus which may be arrived at, we would see particular difficulty in supporting further absorption of cost increases. In the spirit of consensus, we are also willing to endorse the proposed programme priorities, even though we feel that the overt emphasis on environment through Regular Resources at the expense of other programmes is not totally consistent with the position which developing countries have been regularly maintaining ever since the 1987 Conference.

The delegation of Pakistan feels great concern at the level of the TCP being once again fixed at 11.9 percent, considerably less than the modest 17 percent laid down in Conference Resolution 9/89, to which you yourself so eloquently referred. The TCP is, for reasons given on so many previous occasions, highly important for developing countries like ours, and we therefore hope that Conference Resolution 9/89 will be adhered to in finalizing the proposals for the 1994-95 biennium. The representatives of the State Members of the Asia and Pacific Region at the Ninety-ninth Session of the FAO Council, you may recall, had expressed their disappointment at the small level of TCP investments in their region, in comparison to their actual needs.

We are grateful to the Director-General for his references at paragraphs 757-770 of the document to the possibility of indicative country allocations, which provide a means of redress, and hope these proposals would be further examined and explored between Member Nations and by the FAO, and progress reported to a later Session of the Council.

Meanwhile, in the interests of maintaining harmony between regions and countries, we would propose to maintain a status quo over existing arrangements for the TCP, while asking FAO to continue its endeavours to bring about better regional balance in TCP dispensations during the coming biennium between the various regions.

The Asian Group also feels disappointed over the inability of FAO to accommodate its request for a separate and comprehensive study for the Asia and Pacific Region on the pattern of similar studies already carried out for other regions of the Organization. In this regard, we reiterate the view expressed by Members of our Region at the Ninety-ninth Session of the Council, that any updated version of "Agriculture Toward 2000" can not substitute for the special focus which a separate regional study provides. However, being cognizant of the financial difficulties of the FAO, we would request that a separate study for the Region be at least initiated at whatever scale possible this biennium and completed over an extended timeframe.

Turning to related issues in document CL 100/4, which includes the Report of the Finance and Programme Committees and Report of the Joint Session of the two Committees: we wish to reiterate the support we noted in our statement on Agenda Item 3, Financial Position of the Organization, for increasing the level of the Working Capital Fund to US\$25 million and for the replenishment of the Special Reserve Account. We also feel that maintaining the lapse factor at 3 percent is financially a sound and realistic proposition.

The Organization is already beset with financial difficulties arising out of large-scale arrears and these difficulties will be further compounded in the next biennium under the proposed low Budget level and the unprecedented absorption of cost increases. In this scenario, not having the Working Capital increase and not replenishing the Reserve Account would further compound the difficulties of the Organization, and we feel that it is our responsibility to alleviate the situation of the Organization at this time. We hope that in the general spirit of consensus which, since the last Council, has been so regularly mentioned, and in the interests of the Organization, Members would be able to establish unanimity on our position and facilitate the approval of the Programme of Work and Budget as a whole package, along with the proposed increase in the Working Capital Fund and in the Special Reserve Account. Such a consensus would certainly establish utility of the additional step in the Programme and Budget process which could then merit being institutionalized, and our support in terms of Conference Resolution 10/89.

Finally, my delegation would be willing to recommend to the Conference approval of the draft submitted on this item, subject to consensus building up in the totality of the above aspects. We look forward to further intervening in greater detail on this item in Commission II.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je me permets de faire une remarque à l'attention du Conseil. Je crois que les questions de trésorerie concernant le Compte de réserve spécial et le Fonds de roulement pourraient être discutées lors de l'examen du point 15 de l'ordre du jour de façon à éviter des répétitions.

Nous examinons le Programme de travail et budget, y compris les éléments concernant la procédure de mise au point de ce Programme de travail et budget. Mais le Fonds de roulement et le Compte de réserve spécial pourront être examinés dans le cadre de l'examen du rapport du Comité financier, au titre du point 15.

Je remercie le délégué du Pakistan de la clarté de son exposé ainsi que de sa concision. Je voudrais que cette concision serve d'exemple aux nombreux intervenants à venir.

**Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia):** La magnífica declaración del Sr. Shah facilita nuestra intervención. Sobre este tema los representantes de Colombia haremos una completa declaración en la Comisión II. Aquí nos vamos a limitar a escoger un muestreo, unos pocos temas. En primer lugar, sobre el crecimiento cero, compartimos lo que dijo nuestro colega y amigo Saleem Khan, de Pakistán. Después de algunas vacilaciones, el Gobierno de Colombia ha decidido que en la Conferencia votaremos a favor del nivel presupuestario que va a considerarse, pero que reiteraremos nuestra protesta cada vez más encendida en contra de ese funesto crecimiento cero. Nos opondremos también a que se repitan las tristemente célebres reuniones especiales de los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas celebradas en enero del año en que hay Conferencia. Nunca podremos apoyar el intento de los dos Comités para que en esa reunión especial se incorporen los textos básicos de nuestra Organización. Por el contrario nos opondremos, como lo hemos venido haciendo hasta ahora, a que se sigan celebrando esas reuniones. La primera de ellas condujo, en el bienio pasado, a que en la Conferencia, como nunca antes, hubiera un número crecido de votos contrarios y de abstención sobre el nivel del presupuesto; y en este bienio el funesto crecimiento cero y el consenso conseguido a costa de grandes sacrificios.

Todos recordamos el informe de la Reunión Especial de enero pasado, en la cual los dos Comités recomendaban el crecimiento cero en busca del consenso y sobre todo con dos propósitos fundamentales: primero, que se pagaran oportunamente las contribuciones, y segundo, que se iba a crear así una mejor atmósfera.

Sobre el primer punto, "Pago de las contribuciones", ya esta mañana en el tema que discutimos comprobamos cuál es esa situación.

Sobre el segundo punto, si la atmósfera se refiere a la Organización, es evidente que en ningún momento la FAO ha sufrido como ahora el peso de esa situación, con un número increíble de vacantes, con desaliento entre el personal profesional.

Todo eso afortunadamente ha sido superado por el criterio pragmático y la gran decisión del Director General, que ha logrado mantener la plena vitalidad de la Organización.

Otro de los puntos al cual queremos referirnos, es el aumento de costos. Se nos había dicho - y creemos en los órganos rectores y en la administración - que los aumentos de costos que habían aparecido originariamente en el Resumen del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto que estudió este Consejo en junio pasado habían sido determinados con base en la metodología, que habían aprobado el Comité de Finanzas, el Consejo y la Conferencia, todos los órganos rectores. Ahora ese aumento de costos, que



obedece a factores externos, se reduce de 87 a 84 millones. Cabe entonces preguntar ¿estaba equivocada esa metodología? ¿o esta reducción es el fruto de otra negociación, de otra concesión que haya debido hacerse siempre en favor del consenso y sobre la base desafortunada del crecimiento cero?

Nosotros creemos que la insistencia en reducir el aumento de los costos es otro factor que atenta contra la ejecución plena de un programa que aprueba la Conferencia integrada por Estados soberanos.

El último de los puntos, para no abusar del tiempo, se trata del PCT. Lo que Ud. dijo, señor Presidente, podemos compartirlo plenamente. Es lamentable - y sabemos que el Director General ha tenido que hacer esfuerzos a ese respecto - que no se haya cumplido la Resolución 9/89, pero no sólo no se ha cumplido esa resolución sino que vamos hacia atrás, señor Presidente. Ya habíamos llegado al 14 por ciento. Esa resolución recomienda volver al 14., rumbo al 17 por ciento. ¿Y qué se nos propone ahora? De nuevo el 11,9 por ciento. De manera que apoyamos a Pakistán en el sentido de que en nuestro informe digamos que los recursos del PCT deben ser considerablemente aumentados para el bienio 1994-95.

Sobre el Capítulo 4 de este interesante documento "Utilización propuesta de los recursos del PCT para 1992-93", los representantes de Colombia nos oponemos aquí, y lo haremos igualmente en la Conferencia con energía y con decisión, a semejante propuesta que es incoherente, absurda y peligrosamente nociva.

Desde su creación hace 15 años el PCT viene funcionando en forma abierta- Ud. ha dicho esto muy bien señor Presidente - dispuesto a atender las solicitudes de los gobiernos sin discriminación alguna, sujeto tan sólo a las características sobre las cuales se estableció el PCT: su carácter no programado y urgente, rapidez en la aprobación, orientación práctica, función catalizadora y complemento de otras fuentes de asistencia.

Hasta ahora ningún gobierno de ninguna región ha objetado la forma como se han venido adjudicando los PCT. En el párrafo 7.3.7 aparece la distribución por regiones de los 4 578 proyectos que por valor de 382 millones de dólares se han ejecutado desde 1976 - desde hace 15 años, repetimos - hasta el año pasado.

No es un secreto para nadie - lo hemos expresado varias veces los representantes de Colombia en todos los órganos rectores de la FAO - que bajo la presión de algunos Estados industrializados el PCT ha sido sometido constantemente a numerosas y costosas evaluaciones externas - años 1978, 1979 y 1985. A la próxima Conferencia, a partir del sábado, en el Examen de los programas de campo que todos habremos leído, se presentarán además 58 evaluaciones de proyectos PCT. El resultado de todas esas evaluaciones -consta así en los informes del Consejo y de la Conferencia - ha sido plenamente satisfactorio para todos los Estados Miembros.

Si éste ha sido el proceso cumplido por el PCT, una de las actividades que goza de más amplio apoyo, ¿cómo es posible que en el párrafo 7.5.8 se conceda tanta importancia a que - citamos entre comillas - "algunos Estados Miembros desarrollados han expresado el deseo de conocer mejor - todavía más - la utilización propuesta de los recursos del PCT aprobados por ellos"; es decir, aprobados por esos Estados desarrollados. ¿Recursos para el PCT aprobados por ellos, por algunos Estados desarrollados? Los

representantes de Colombia somos humildes, tímidos y a lo mejor ignorantes, pero hasta donde sepamos nosotros los recursos del PCT son parte integrante del Presupuesto del Programa Ordinario, presupuesto que no sólo aprobamos nosotros también, los representantes de los países en desarrollo, sino al cual contribuimos puntualmente con grandes esfuerzos. Ni siquiera podemos aceptar la propuesta aparentemente menos trascendente, que se hace en los párrafos 7.6.2 y 7.6.3 sobre ciertas reservas para proyectos regionales, urgencias y otros, porque esto también coarta la libertad con realizaciones positivas, con la cual se ha manejado hasta ahora el PCT. ¿Para qué someterlo a limitaciones?

Después de lo que hemos expresado - ya vamos a terminar señor Presidente -estará claro naturalmente que nuestro mayor y más intransigente esfuerzo de oposición se concentrará en la propuesta que aparece en el párrafo 7.6.4, en el cual se propone sorpresiva y lamentablemente - lo decimos con todo respeto por el Director General - una distribución regional de los recursos del PCT.

Con todo respeto por el Director General, una vez más señor Presidente, pensamos que los conceptos del párrafo 7.6.4 no tienen fundamento. El nivel de las consignaciones propuestas para el PCT en 1992-93 está muy lejos de corresponder a lo recomendado en la Resolución 9/89 y no es cierto que, como se dice entre comillas, "exista interés general por una mayor transparencia". No es cierto que exista ese interés general; nosotros somos la mayoría de los Estados Miembros de esta Organización. Esa transparencia está ya ampliamente comprobada. Ese interés no es, no puede ser, de interés general; es el interés de unos pocos países desarrollados y no puede prevalecer sobre la opinión de la gran mayoría de los Estados Miembros de nuestra Organización.

Reconocemos la buena fe, el espíritu constructivo, el alto sentido de responsabilidad con que procede el Director General como jefe de esta Organización integrada por Estados Miembros de todo el mundo, y por ello, tal vez con preocupación honesta, en el párrafo 7.5.9 el Director General prevé desde ahora que se van a producir controversias, recelos y pesares entre los Estados Miembros.

El Sr. Shah dijo que ojalá eso se evitara en la Conferencia pero ese debate no sólo va a celebrarse en la Conferencia sino que ya se está adelantando esta tarde, aquí mismo en este Consejo. ¿Para qué crear esa controversia y rivalidad entre los países si todo ha funcionado bien? De manera muy humilde y respetuosa quisiéramos pedir al Director General que retire esta propuesta. Con esa limitación, con esa distribución, ningún país se va a beneficiar; todos van a perder porque se afectará la eficacia del PCT ampliamente reconocida.

Por nuestra parte, los Estados de América Latina y el Caribe se verían gravemente penalizados, y esa distribución no correspondería a la difícil situación por que atraviesa nuestra región, tal como consta en el documento sobre el Estado mundial de la agricultura y de la alimentación, que discutiremos en la Comisión I, a partir de la semana entrante.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias por su intervención sustancial a propósito del Presupuesto del Programa, del documento de los costos y del PCT.

**Gerhard LIEBER (Germany):** The item before us will be a major subject of debate in Commission II of the Conference. Therefore, my short comments are intended to help arrive at what we all wish - a consensus decision of the Conference on the Programme of Work and Budget which is the lifeblood of our Organization.

First of all, let me state quite clearly that we can endorse and welcome the approach chosen for the 1992-93 biennium, which means that we recognize the efforts of FAO to maintain the current level of the budget in real terms and to contain cost increases to the maximum extent possible. In our view, this is the most appropriate compromise between the strong demands for the financing of a priority-oriented Programme and the still existing underlying uncertainties of FAO's financial situation. We think the solution found is the best way for FAO to operate on an, at least, a reasonably reliable budgetary basis providing that Member Nations - all of them - will be prepared to honour their obligation of prompt payment of their contributions. We now all recognize that the Programme as presented does not fully satisfy the wishes of many countries, but in view of the difficulties we all know about, we favour the approach adopted.

However, Mr Chairman, we do still have to object to the 3 percent lapse factor, which was not raised despite the strong appeals during the last Council in June this year. At this level, in our opinion it does not properly reflect the real vacancy rate and might even be interpreted to imply a real budget close for 1992-93. In our opinion, this should be raised to the former level of 5.5 percent. We say this because we see in that low lapse factor one reason for the unnecessary inflation - already - of the 1991 Budget.

As I do not intend to speak on Agenda Item 15, considering the limited time we have at our disposal, please allow me to say a few words regarding the two funds. My Government is also hesitant to agree with the proposed replenishment of the Special Reserve Account from special assessments beyond a level required to protect the budget against unforeseeable changes in the inflation and currency rates. Likewise, my Government is still opposed to the increase of the Working Capital Fund also through special assessments. We think we have already paid our share to that Fund, which should be a revolving fund with very specific uses and a constructive replenishment mechanism. We hope our observations can still be taken into account.

My country, as one of the main contributors, has always been eager to comply with its financial commitments. From 1992 onwards Germany, now united, will have to pay almost 11 percent of the assessed contributions. Quite frankly, this constitutes for us an additional effort when taking into account the excessive and strained national budget situation following the developments we all know of in Europe and elsewhere from 1989 onwards.

That is all I have to say for the time being.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Une fois encore la question de la reconstitution des fonds sera discutée sous le point 15.

Une remarque en ce qui concerne le "lapse factor". Après des années de difficultés quasi insurmontables, nous avons enfin pu compléter le cadre du

personnel de la FAO. Il y avait la nécessité pour ce personnel de disposer d'un cadre suffisamment complet. Or, de très nombreux postes ont été gelés depuis des années, et à force de geler les postes, on finit par geler l'Organisation. Il était temps de dégeler ces postes pour permettre à l'Organisation d'accomplir son mandat.

**Jacques WARIN (France):** M. le Président, j'ai entendu comme vous les trois orateurs qui m'ont précédé et malgré les accents véhéments de l'un d'entre eux, je n'en ai entendu aucun se départir de l'idée que ce budget devait être adopté par consensus. C'est sur cette ligne également que je me situerai.

Dans la situation financière de l'Organisation, nous l'avons entendu ce matin, les contraintes sont grandes et c'est pourquoi nous sommes amenés à considérer aujourd'hui, et pour la première fois, un budget sans croissance réelle.

Nous pouvons bien entendu regretter, comme l'ont fait les deux représentants du Groupe de 77 qui ont parlé avant moi, la non-croissance en termes réels du Programme de coopération technique. C'est un fait. Nous constatons toutefois, M. Shah l'a dit en introduisant le sujet, le Programme de coopération technique connaît une augmentation en termes nominaux relativement substantielle et se situe à un niveau acceptable: 12 pour cent du budget de l'Organisation.

Je voudrais faire trois remarques qui seront, la première sur les priorités du budget, la deuxième sur l'absorption des coûts, et la troisième, qui n'a été abordée par personne, sur la procédure d'élaboration de ce budget.

La première observation traite des priorités. Notre délégation reconnaît le bien-fondé des priorités accordées aux deux prochaines années, et j'en relèverai quatre:

Premièrement l'environnement et le développement durable, qui me paraissent particulièrement bien venus dans la préparation de la Conférence des Nations Unies sur l'environnement et le développement et compte tenu de l'émergence d'une sensibilité nouvelle dans la Communauté internationale qui prend compte des défis auxquels nous devons faire face en raison des problèmes posés par l'environnement. On aimerait toutefois mieux connaître les garanties apportées par l'Organisation pour une réelle prise en compte des préoccupations environnementales dans l'ensemble des programmes et des projets de la FAO, et nous serons peut-être amenés à vous interroger là-dessus dans le courant de la Conférence.

La deuxième priorité, particulièrement sensible à mon pays, concerne les avis en matière de politique agricole. Nous avons constaté avec satisfaction une évolution dans ce sens des programmes de l'Organisation qui se traduit par le renforcement des moyens consacrés au Conseil en matière de politique agricole et alimentaire.

Troisième priorité, la collecte, le traitement et la diffusion des données concernant l'agriculture, mission traditionnelle et originale de l'Organisation. A ce propos, je tiens à saluer le projet de création d'un centre mondial de l'information qui nous avait déjà été annoncé lors du précédent Conseil.

Enfin, quatrième priorité, la préparation de la Conférence internationale sur la nutrition. Nous y reviendrons demain sous le point 6.

Deuxième catégorie de réflexion, très brève, c'est l'absorption des coûts. M. Shah nous l'a dit, il y a une absorption des coûts relativement limitée. Dans le cours de l'élaboration de ce budget, je crois que le Secrétariat de la FAO a été amené à passer du chiffre proposé initialement de 16 pour cent à 14,5 pour cent, et je crois maintenant à 13,5 pour cent - M. Shah me corrigera. C'est un chiffre relativement modéré si on le compare d'une part au taux prévisible de l'inflation mondiale, et si on le compare également au chiffre du pourcentage d'absorption des coûts retenu par d'autres grandes organisations, et je pense particulièrement à l'une d'elles dans laquelle je représente mon pays, le Programme alimentaire mondial, qui a retenu un pourcentage d'absorption des coûts beaucoup plus élevé de 18 pour cent.

Nous saluons là également l'effort d'économie qui a été réalisé par le Secrétariat de la FAO.

Troisième réflexion sur la procédure, celle que nous avons mise en oeuvre à partir de cette année, à savoir le train qui consiste à accrocher trois wagons successifs: le schéma, le sommaire et le projet du budget. Je crois que lors du précédent Conseil, cette nouvelle procédure avait généralement fait l'objet d'une appréciation favorable.

Mais il faut bien se rendre compte que c'est seulement maintenant, au moment de la Conférence, que nous serons à même de porter un jugement sur les avantages de cette nouvelle procédure qui, au demeurant, représente -et peut-être M. Shah pourra-t-il nous éclairer là-dessus - un supplément de coûts pour l'Organisation.

Mais ce que je voudrais dire en première analyse c'est que, si cette procédure permet d'aboutir à un cadrage concerté du budget dans une étape préliminaire et dans la perspective de son adoption par consensus, peut-être n'a-t-elle pas encore manifesté ses mérites dans le domaine des ajustements des orientations des programmes de l'Organisation en fonction des recommandations du Conseil; je vais vous annoncer tout de suite la couleur, je serai peut-être amené, au cours de la Conférence, à me plaindre du fait que certaines observations formulées sur le tassement préoccupant de certaines ressources dans tel ou tel programme n'a pas été pris en compte dans l'étape finale de la procédure qui est celle que nous avons aujourd'hui, à savoir le projet de budget. C'est pourquoi j'insiste encore beaucoup sur l'importance du Comité du Programme qui est précisément à même d'inciter le Secrétariat à mieux intégrer les dispositions préconisées par le Conseil dans les rapports qu'il soumet à la Conférence.

J'en ai terminé avec mes trois remarques.

Je conclurai en disant que je souhaite, comme un grand nombre d'entre nous le diront, que le budget soit adopté par consensus, et je me demande si nous ne pourrions pas dès ce stade formuler, non pas une recommandation mais un voeu, puisque, aussi bien, ce n'est pas notre affaire que de voter le budget c'est à la Conférence de le faire; mais peut-être pourrions-nous donner une indication aux membres beaucoup plus nombreux de la Conférence qu'au Conseil: que nous envisageons avec faveur une adoption de ce budget

sur une base consensuelle. Ce sera là l'indication de la bonne atmosphère qui préside à nos travaux pour le moment.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je remercie l'Ambassadeur de France de son intervention particulièrement substantielle. Il va de soi que le désir de consensus qui existe depuis le début devra être reflété dans le cadre du rapport du Conseil à la Conférence.

Je me permettrai de faire une remarque en ce qui concerne le rôle du Comité du Programme. Le Comité du Programme est un organisme subsidiaire du Conseil et non pas un organisme subsidiaire de la Conférence. Donc le Comité du Programme en réfère au Conseil et c'est le Conseil qui en réfère à la Conférence.

Je vous remercie d'avoir abordé les points essentiels du Programme de travail et budget et d'avoir pris une position très claire.

**Haruo ISHII (Japan):** Mr Chairman, thank you for giving me the floor on this very important agenda item.

In the view of Japan the circumstances surrounding the formulation of the Council's Programme of Work and Budget for 1992-93 have been continuously tightly constrained, reflecting the financial difficulties and financial constraints of each Member Nation, including Japan. In this regard our delegation is pleased to welcome the zero growth of the Programme of Work and Budget for 1992-93.

We have been of the view that FAO when formulating the PWB for 1992-93 should delete the unnecessary and non-urgent programmes and coordinate the work of the FAO with other international and UN organizations in order to avoid overlap and to allocate resources to the areas of highest priority. With regard to those programmes implemented, the justification, content and necessity should be severely and crucially examined. In so doing, FAO would be able to execute the programmes effectively, efficiently and respond to urgent needs with flexibility.

With regard to priorities and areas of increased resources, we are pleased to support most of them, such as environment and sustainable development, agriculture data development, women in development, policy advice and forestry.

In terms of the International Conference on Nutrition, we share the hope that it will become a big step forward for improvement in this field.

Concerning decentralization, we appreciate the proposal put forward for strengthening the capacity of FAORs by transferring the authorities from FAO Headquarters, as it is essential for FAO to show its presence as a specialized agency in the context of national execution.

The problems with which FAO should deal are increasingly of a global and inter-sectoral nature and require sustained coordination efforts. Therefore, we also welcome the merging of IAA and DDA into a consolidated Office for External Relations.

We would like to touch upon TCP. Japan has great concern that TCP, which is an unprogrammed reserve, is executed only with the authority of the Director-General, while other FAO Regular Programmes must be formulated according to the programme budgeting system.

Therefore, Japan is of the view that the management of TCP, which enjoys a major percentage of the total budget of FAO, and to which Member Nations have obligations to make financial contributions, is not conducted in a healthy way since Member Countries do not have control of the use of that budget. We especially mention the increase of US\$ 4 million for TCP, which is in balance with the total budget, while other major programmes are under severe financial restriction.

Japan recognizes that, although TCP performs important roles in responding to urgent emergency needs, TCP consisted of 7.4 percent emergency and 92.6 percent other activities in 1990.

The projects, training, advisory service, investment, formulation programming, support to TCDC and support to development can be to a large extent implemented through FAO Trust Fund and UNDP funding field programmes and we believe that through better coordination with those programmes the aim and objectives of TCP projects should be rather effectively and efficiently executed.

Concerning cost increases, taking a full account of the financial tightness and the difficulties of Member Countries we believe that the proposed cost increase of 14.6 percent is too high. Japan sincerely and wholeheartedly requests the review of the cost increase to further cut by FAO's making every effort to seek the room to decrease.

Lapse factor: we understand that the Twenty-fifth Session of the Conference approved the lapse factor of 3 percent. The lapse factor, changed from the originally proposed of 5.5 percent immediately after the last Conference, was the main reason why Japan could not endorse the Programme of Work and Budget for the current biennium at the last Conference.

Japan continues to believe that the lapse factor should be decided upon the realistic vacancy ratio and that 3 percent must be subject to further adjustment to a realistic and reasonable figure. We would appreciate it if FAO Secretariat will definitely come up with further reduction of cost increase by the adjustment of this lapse factor.

**John Bruce SHARPE (Australia):** As the time available to discuss this item is limited and as there will be an opportunity for more detailed discussion in the forthcoming Conference, Australia will also be brief and confine itself to a few specific points.

Our position I think echoes that of a number of other peoples' that have been stated already. Our position is support for a consensus budget based on maintaining the current level of budget in real terms and containing cost increases to the maximum extent possible. We are therefore pleased that efforts have been made as regards the level of this proposed budget. Another element with which we can concur is the emphasis placed on establishing priorities including some which we strongly support and have also, we note, had the support of other speakers. The ones that we would

like to specify are again environment and sustainable development, policy advice, and women in development. There are others but these are the ones we would like to place our emphasis on. There do, however, remain areas for concern to us in this budget and I feel I will probably be repeating what others have said. They include the level of the cost increases which at US\$89.2 million represent an inflation rate of 14.6 percent. I understand this to be one of the highest in the UN system. I may need some clarification there but my understanding is that it is one of the highest of the United Nations organizations. Perhaps the Secretariat could give us a breakdown of the others. I was not aware of the 18 percent that was suggested by the representative from France for another organization.

While acknowledging the Technical Cooperation Programme's validity and the very good work it carries out, we continue to hold reservations about the extent of the increase for this programme. At four million dollars this is the largest increase in the budget. Of course, there is the level of the lapse factor on staffing costs. Our position on the lapse factor is well known, we have stated it repeatedly in just about every forum of FAO in which we have been represented, including the Finance Committee. We do not consider it justified to continue into the next biennium with a level of three percent.

I am sure that all Members present would wish to see the unanimous endorsement of the Programme of Work and Budget for 1992-93. That certainly is a suggestion that has been made in virtually every intervention so far. To encourage this there are perhaps two particular areas which will need to be addressed. This is what we feel one is the differing views on the level of the cost increases which some delegates, including Australia, feel to be too high. Others, including Australia, also consider that many of the Organization's budgetary problems, including the question of replenishing special accounts, would disappear if those countries whose contributions have not been paid or are in arrears were successfully encouraged to meet their obligations. We would hope that efforts directed to movement in these areas, even though they may involve compromise, would help to facilitate the containment of a consensus budget, which we should all be aiming for.

As I said our intervention in Council on this item is brief. We look forward to discussing this matter further in the Conference by which time we hope efforts to reach a consensus budget will have been progressed even further.

**Gerald J. MONROE (United States of America):** I appreciate this opportunity to present the views of my delegation on the Director-General's Programme of Work and Budget for 1992-93. Since the United States is a member of the Finance Committee and has expressed itself on a number of issues already covered by other speakers I will try and be as brief as I possibly can.

We would like to commend the FAO Secretariat for its efforts in preparing this concise and well-organized document. We have done this before in other fora but I think it is worth repeating. We welcome in particular the addition of the annexes on publications, scheduled sessions and a number of miscellaneous tables that have been added to this bound volume.

The United States supports the principle of zero real growth which is embodied in the budget FAO has presented and we also seek maximum



absorption of non-discretionary cost increases for the assessed budgets of all international organizations. The proposed budget before us, which represents no net programme increase, is the result of a difficult and painstaking process, a process that our own domestic government has undertaken and continues to undertake. In our judgement in an area of tight national budgets the budget processes undertaken by multilateral organizations require that current initiatives be adjusted, reinforced, eliminated and/or replaced with new and innovative programmes. This procedure goes far to assure that limited resources are used for the highest priority programmes as effectively and efficiently as possible. The United States attaches great priority to a number of FAO's programmes, and I will name just a few; those have been articulated in several major meetings earlier this year, especially during the Committee on Agriculture; the Codex Alimentarius, for example, implementation of the International Plant Protection Convention, policy analysis and the development of an Agricultural Information Centre, YSENT.

The increased resources proposed for these activities for the strengthening of FAO's contribution to GATT, to the all important Uruguay Round and hence the Organization's ability to provide advice and provide comprehensive agricultural information. I will say at this point very briefly that we share the scepticism expressed by others with respect to the increased resources for the Technical Cooperation Programme.

With respect to the budget outline process we strongly support approval of the Conference resolution which provides for the continuation of the outline on a continual basis. The joint meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees in January, the Conference year, affords Member States an opportunity to preview FAO's major policy initiatives at an earlier stage. Agreement on programme priorities and a budget level in January could allow for greater predictability in the level of resources that the Organization can expect to receive. The meeting also sharpens focus on broader areas and allows for sufficient time to make changes within an overall budget context as significant events later unfold.

With regard to the budgetary framework, at every stage of the 1992-93 process we have sought to determine whether the budget level has achieved our goal of maximum absorption, of non-discretionary cost increases. It may be worthwhile very quickly to recount the position we have taken on cost increases over the past nine months as this process has developed lest there be any misunderstanding over the reasons for our position on the 14.6 percent nominal increase. We recall that the 1992-93 budget outline reviewed by the joint committees in January contained 0.43 percent real growth, cost increases in the outline were projected at 15.3 percent, the same percentage as in the 1990-91 budget. The committees agreed by consensus to recommend that the summary be prepared on the basis of no programme growth and since justification for the 15.3 percent level was not provided at that time that cost increase has been contained to the maximum extent possible. At the joint sessions of the same committees in May we expressed concern that there was no change in the level of cost increases and urged Members of the Programme and Finance Committees to recommend to the Council in June that the final Programme of Work and Budget provide for this maximum absorption and as will be recalled the United States reserved its position on the Summary Programme of Work and Budget at the June Council Session. We were pleased to see that the cost increases in the Programme of Work and Budget, the one before us today, had been trimmed

from 15.3 to 14.6 and that our views with respect to possible reductions in such areas as education grants, etc. were considered. Nevertheless I must say we remain convinced that further reductions can be made. As others have stated this afternoon a change in the lapse factor of staff turnover alone of 3.5 percent would achieve significant savings. There is still time between now and the adoption of the budget by the Conference to reassess this question.

With regard to financing we note that FAO will continue to use revenues from its miscellaneous income accounts to finance the upcoming budget and we strongly support this practice since it reduces the assessments of Member States many of whom could not even pay the slightest increase in their contributions if this practice were discontinued.

Finally throughout the United Nations and other multilateral organizations, such as the WHO, ILO and others, we have undertaken tremendous efforts in concert with others to work closely and cooperatively with the Secretariat officials to restrain overall budgetary growth. In the face of human suffering and the starvation of millions of people the task of reordering priorities rather than simply adding new layers to activities which have not always received the results hoped for, is much more difficult. The United States seeks to achieve in 1992-93 a balance which strikes an appropriate balance between reflecting a sufficient level of resources to carry out its important mandate and taking into consideration the limited resources of our taxpayer and the taxpayers of other countries. In our view the budget proposals before us require further effort to achieve this goal which we nonetheless believe is within reach.

**Nusyirwan ZEN (Indonesia):** Indonesia has been associated with this exercise of formulating Programme of Work and Budget, as a member of the Programme Committee, various technical committees and Council. Nevertheless, my delegation welcomes this further opportunity to share its views on a number of Programme of Work and Budget's components during these Council sessions.

My delegation has read the documents. We believe that the Director-General and his able staff have taken all possible measures to formulate a realistic package of proposals taking into account all suggestions from, and the guidance of, various FAO's concerned bodies. We also note that this PWB is presented at a time of a difficult global and national economic situation, especially for developing economies.

We share the views that FAO's assistance still play an important role in the developmental programmes of the developing countries. It is, therefore, our delegation's wish to see any possible real increase of this FAO's PWB because we believe it can provide a positive response to the call to combat the world's problem of hunger and malnutrition and of helping the needy developing countries to implement their agricultural development programmes in a very successful manner.

However, we also take note of the views that we should prepare a Programme of Work and Budget for the forthcoming biennium which really considers the real and latest economic condition of the Member Nations in order to ensure the maximum participation of all Members in sharing the cost of the forthcoming programmes.

It is in the light of the above situation that we follow with full attention the process of finalization of the PWB in this Council meeting. FAO has, in the past, repeatedly implemented programmes with the objective of directly assisting farmers in the developing countries in their efforts to become successful producers and traders of their own agricultural produce. It is the wish of my delegation that FAO be in a position to continue such programme in the future, since this programme proved to be important to the developing countries.

We support the proposed global priorities of the PWB in which the programme on environment and sustainable development receive high priority. We also appreciate efforts to strengthen the Major Programme on Forestry.

We welcome the strengthening of programme and budget allocation for the programme on Women in Development as this is a logical consequence of the inclusion of the WID in the mainstream of FAO's programme.

One of the main, important components of FAO's PWB is TCP. We note that, as a response to Conference Resolution 9/89, it is proposed that TCP receive a net programme increase of US\$4 million, meaning that the greatest net increase is assigned to the TCP. We wish to express our appreciation to the Director-General for his efforts to implement Resolution 9/89.

The TCP's main characteristic has placed this programme as one of FAO's main instruments for a speedy response to an emergency request to help Member Countries because of unpredictable problems happening in the agricultural field.

However, much more effort needs to be exerted in the future if we really wish to commit ourselves to the wishes of Conference Resolution 9/89, that is to restore the resources available to TCP to the former level of 14 percent of the total regular programme budget and, if possible, to raise it to 17 percent.

We note there are no extra-budgetary resources for TCP for the next biennium. We therefore wish to appeal to the FAO that it seeks every possibility to secure extra-budgetary resources for this very valuable programme. As regards the proposed use of TCP resources for 1992-93, we follow with attention the Director-General's proposed use of regional distribution as well as the indicative country allocation. We support the statement of the Pakistan delegation on the high regard paid to the characteristics of TCP and the need to monitor the strong solidarity among all Member Nations, and especially to maintain the character of TCP assistance which could be transferred in a speedy manner to the really needy countries in whatever region.

As regards the area of reduced resources, we note with concern the decreased allocation of funding level of the Major Programme on Agriculture and Fisheries. As you may be aware, the last Council meeting stated that, in the light of the overriding importance of poverty alleviation, there should be emphasis on upgrading human resources and, therefore, regretted the reduction in resources for the relevant programme.

The Council also noted the disappointment of Member Nations of the Asia and Pacific Region that the regional study for their region could not be carried out during the 1990-91 biennium and their call for its inclusion in

the PWB 1992-93. We therefore wish to reiterate and support the statement of Pakistan regarding this matter.

As regard to fisheries in relation to the fact that the budget for fisheries has been decreased, we note that the last Council meeting stated that "in view of the fisheries sector's significant contribution to national economic, social and nutritional goals, requested the Director-General to reconsider the allocation for the Major Programme, at least to reach the level of the current biennium".

We also wish to express our concern regarding the suspension of the Professional Training of the Agricultural Development Programme. We look forward to the possible reinstatement of this important programme in a future PWB. We believe that this programme is very useful for strengthening the managerial capability of technical departments/ministries in the developing countries, and also in the light of the growing needs for national execution. Mr Chairman, we follow with attention the development on matters regarding the Working Capital Fund and the replenishment of the Special Reserve Account. We hope Member Countries will find an acceptable solution paving the way to a consensus on this matter. We note the Finance Committee's comments and recommendation on this matter.

I have expressed the views of my delegation. In conclusion, my delegation wishes to express here that it has full confidence in the work of the Programme and Finance Committees. We respect all their wisdom and views.

We welcome the submission of this PWB to the Conference. We hope that the Council will feel able to give way for consensus approval of this PWB 1992-93 at the forthcoming Conference. Hopefully, the consensus approval will be a good basis for the renewed financial stability for FAO. We will come back with a full statement on this PWB during the debate at Commission II of the Conference. I thank you, Mr Chairman.

**Kwang Wook AN (Korea, Republic of):** Mr Chairman, my delegation is pleased to see you in the Chair again and would like to congratulate the three Vice-Chairmen on their election.

First of all, I would like to express my compliments to the Secretariat for their constructive documents and to Mr Shah for the clarity of his presentation.

Concerning the Programme of Work and Budget 1992-93, I am of the opinion that the proposals before us are realistic and balanced enough to deserve a consensus.

In relation to budget levels, I believe that the Director-General has endeavoured to find a compromise between the wishes of developing countries for an increase of resources and the need to limit the request for assessments of Member Nations.

Especially I welcome the increased allocation to TCP because I believe this programme is an essential operational tool of the FAO to provide appropriate and rapid technical assistance to the urgent needs of Member Nations. However, I would like to take this opportunity to convey my

sincere hope that the present budgetary level of zero growth is regarded only as a very temporary situation.

As we are all aware, the current world food and economic situation is getting worse at regional levels. Debt problems and the outflow of capital have led to a weakening of food import ability and the reduction of funds needed for the development of food and agriculture in developing countries.

Therefore, my country is of the basic opinion that it is essential to give priority to the food and agricultural sector and to strengthen the role of FAO in order to resolve food and economic problems in developing countries.

It is our view that freezing of investments in, and support of, agriculture at present levels across the board for all countries would lead to further distortions in agricultural production and economic growth between developed and developing countries.

Thank you for your attention.

**Rolf AKESSON (Sweden) :** I make this statement on behalf of the four Nordic Countries - Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden.

First, I would like to express our thanks for the preparation and introduction of the document on the proposed Programme of Work and Budget. We fully acknowledge and appreciate the extensive and delicate work that has been carried out by all parties involved in the process behind the proposal. This document is the result of a long and, to a certain extent, new procedure which at the very early stage involves Member Nations in the Budget discussions. Already, when the Summary Programme of Work and Budget was presented to the June Council, many Members expressed their positive appreciation of the procedure of submitting an outline Programme of Work and Budget at an early joint session of the Programme and Finance Committees. The Nordic Countries share this view and feel that this procedure, which we would like to become a permanent one, has considerably contributed to the dialogue between Member Governments and the Secretariat on the Programme of Work and Budget for the two coming years.

We also endorse the proposals made by the Director-General regarding an improved programme budget process as presented in Appendix A in document CL 100/4. In our opinion, the proposed Programme of Work and Budget document can well serve as a basis for deliberations at the Conference and we would like to participate in the process which helpfully will lead to an adoption of the proposed Programme of Work and Budget by consensus.

**Joseph TCHICAYA (Congo):** Je tiens à présenter mes félicitations au Secrétariat pour la qualité du document qui nous est soumis. Merci également à M. Shah pour sa présentation aussi brève que concise.

Je serai moi-même bref, étant donné que nous nous sommes déjà exprimés sur cette question lors de la quatre-vingt-dix-neuvième session du Conseil et sommes prêts à participer au débat plus large au sein de la Commission II de la Conférence. Mais je voudrais tout d'abord féliciter le Directeur général pour avoir pris en compte, dans ce document, les observations émises lors de la dernière session du Conseil. Cela ne m'empêche pas de

déclarer une nouvelle fois notre hostilité à la croissance zéro qui a guidé l'élaboration de ce budget, croissance qui ne tient pas compte des besoins réels des pays pauvres bénéficiaires de l'assistance de l'Organisation.

Cependant, dans le but d'arriver à un consensus et compte tenu de la situation de nos propres pays, ma délégation est prête à soutenir le montant du budget ainsi présenté. Nous partageons les priorités du Programme puisqu'elles nous semblent répondre aux besoins des pays en développement, sur la base des recommandations des comités techniques et des conférences régionales, notamment celle d'Afrique tenue, l'année dernière, à Marrakech.

Je me réjouis de ce que les domaines suivants aient bénéficié de cette priorité: il s'agit notamment du développement écologique et du développement durable, de la diversité biologique, y compris les ressources phytogénétiques, de la participation des femmes au développement et du Programme de coopération technique ainsi que des représentations de la FAO dans les pays.

L'occasion nous semble également indiquée pour féliciter le Directeur général des efforts fournis afin de parvenir à limiter les augmentations de coûts au strict minimum. Voilà des efforts qui méritent d'être récompensés par les Etats Membres en recommandant à la Conférence qu'elle accueille favorablement le niveau du budget qui nous est proposé, et ce, par consensus. Je me rallie, sur ce point, à ce qu'a dit l'Ambassadeur de France.

Un autre point sur lequel nous voudrions insister est évidemment le Programme de coopération technique qui n'aura pas connu d'accroissement au cours de ce biennium. Sur ce point, nous partageons entièrement les commentaires que vous-même, M. le Président, avez faits au début de ce débat ainsi que ceux de mes collègues du Pakistan et de la Colombie, et d'autres.

En effet, on peut émettre les plus grandes craintes à l'endroit du devenir des résolutions de la plus haute instance de l'Organisation, si celles-ci ne sont pas prises en compte. Il s'agit, ici, de la Résolution 9/89. A cet égard, il est préoccupant de constater que celle-ci n'a pas été prise en compte. C'est pourquoi nous appuyons la proposition du représentant du Pakistan d'inviter le Directeur général à répondre aux directives de la Résolution 9/89 de la dernière session de la Conférence, et ce, dès ses propositions relatives à 1994-95.

Le PCT a été géré jusqu'à présent de manière efficace et transparente. C'est pourquoi il n'est pas nécessaire, comme vous l'avez dit, de prévoir l'imprévisible. Voilà pourquoi nous prions le Directeur général de continuer à gérer cet important programme comme il l'a fait jusqu'à présent. Toute répartition entre pays ou entre régions risque d'affecter l'efficacité du Programme.

Bref, en tenant compte de ces remarques et de l'abattement pour délais de recrutement proposé à trois pour cent des dépenses du personnel, ma délégation appuie le niveau du budget proposé et soutient le rapport du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier à cet égard.

**DONG QING-SONG (China) (Original language Chinese):** Regarding the Programme of Work and Budget, that will be discussed in detail in Commission II during the Conference, so I shall not go into great detail. As for the priorities of the work programme of FAO, as well as the TCP, the Chinese delegation supports the statements made by Pakistan, Colombia, Indonesia and Congo. Our view is that FAO's priorities should mainly include environmental protection, sustainable development, biodiversity, plant genetic resources, the collection of agricultural information, women in development, policy advisory, and also, of course, technical cooperation.

As for technical cooperation, we think that ever since the establishment of this programme it has played an important role in agricultural development and food production in developing countries, and therefore this programme should be carried forward. At the same time, we should expand this programme and increase its budget - that is to say, the present percentage for TCP is lower than that which we adopted before. The Chinese delegation therefore wishes to say that FAO, when appropriate, should increase the budget for TCP and also the percentage for TCP in the Budget.

We also of course notice that the Programme of Work and Budget before us contains some changes when compared with the summary of the Programme of Work and Budget which was discussed in the June Council. We have noticed particularly the change in the cost increase, which we think is the result of further coordination of various opinions and is also in accordance with the comments of the various Committees.

We should also mention that we have noted the comments made by the Finance and Programme Committees in their reports to this Council.

We therefore endorse the submission of the Programme of Work and Budget to the Conference. The Chinese delegation will further elaborate its position in Commission II during the Conference. We also wish to join our efforts with those of others in order to reach a consensus to adopt the Programme of Work and Budget.

**Ray ALLEN (United Kingdom):** I shall keep my intervention very short, since we have already had an opportunity to comment on the Summary Programme of Work and Budget, and we will have further opportunities to comment on the full document at the Conference. So, if I may, I propose to simply outline some of the major topics that my delegation will address in more detail at the Conference.

My first comments relate to the documentation itself. I would like to compliment the Secretariat on all the efforts they have put into the improvements which are so evident in the document.

My delegation considers that the Director-General has taken a brave and pragmatic approach to the level of the Budget, and toward Resolution 9/89. The inclusion of detailed explanations of cost increases, including the effects of biennialization and expected inflation are most welcome. We are however very disappointed that there is little or no justification for retaining the lapse factor at 3 percent. The reduction in cost increase since the Council last considered the Budget is particularly welcome.

My delegation welcomes the moves toward prioritization in the Programme. However, by and large we consider that the changes proposed involve quite small amounts. We consider that the Organization could have used this opportunity to make even more radical shifts, set clearer priorities and focus its resources on areas where it really does have a comparative advantage.

We welcome the additional information provided on the TCP in both the Budget document and the review of the Field Programme document. We are however concerned that, as stated in the document itself, the proposals before us mean the greatest net increase in the budget as assigned to the TCP. We have long advocated that the Organization should concentrate on areas where it has comparative advantage. My delegation does not consider that this is one of those areas.

Still on the subject of TCP and the proposals put forward for the distribution of TCP resources along the lines of UNDP's IPFs: I share the Director-General's hope that this will not lead to a path of controversy. My delegation has reservations about these proposals, but we would not like to see a debate on the Budget diverted by a debate on the allocation of TCP resources.

This is just an outline of my delegation's approach to the Programme of Work and Budget and we shall elaborate on all these areas in Commission II of the Conference.

**Earl W. WEYBRECHT (Canada):** Since we will have time in the Conference to examine the Programme of Work and Budget in detail, and as we participated in the deliberations of the Programme Committee, my delegation does not propose to comment extensively at this stage on this Item. In general, we believe the proposed Programme reflects the main priorities agreed to in the various discussions. In particular, we are pleased with the increased focus given to environmental and sustainable development issues and the efforts to strengthen FAO's information-gathering and dissemination role.

We can all identify areas which should receive additional resources. For our part we had expressed a wish to see greater attention given to the Forestry Programme in view of the need to address in particular challenges in relation to the TFAP and broader issues arising out of discussions in UNCED. On the other hand, while we recognize the importance that developing countries attach to the Technical Cooperation Programme, we did not share the view that substantial additional resources should be allocated to this particular Programme. We are concerned over the potentially negative impact on the Technical Programmes and the Organization resulting from the redistribution of some US\$4 million to this Programme. Overall, however, we support the Report of the Programme Committee including the consensus reached on the Programme content.

On the budget level we fully support the decision of the Director-General based on recommendations of the Programme and Finance Committees to prepare the budget on the basis of no real programme growth. We are pleased that a consensus achieved on this point has been maintained. The overall growth in the budget as a result of cost increases will have a significant impact on the assessment of Member Nations, and we share the concerns raised over the magnitude of the increase. We remain hopeful that in our deliberations



leading to the Conference and in discussions in Commission II it will be possible to achieve consensus on the overall Programme of Work and Budget, including the budget level.

On the programme budget process, my delegation is in basic agreement with the proposals put forward by the Director-General, including the proposal to establish the outline of the Programme of Work and Budget on a permanent basis.

On the lapse factor, we find the argument put forward in the Report of the Finance Committee trying to discount the linkage between the staff vacancy rate and the lapse factor is something less than convincing. We believe the move to restore the historical lapse factor level to 5.5 percent would be entirely reasonable and would serve to alleviate many of the concerns still remaining over the way in which this change has been made.

My delegation remains committed to working toward a consensus on the Programme of Work and Budget in the Conference, and indeed we hope this can be achieved.

**Raphaël RABE (Madagascar):** Je voudrais d'abord remercier M. Shah pour la présentation très claire de ce point très important de notre ordre du jour.

La délégation malgache a déjà eu l'occasion de faire part de ses commentaires lors de la présentation du Sommaire du Programme de travail et budget et pourra par conséquent intervenir assez brièvement sur ce point.

D'entrée de jeu, nous voudrions féliciter le Directeur général pour les efforts qu'il a fournis pour faire en sorte que le projet de Programme de travail et budget puisse recueillir le consensus lors de son adoption par la Conférence.

Nous sommes cependant obligés de regretter certaines mesures négatives pour les pays en voie de développement en général, et pour la région Afrique en particulier. Mais pour éviter toute ambiguïté quant à notre position, nous voudrions déclarer que la délégation malgache appuie le projet du Programme de travail et budget présenté par le Directeur général.

En vérité nous aurions dû émettre des réserves à l'endroit de ce projet, car à notre sens, il est loin de pouvoir répondre aux besoins pressants de nos pays. Des programmes techniques vitaux pour le redressement de nos économies ont été soit supprimés, soit grandement réduits. Je ne citerai que les sous-programmes 2.1.1.3 pour les engrais, 2.1.2.1 pour les ressources phytogénétiques et d'autres encore sur les forêts et les pêches. Nous interviendrons de manière assez détaillée à la Conférence sur ce point.

A l'instar des membres du Groupe des 77 qui se sont exprimés avant nous, qui ont appuyé vigoureusement la Résolution 9/89 de la Conférence, nous nous sentons aussi un peu découragés en constatant que les dispositions pertinentes de ladite résolution n'ont pas reçu d'exécution positive. Nous faisons nôtre votre déclaration à ce sujet.

Le taux ridiculement bas de 11,9 pour cent du budget réservé aux PCT ne présage rien de bon pour le biennium 1992-93, car ce sera le statu quo, alors que les Nations Unies, dans la Stratégie internationale de la quatrième décennie pour le développement, proposent un développement accéléré dans les pays en développement, au moyen de la coopération internationale et de l'engagement des pays industrialisés.

L'adoption de la croissance zéro et l'absorption maximum des augmentations de coûts devraient constituer des éléments d'encouragement pour ceux qui ont contraint le Directeur général à y procéder. Nous souhaitons cependant que les mesures prises n'hypothéquent pas l'avenir de l'Organisation, car au paragraphe 87 du document C 91/3, on relève que les seules dépenses de personnel et de ressources humaines atteignent déjà 75 millions de dollars, ce qui ne laisserait que 8 millions de dollars pour les dépenses indispensables à la dynamisation du personnel, à sa rentabilisation. On voit déjà que ce personnel ne se déplacera pas, n'ira pas sur le terrain pour appuyer les pays. On a déjà constaté de tels phénomènes lors des biennia précédents. Nous regrettons que cette situation persiste en exigeant encore de l'Organisation qu'elle réduise les augmentations de coûts nécessaires et justifiées.

Nous voudrions clore notre déclaration en réitérant notre position quant à la poursuite de la session spéciale de janvier. Nous conditionnerons notre position à l'obtention du consensus lors de l'adoption par consensus du Programme de travail et budget par la Conférence.

**Sra. Grafiela SOTO CARERRO (Cuba):** Quisiéramos agradecer a la Secretaria por la documentación que nos ha preparado y en especial al Dr. Shah, por su brillante presentación de este tema.

La delegación de Cuba se referirá ampliamente al Programa de Labores y Presupuesto en la Comisión II, pero hay dos aspectos a los que quisiéramos referirnos ahora mismo, durante el Consejo, como parte de las recomendaciones que éste tiene que hacer a la 26 Conferencia. En primer lugar, quisiéramos expresar que mi Delegación apoya que se adopte el monto del Presupuesto propuesto, a pesar de su crecimiento cero, lo cual todos sabemos que es un decrecimiento en términos absolutos. También apoyamos las prioridades establecidas, a las que no nos vamos a referir específicamente, porque durante la Comisión II, como le digo, hablaremos ampliamente sobre este problema.

Sobre el Programa de Cooperación Técnica, la delegación de Cuba no puede estar de acuerdo con medidas que afecten el funcionamiento de este Programa, que siempre ha demostrado su eficacia, validez y transparencia. En primer lugar, lamentamos que no se cumpla la Resolución 9/89, a pesar de los esfuerzos ingentes que estamos seguros han hecho el Director General y sus colaboradores. Y mucho más lamentamos el tener ante nosotros un retroceso en la adopción de dicha Resolución. No consideramos oportuno que se haga una distribución del PCT por regiones. En este sentido, apoyamos lo expresado por el representante de Colombia y por el representante de Pakistán y otros que se han referido a estos aspectos. Ciertamente no podemos estar de acuerdo en que la región de América Latina y el Caribe u otra región se perjudique en la asignación de recursos de este Programa de Cooperación Técnica. que es un programa muy propio de esta Organización y que no debe regirse por nuevos y ajenos conceptos.

**Adel EL-SARKI (Egypt) (Original language Arabic):** I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Shah for such a clear explanation on the Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 1992-93.

My delegation supports those delegations which have spoken before us so far as concerns the obtaining of a consensus in order to approve the Programme of Work and Budget. We fully support all the suggestions made so far on this Programme and the priorities, especially those referring to the environment and the integration of women.

My delegation will ask to speak in greater detail on the Programme of Work and Budget in Commission II. We hope that the funds earmarked for TCP will be increased, because this Programme quickly and favourably responds to development needs. We know that the Director-General does everything in his power to promote the TCP.

**Amin ABDEL MALEK (Liban) (Langue originale arabe):** Je remercie M. Shah qui nous a présenté le Programme de travail et budget pour les années à venir 1992 et 1993. Il a vraiment présenté les documents d'une façon claire et exhaustive. Nous avons discuté longuement des détails du Programme de travail et budget dans les réunions du Comité financier dont je suis membre. Nous avons discuté aussi des problèmes lors de la dernière réunion du Conseil, c'est pourquoi je serai très bref car nous aurons l'occasion de discuter de mêmes problèmes lors des travaux de la Commission II. La délégation libanaise qui a eu l'occasion d'accepter le niveau du budget, comme ce budget a été présenté au Directeur général, espérait obtenir un consensus autour de ces niveaux de projet. La délégation libanaise accepte encore une fois ce projet et je dis que nous acceptons à contrecœur ce projet car ce projet de budget, n'est pas tout à fait à la hauteur de nos ambitions et j'espère que les délégués accepteront à l'unanimité ce projet pendant la Conférence. J'ai d'autres remarques que j'aimerais formuler. Premièrement, j'aimerais insister sur l'augmentation nécessaire à introduire au PCT, PCT auquel nous accordons une importance capitale. Et dans ce même cadre, j'aimerais saisir l'occasion pour partager votre avis concernant la Résolution 9/89. Cette résolution n'est pas un simple vœu pieux, c'est une résolution. C'est pour cela qu'il faut l'appliquer à la lettre. Deuxièmement, nous insistons pour garder le niveau du facteur d'abattement à 3 pour cent pour permettre à l'Organisation de bouger, surtout qu'elle a gelé beaucoup de projets dans le passé et il serait inacceptable de continuer à pratiquer la politique du gel. Et troisièmement, il ne faut pas demander à l'Organisation l'absorption de plus de coûts, surtout que les dépenses augmentent et que les taux de change sont variables. Il y a aussi quelques facteurs imprévisibles qui peuvent entrer en ligne de compte. En bref, je le répète, nous acceptons à contrecœur le Programme de travail et budget tel qu'il nous a été présenté et nous appuyons ce qui a été dit par les délégués du Pakistan, de la Colombie et de la France et tout ce qui a été dit par les honorables délégués qui m'ont précédé et qui ont tous soutenu le Programme de travail et budget tel que proposé. Tous ces délégués ont présenté des propositions constructives à ce sujet.

**Konan Daniel YONAN (Côte d'Ivoire):** Conformément à votre vœu, et même pour aller au-delà de ce vœu, nous interviendrons pratiquement par style télégraphique, facilités en cela par les nombreuses interventions qui nous

ont précédés. Nous avons cinq pôles de réflexion: la procédure du budget-programme. La nouvelle procédure a le mérite de la clarté et de la transparence, mais revient cher à l'Organisation. Il faut passer du schéma au projet de budget, pour gagner du temps et de l'argent, sans l'étape du sommaire, car, finalement, entre le sommaire et le projet, il n'y a généralement pas beaucoup de différence tant dans le fond que dans la forme. L'absorption des coûts. Nous estimons que 4 millions de dollars c'est déjà beaucoup. Un effort supplémentaire nous paraît difficile. Il est également à noter que la méthode de calcul des coûts a fait l'objet d'un accord de tous les Etats Membres, il ne nous paraît pas indiqué de revenir là-dessus.

Troisièmement, le PCT. Son niveau reste inférieur aux 17 pour cent qu'une résolution de la Conférence a décidé. En tout état de cause, les pays en développement invitent le Directeur général à respecter cette résolution de la Conférence qui nous engage. Nous sommes opposés à une "Pnudisation" de la FAO par l'étiquetage des allocations du PCT, ce qui mettrait fin aux vertus actuelles de ce programme qui ont pour noms efficacité, rapidité, souplesse. Les pays bénéficiaires approuvent à l'unanimité.

Quatrièmement, les priorités. Nous sommes d'accord avec le Japon sur la décentralisation de la FAO de plus en plus sur le terrain, c'est-à-dire vers les paysans eux-mêmes. Et là nous pensons qu'il faudra davantage renforcer l'action des représentations dans les pays et les bureaux régionaux de la FAO, voire en augmenter le nombre. Ma délégation approuve la création du SMI et participera activement à la Conférence internationale sur la nutrition.

Cinquièmement, le niveau proposé de 3 pour cent de l'abattement pour mouvements du personnel, lapse factor, est réaliste contrairement à ce que l'on a entendu ici et là. A ce propos d'ailleurs, il serait souhaitable que l'on invite ici lors d'un prochain Conseil, à titre consultatif, les représentants élus du personnel de la FAO pour qu'ils nous disent de vive voix dans quelles conditions nous les faisons travailler, ce serait à n'en pas douter, très édifiant. C'est une idée sur laquelle nous reviendrons.

Tous ici, autant que nous-mêmes, et malgré nos réticences, nous souhaitons approuver le niveau du budget par consensus lors de la toute prochaine Conférence au cours de laquelle nous reviendrons plus longuement sur ce point à l'ordre du jour.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je vous remercie à la fois pour votre clarté et votre concision ainsi que pour les positions très claires que vous avez exprimées.

**Horacio M. CARANDANG (Philippines):** The Philippine delegation has participated in the work of the FAO Technical Bodies, the Finance Committee and the Council Session, which has given a broad endorsement of the priorities of the Programme of Work and Budget and resource allocation. Therefore, we can support the Programme of Work and Budget for 1992-93 as presented.

With respect to the overall budget level, the Philippine delegation wishes to indicate its appreciation for the efforts to achieve consensus, which we hope will lead also to a decision to pay the arrears which has caused a great damage to the ability of the Organization to implement its programmes and to respond to the needs of Member Countries, particularly developing countries.

While we support the consensus on the budget level, we are in principle against zero growth because in practice it results in negative growth.

With regard to the absorption of cost increases and increase of the lapse factor, this would further reduce the budget allocations, which we hope will not happen, as this would again reduce the capacity of the Organization to respond to our needs.

With regard to the TCP, we support the indications of our colleagues regarding the level of TCP. Among other things, I would like to say that the TCP enables FAO to respond to the needs of countries where it has comparative advantage. If FAO has comparative advantage in many areas, TCP allows FAO to respond to calls from countries to be serviced in this area.

We would like to support the views that have been expressed regarding the Study for Asia. We will express our views later regarding the Special Reserve Account and Working Capital Fund. I think these are very technical issues, and if we do not agree with the Special Reserve Account, what alternatives do we have? If you eliminate the Special Reserve Account, which is there to absorb currency fluctuations, what is there that could safeguard the integrity of the programme in this case? In the past we have earned surplus in the Special Reserve Account. Now we have incurred a negative balance during the past biennia. I think this is a matter that has to be studied further, and I think that we should be aware of the options in order to be able to decide whether we have to continue or discontinue this, and what are the implications.

**LE PRESIDENT:** De toute façon nous aurons toute la nuit pour étudier les problèmes de la reconstitution des fonds.

**Musa M. MUSA (Sudan) (Original language Arabic):** Sudan would like to thank you, Mr Chairman, for giving us the floor in order to comment on the Programme of Work and Budget.

This subject has been studied with great care during the June Council meeting. Of course, we are fully in agreement with what is contained in the Programme of Work and Budget, and we agree with the reports therein. If there are comments that we could make on some of the subjects in this Programme, it should be said that continued agricultural development is a matter of interest to all of us, but it means certain commitments.

The developing countries need the support of FAO and other international organizations. For this reason, developing countries have been able to keep a direct link with FAO and have been able to obtain advice on the road to follow. This has been done in a manner that allows all sectors to

participate. We know that this aid will have important financial consequences at medium and long term, but we do think that it is essential to evaluate the methods to use, and that sufficient funds are earmarked for it.

As I stated at the previous Council meeting, I would like to insist that the Conference on Agriculture and the Environment, which will be held in 1992, will be a very important Conference for developing countries. We in the developing countries are in favour of these efforts continuing under the aegis of FAO. We hope that Conference will have positive results and repercussions. We also hope that we will be able to benefit from the Twenty-fifth Conference.

My delegation considers that the real costs of the budget presented will go beyond the Organization's means. For that reason we must face this challenge, but we will speak frankly, Mr Chairman.

There are important matters pending such as desertification and others which have not been solved yet, whilst we know full well that these problems affect Sub-Saharan Africa and that regardless of the cost involved it would affect the daily life of our citizens and is something that ensures the rehabilitation of ordinary citizens. The Technical Cooperation Programme is a very important programme because it responds to our very pressing needs and FAO has proved that it is quickly able to respond to the urgent needs of developing countries. In our experience it has been proved that the TCP has been a positive programme but if ever funds had to be distributed on a regional basis this would be a waste of resources.

**Assefa YIIALA (Ethiopia) :** We have had a chance to air our views in the Programme Committee and feel our views are fully covered in the report we have before us. We therefore would like to endorse the report of the proposed Programme of Work and Budget of the Director-General as is presented to us in the document. This being the case our intervention will be very brief.

One, the introduction of a discussion on the Summary Programme of Work and Budget was based on the understanding of establishing a consensus at an early stage in the preparation of the Programme of Work and Budget. It is reported to us that the Programme of Work and Budget that we have before us is as per the discussion on the Summary Programme of Work and Budget that was held during the year.

Two, priority programme areas in line with this understanding that was reached during these discussions, and also the last session of the Programme Committee and therefore will have the support of our delegation. Our delegation feels that further cost absorption will affect the programme and our preference therefore is to see it as presented.

Three, zero growth on the budget level is acceptable on the grounds of establishing a consensus rather than justified adequacy.

Four, the increase on the TCP is below the level approved by the Conference and the present level is acceptable as a package of the overall budgetary situation rather than adequacy on its own merit.

Five, cost increase is a technical matter that is based on factors involving cost increases. From the explanation by Mr Shah we understand some of the factors that should have been accounted for have been left out because of the rationale of establishing consensus. We therefore feel that a further decrease in the cost increase will affect the working of the Programme of Work and Budget and therefore our position would favour the endorsement of the proposal as presented to us in the document.

**Nedilson Ricardo JORGE (Brazil):** At this stage I would concentrate on the level of the budget. Brazil recognizes the efforts of the Secretariat to reduce cost increases and to limit the level of the budget. At the same time Brazil will not appreciate reductions on FAO effective programmes; we understand the importance of FAO to developing countries. Having said that, however, I would like to express here that the Brazilian Government is worried by the impact of the proposed increase of the budget level on the contributions of developing Member Countries because they are facing economic and financial difficulties mostly due to the burden of external debt. The Brazilian delegation would like to see this proposed budget level reduced by the Secretariat within the possible limits in order to reach a level more compatible with the real possibility of Member States.

**Winston RUDDER (Trinidad and Tobago) :** The delegation of Trinidad and Tobago intervenes on this Agenda Item on behalf of the 13-member CARICOM states in following the tenor of the contributions so far that Conference would find it possible to adopt the 1992-93 Programme of Work and Budget by consensus. This we believe is facilitated by the quality of the documentation, including its presentation and content and by the degree of transparency that attended the programme and budget formulation process. We congratulate the Organization for its heroic attempt in reconciling and accommodating the several, often conflicting, demands in the process leading up to the finalization of the budget. However, like others who have spoken before us we believe that we may yet live to regret the concept of the no real growth as may well be revealed later on by the insidious impact amongst the millions of poor and deprived in the agricultural and rural sectors of developing countries throughout the world.

We agree, in light of the financial constraints, with the priority areas identified, particularly in respect of environmental sustainable development, although we would have been happier if the accommodation could have been found for greater allocations to the natural resource management areas of fishery and forestry. We also agree with the human resource development activity proposed, focussing in particular on women in development and issues related to food and nutrition and in this regard we fully endorse the contribution of the Organization to the International Conference on Nutrition. At the same time, however, we regret the inevitable cutback in this very vital area of training. We continue to support the TCP and we note that only those of us on the receiving end, that is those of us with real need, we fully appreciate the responsiveness of the TCP modality to our need and requests.

With these comments I end here and wish to indicate we will join the debate in Commission II.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Il y a encore deux orateurs inscrits. Comme nous devons terminer la séance à 19 heures précises, c'est-à-dire exactement dans deux minutes et demie, je propose de reporter les interventions des délégués du Maroc et de l'Arabie Saoudite à demain, à 9 h 30. Ensuite, M. Shah répondra aux très nombreuses questions qui ont été posées. Je m'efforcerai, à l'intention de la Commission II de la Conférence, de dégager une synthèse des très intéressantes interventions qui se sont déroulées.

Y a-t-il un autre délégué qui désire s'inscrire? La Zambie. Il reste donc trois orateurs et la liste des orateurs est clôturée.

Lorsque nous aurons terminé l'examen du point 11 de l'ordre du jour, nous réglerons le problème de la présidence des différentes commissions en procédant s'il le faut à un vote. Immédiatement après, nous aborderons le point 17 de l'ordre du jour, qui sera suivi de l'examen des points 15 et 5. Nous aurons donc, demain, un ordre du jour particulièrement chargé.

Il ne me reste qu'à vous remercier de votre participation extrêmement active tout au long de ces deux séances.

The meeting rose at 19.00 hours.

La séance est levée à 19 heures.

Se levanta la sesión a las 19 horas.



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ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

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**Hundredth Session**

**Centième session**

**100° período de sesiones**

THIRD PLENARY MEETING  
TROISIEME SEANCE PLENIERE  
TERCERA SESION PLENARIA  
(6 November 1991)

The Third Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.45 hours

Mr Antoine Saintraint, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La troisième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 45

sous la présidence de M. Antoine Saintraint, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la tercera sesión plenaria a las 9.45 horas

bajo la presidencia del Sr. Antoine Saintraint, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

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

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

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

11. Programme of Work and Budget 1992-93 (continued)

11. Programme de travail et budget 1992-93 (suite)

11. Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1992-93 (continuación)

**LE PRESIDENT:** Nous allons terminer le point 11 de notre ordre du jour qui concerne le Programme de travail et budget 1992 et 1993, C 91/3 et CL 100/4.

Après l'examen de ce point, nous passerons aux propositions de candidatures aux fonctions de Président de la Conférence et aux Présidents des commissions de la Conférence.

Je demanderai que l'on se le dise, à l'attention des délégués qui ne sont pas encore présents: tous ceux qui sont en possession d'un discours préparé à l'intention de leur Ministre pour la première semaine de la Conférence où un bon nombre de Ministres prendront la parole en séance plénière devraient avoir l'amabilité de transmettre ces textes à M. Tedesco le plus rapidement possible. Cela facilitera beaucoup le problème de traduction.

Je passe immédiatement la parole au représentant du Maroc.

**Abdeseleme ARIFI (Maroc):** Ma délégation tient d'abord à remercier M. Shah pour la présentation assez concise qu'il a faite du point qui est soumis à notre examen.

Comme ma délégation l'avait déjà exprimé lors de la dernière session du Conseil, elle regrette que le concept de croissance zéro vienne affecter le budget de l'Organisation à un moment où les pays en développement ont besoin d'une assistance accrue de la *part* de l'Organisation et à un moment où la famille des Nations Unies est plus que jamais déterminée à aller de l'avant pour résoudre les problèmes mondiaux.

Ma délégation, à l'instar d'autres délégations des pays en voie de développement qui l'ont précédée et notamment l'Indonésie, le Pakistan, le Congo et Madagascar, tout en manifestant son inquiétude quant au niveau du budget, n'a d'autre alternative à proposer que de donner son accord pour ce budget dans un souci de maintenir le consensus.

Ma délégation accueille favorablement les priorités retenues, et notamment celles concernant l'environnement, le développement durable et l'intégration des femmes au développement.

Ma délégation appuie et encourage les activités de terrain entreprises par l'Organisation pour renforcer la sécurité alimentaire conformément au concept élargi, et tient à rappeler la recommandation de la dernière session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire qui invite la FAO à se concentrer davantage sur les activités essentielles pour lesquelles elle

dispose d'un avantage comparatif afin d'assurer une utilisation optimale des ressources.

S'agissant du PCT, ma délégation constate avec préoccupation que la Résolution 9/89 n'a pu avoir une suite, et appuie la proposition avancée par la délégation du Pakistan à ce sujet. Nous estimons que les augmentations allouées au PCT dans le cadre du prochain biennium, même si elles représentent le niveau le plus haut de façon générale, sont loin de répondre à l'objectif de 17 pour cent tracé par la Conférence et encore à celui de 14 pour cent.

S'agissant toujours du PCT, ma délégation rejette toute proposition visant à sa répartition par pays ou par région.

Enfin, ma délégation tient à encourager les efforts déployés par le Directeur général qui ont permis de réduire l'accroissement des taux jusqu'à son niveau actuel.

**Waleed A. ELKHEREIJI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (Original language Arabic):**

Allow me first of all to express my thanks to the Director-General for the efforts he has made in order to present this Programme of Work and Budget. I would also like to thank Mr Shah and all those who have collaborated in the preparation of this document. We welcome the proposed priorities, but we would like to say that we should not give any one of them a greater importance than other priorities.

As for the level of the proposed Programme and Budget, my delegation would like to support zero growth because of the current economic situation in the world, and because it is the only possible way in which we can reach consensus. We would like to say that we support this zero growth. As for the increase in costs which has been estimated to be US\$87 million we welcome the response given by the Organization to the requests made by some countries in order to review this amount and to do whatever is possible in order to make some cuts and to reduce the costs.

The proposed increase will lead us to consensus. Some might think it is possible to make further reductions, but the question which remains is, can we make bigger reductions without harming the essential and major programmes of the Organization?

Because of the current situation, we are in support of maintaining the lapse factor at the proposed 3 percent, and the time when the matter is further discussed and studied should be when we prepare the next Programme of Work and Budget.

I would like to refer to two other items regarding the increase in the Working Capital Fund and the Special Reserve Fund. I do not want to make any detailed comments on them now because we will deal with them when discussing the Programme and Budget in Commission II of the general Conference. As for the proposed allocations in the Technical Cooperation Programme we would have liked to see a bigger increase in the TCP than the one now proposed because of the absolute importance given by the developing countries to this Programme. Because of the current financial situation we think the proposed increase is acceptable to our delegation.

In conclusion, my delegation hopes that a decision to approve the Budget will be achieved by consensus.

**Josias P. LUNGU (Zambia):** Being one of the last speakers, I will try to be very brief by restricting my comments to a few issues.

My delegation had originally planned to reserve its comments on this agenda item since it will be discussed in greater detail in Commission II of the Conference. However, after listening carefully to various speakers on this very important subject we find it appropriate to make some preliminary comments which in general terms will be indicative of our position on the proposed Programme of Work and Budget. Nevertheless, we feel that in the case of the TCP funds the Director-General is under an obligation to implement Council Resolution 9/89 which seeks to increase the financial cooperation to the TCP. Although it may not be possible to achieve the 14 percent or 17 percent increase now, the obligation on the part of the Director-General to achieve these targets in the future should still stand.

On the question of zero growth, my delegation has never in the past supported that this concept should be applied and we will never do so in the future. This is because we are aware of the ever-increasing needs in the developing countries which require additional financial resources for projects. Therefore, we hope our friendly developed countries, who are also major contributors to the FAO Budget, will relent and consider going along with the aspirations of the developing countries.

My delegation will reserve comment on the lapse factor and on the proposed methodology to be used in the allocation of the TCP funds to various regions of the developing countries. These issues received great attention from many delegations who have spoken both yesterday and this morning.

**Tadeusz STROJWAS (Poland):** My delegation spoke at length on the proposed Programme of Work and Budget during the Ninety-ninth Session of the Council last June, and is going to substantially develop the subject again during the forthcoming Conference which is why, on behalf of the Polish delegation, I wish to signal only one point after my consultation yesterday with Warsaw.

We generally share the view that the funds of the TCP are not sufficient. In recent years, Poland has benefited from the Technical Cooperation Programme. We are surprised in this connection to hear - I think the delegate of Japan provided some data - that only 8 percent of these funds have been utilized for emergency purposes. Furthermore, we support the proposal for the distribution of TCP resources in the indicative country allocations between regions. The UNDP system of IPFs with specific criteria has been largely accepted as a model in the allocation of UNDP funds. Therefore, my delegation considers that application of the same system will constitute an interesting approach and a good method of allocating the indicative country allocations from TCP funds.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je vous remercie de votre intervention brève et constructive. Maintenant, avant de tenter de dégager une synthèse de cet intéressant débat, j'ai noté la préoccupation de nous tous et je n'ai entendu aucune

voix discordante en ce qui concerne les nécessités d'aboutir à un consensus lors du vote par la Conférence du Programme de travail et budget, je demanderais à M. Shah, Assistant du Directeur général de bien vouloir répondre à certaines questions précises et je m'efforcerai de dégager une synthèse, qui n'est pas difficile à faire, compte tenu de la qualité des interventions d'hier et de ce matin. Vous avez la parole.

**V.J. SHAH (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation):** First of all may I on behalf of the Director-General and through you, Mr Chairman, thank the Council and in particular the distinguished representatives who have participated in this important debate on the Programme of Work and Budget for 1992-93. The Director-General is very sensitive and very attentive always to the views expressed by this august body, and he ventures to hope that the on-the-whole very positive action which has been given to his proposals will find a similar response in the Conference for the consensus adoption of the Programme of Work and Budget.

First of all, let me say, Mr Chairman, there are three points I would propose not to respond to - firstly, the comments about the Working Capital Fund; secondly, the comments about the replenishment of the Special Reserve Account. These are two items you have directed you will consider under Item 15 of your Agenda, and at that time with your permission I would like to provide clarifications. The third subject is that of the Programme Budget process. I have listened very carefully to every view expressed about the desirability or otherwise of continuing the Budget outline step. But this is a matter which is addressed to you through the Report of the Programme Committee which you will be considering under Item 15, and at that time, Sir, I would like to provide also some clarifications. For now I will limit my responses to five subjects which have been referred to most frequently in the debate. I hope I will not be considered disrespectful if at this time I do not respond to any other point which is not covered under these five.

The first is the question of cost increases, and let us spend a few minutes on that. I think every Member who addressed this issue has realized that the proposed provision for cost increases has been included by the Director-General on the most conservative basis possible. You have the methodology before you; you have all the details that we have used and that were submitted to the Finance Committee in its detailed examination of this matter. I have not heard anyone saying that they disagree with this methodology or that they disagree with the facts that you have given, or that they disagree with the assumptions we state we have used. But in the debate there is certainly some concern about the level of these cost increases and I will be very frank in addressing these concerns.

First of all, some attention is given to the percentage of the cost increases and as the Ambassador of France - I think he was the first to raise this - pointed out very correctly, the percentage figure has changed. In the Summary Programme of Work and Budget the cost increases were estimated at 15.3 percent of the current budget base, and in the full Programme of Work and Budget they are now estimated at 14.6 percent of the budget base. With all respect, I would suggest to Members that they do not concentrate so much on the percentages, because we have not calculated the

cost increases on any simplistic percentage. We have given you the facts. That is one factor.

The second factor is that the cost increases in their dollar amount change according to the exchange rate used. For example, at an exchange rate of 1 335 you have seen that the cost increases are given as US\$82.9 million, but on an exchange rate of 1 230 which was the rate yesterday, you would have to add some US\$20 million more, and this is not because of any trick or any pack of tricks on the part of the Secretariat. As you know, the cost increases have elements which are responsive to the exchange rate.

To take the two key ones. Post adjustment - the post adjustment multiplier changes according to the exchange rate used and in working out the impact of the change - I have the figures to prove it to you - we take at each exchange rate the multiplier for each month of the next biennium. That brings us to the point that out of the US\$20 million, US\$10.7 million of the exchange rate impact is for the post adjustment multiplier. The general service salaries in Rome are lire based and lire accorded. The impact at 1 230 is some US\$11 million, so as you proceed not only now but in the Conference to zero in on the budget level you will find the combination of exchange rates and the cost increases will result in percentages which are different, so please do not be surprised when these percentages change. I hope I have now given you the reasons for them. I will always be glad to give you more clarifications if they are needed.

The second point about the cost increases is about the validity of comparing cost increases in different organizations. The representative of Australia - my good friend because I deal with him very much in the Finance Committee - has mentioned that the cost increases in FAO in the proposed Budget are not only excessively high but are among the highest, if not the highest, in the UN system. I beg to disagree for three reasons.

Firstly, I disagree because, as I have tried to explain, the percentages cannot be compared; secondly, because, when each organization estimates its cost increases, where does it start? It starts with the location of its duty station. Of course, the cost increases in Switzerland will be different from those in Rome. Also, please bear in mind that it is not only one factor of the inflation in the country, the GNP deflator, which can be used. All these organizations use figures of the wage index or the consumer price index. We find that the results are obviously different. In the United States of America, the wages and earnings index over the period 1985-1991 has kept to under 4 percent. Fine. In Switzerland the wages and earnings index has come up to 4.5 percent. In Italy it is 7.8 percent. So this is the second reason why the cost increases in different organizations cannot be compared from their base.

The third factor why they cannot be compared is because, in making the estimate of the needs for the next two years, you start with the base. If the base budget provision is adequate in terms of cost coverage, then the additional amount to be included for the next two years can be relatively modest. But if the base budget provision is inadequate - I will demonstrate this to you for FAO - when that base provision is inadequate, how can you not include the cost increases for the next two years? Why is the provision and to what extent is the provision in FAO inadequate?

Over the years - I take my share of the responsibility for this because this is the fifth Programme Budget that I have helped the Director-General to prepare, the Council has a hundred sessions under its belt, I have ten years of Programmes of Work and Budget - one lesson I have learned is that I underestimate the costs over and over again. Partly this is because the Director-General is responsive to your concerns and he does not want to include any excessive provision. He errs on the side of caution. What has been the result? In the current biennium in 1990-1991 the provision for salary costs of professionals and general service is under-budgeted by US\$20 million, not counting further losses due to currency exchange rates. I will indicate two or three examples.

The professional salaries. Many members will remember that in the last Conference I was given a hard time because the Director-General felt it prudent to include in the budget for 1991 the impact of the increases in professional salaries which had been recommended by the International Civil Service Commission and were about to be decided by the General Assembly. We under-budgeted this provision by US\$3.7 million.

General service salaries. We have under-budgeted this by almost US\$9 million. There was a higher than expected impact of the general service salary survey, and there have been general service salary increases during the biennium in accordance with the increases in the National Statistical Index, which has led to increases in general service salaries of higher amounts and earlier in each month of the biennium.

Pension Fund contributions have been under-budgeted by US\$3.3 million, because the Organization's contributions to the Pension Fund increased from 15 to 15.8 percent. Education Grant - US\$2 million.

I will not go on in detail, but I felt that this was an important point for members to bear in mind when they further consider this issue of cost increases.

This brings me now to the second subject, Mr Chairman, which, with your permission, I would like to respond to. That is the issue of the lapse factor. The subject of the lapse factor has been considered by the Finance Committee at two Sessions during the last biennium, and it was considered at its September Session. The result of its consideration are in the report before you in CL 100/4.

I would submit once again that there is no theoretical ideal of lapse factor. We know very well that the amount of deduction for the lapse factor, in different organizations is different, but we know equally well that when the Conference decided for FAO to reduce the lapse factor to 3 percent, it was after taking into account the fact that there are other comparable organizations that have a lower lapse factor or one which is allocated in a different way, which results in a lower reduction. Given the fact that there is no theory and no magic formula, the Director-General's approach has been that the lapse factor deduction is an aspect of budgetary provision that has to be considered in the overall context.

In the case of FAO, as we reported to the Finance Committee, the lapse factor has varied over the years. In 1957 it was 2.5 percent; it then went to 4.5 percent, then to 5.5 percent. But at each occasion that the lapse factor was increased or kept at a certain level, there is one remarkable

consistency, and that is that this high lapse factor referred to periods when there were substantial increases, real programme increases, in the budget and substantial increases in the number of staff. Therefore, there is a rationale.

If you are increasing the staff establishment in an organization, the number of staff members, by significant amounts from one biennium to another, we can all recognize that there are possibilities for applying a lapse factor of 4, 5, 5.5 percent, because not all these new posts are going to be filled at the same time and simultaneously. But we are in the reverse situation; we are in the situation of a reduction of staff. In this situation, combined with the overall financial problems - I must come back to that because it is always the overall context that counts, the overall context of our financial problems - the Director-General submitted to the Conference and again to the Finance Committee at its last Session that it does not make sense to change the lapse factor.

If we are going to take this issue of the lapse factor as a part of the total package, then let me merely state that, while the Member Nations are working toward a consensus, the lapse factor is not an issue on its own. You have a Programme proposed to you, which you have all welcomed, which you support. That Programme involves a cost. Those costs are given realistically, modestly, conservatively in the proposals before you. If you change any of this, if you change the amount of the cost increases or if you change the lapse factor, what is the result? The result is that you will not appropriate funds necessary to carry out a Programme of no growth. You will be going for a reduced Programme and a reduced Budget.

I know that the debate does not end here; it will continue in Commission II, and I will try to help because the Secretariat is not taking sides between one group of Member Nations and another group of Member Nations. We are serving you all. That is why I cannot emphasize enough that the proposals before you should not be interpreted in the sense of the Secretariat trying to get something. The Secretariat does not get anything out of this. The Secretariat presents to you a Programme and seeks your approval, if you wish us to implement it. So any justification that I give or any clarification that I provide is addressed equally to any Member of the Council.

The third subject is in response to the comments made on the Technical Cooperation Programme. First of all, I know that if the Director-General were here he would say with the same intensity of feeling as I do that he regrets very much that in his proposals he has not been able to come up with a formula which would increase the share of the TCP in the total budget. He regrets this. In response to those Members who have expressed the hope that he will seek to respond to Conference Resolution 9/89 more positively in his proposals for the Programme of Work and Budget 1994-95, he has asked me to assure you that that is his intention; he will seek to do so.

At this stage let me clarify one aspect. In case it is felt by any Member Nation that the Director-General has disobeyed or flaunted the directive which was given to him in Conference Resolution 9/89, very respectfully we would point out that that Resolution did not say that the Conference decides to set the level of TCP at 14 or 17 percent of the budget level. I quote the words from the operative paragraph 3 of the Resolution: The



Conference "Invites the Director-General to make every effort in order to restore the resources available to TCP to the former level of 14 percent..."

With all respect, we would point out on behalf of the Director-General that he has been attentive to this resolution, that he made every effort. How does he show this effort? He shows this effort by providing an increase, a programme increase of US\$4 million for the TCP; a real programme increase, higher than for any other programme component and he responds by making sure that the total provision for the TCP, that is to say the programme increase and the cost increases arises almost to US\$10 million for the next biennium.

On the TCP there was one comment by the representative of Japan on which I would like to provide a clarification. If I understood the comment he made yesterday it was that his delegation is concerned that the TCP is managed in a different way from the rest of the Regular Programme, that it is not subject to the same management principles, procedures and safeguards as the rest of the Regular Programme. Thus my understanding of the comment that was made and my reply would be, very respectfully, that I cannot agree to that perception. The resources of the TCP are managed with the same care and with the same principles of management delegation as are the other resources of the Regular Programme. The TCP is not managed personally by the Director-General, as I think you all know and as we have tried to point out in successive evaluations and in the proposals for the TCP there are established criteria for project approval, there are established channels of who has to assess the project request received, not only at Headquarters but at the field level. Then the process of approval results in projects being approved or rejected and the person who exercises the delegation is my colleague Mr Rinvile of the Development Department. The third aspect of the TCP is the responses that have been made on the proposal for an indicative country allocation. This does not call for any reply from me at this time. I have noted very carefully all the views expressed which in large measure were views of concern or of dissatisfaction but whatever the views they will be debated further in Commission II and we will respond to the wishes of the Conference.

The fourth subject was references by a number of delegations to the proposed Asian study and here again let me be very honest, the response to the request for this Asian study as given in the Programme of Work and Budget is what the Director-General and his colleagues felt was possible within the total programme budget proposals before you. We felt that it is possible to respond to this desire for a regional study in the context of the revision of Agriculture towards 2000, 2005, 2010 and so on but we have noted carefully the repeated request that an effort be made to embark on the study during the coming biennium even if it cannot be completed during the biennium. This is a request which I note, which I will refer to the Director-General. At this stage you will appreciate I cannot respond with either a yea or a nay. This is matter which will be looked into with utmost attention.

So this brings me now to the fifth subject and that is the level of the budget. Once again I am not surprised, the Secretariat is not surprised that there is not unanimity yet on the level of the budget which you would like to see the Conference approve. But here let me offer some thoughts; firstly to repeat the thought which the Director-General expressed

yesterday; the level of the budget, the Programme of Work and Budget you Member Nations will consider in relation to the other aspects, the other aspects which involve contribution assessments. What the Director-General has presented is a budget of no programme growth. This budget of no programme growth involves the cost increases which he has submitted to you. It involves also the preservation, and more than preservation, the re-establishment of safety nets, the safety nets of the Working Capital Fund to be increased by US\$5 million and the safety net of the Special Reserve Account which will be non-existent from the first of January 1992. We need those safety nets in order to implement a programme of work even if it has no increase. As soon as you change those basic factors, any one of them; you may say, we accept the no programme growth but we want to reduce the provision for cost increases or you may say, we even accept the provision for the cost increases but we will not agree to the increase in the Working Capital Fund and to the replenishment of the Special Reserve Account. The result will be a negative budget, let us face it. I am not in a fever about this and I hope that the Director-General would not be in a fever about it because it is your Organization, it is your programme and it is your budget for the next two years. The Director-General has not proposed a negative budget. What he hopes you will all consider is a budget of no growth which requires a certain budgetary provision but if Member Nations in their sovereign wisdom and right decide to a different formula, provided it is realized that what the Conference approve would be a negative budget, we respect you and we will follow your directives.

There are so many aspects to these subjects which one can debate at greater length. I hope the few clarifications I have provided have been clear. We, the Director-General and we his colleagues, hope very earnestly that through the open facing of these issues Member Nations themselves will come to a conclusion that they can be happy with and which we can help them to arrive at.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Merci, M. Shah, pour ce brillant exposé et ces brillantes réponses. Je crois que vous avez bien souligné les différents points qui ont retenu l'attention du Conseil, et le Comité de rédaction aura l'occasion de se pencher sur la synthèse à dégager de la discussion qui a eu lieu à ce sujet.

Personnellement, j'ai un jour parlé d'un budget de résignation. Je crois que cette résignation doit être le plus possible enthousiaste, étant entendu qu'une volonté s'est dégagée d'aboutir à un consensus.

On a beaucoup parlé de croissance zéro. Vous connaissez mes sentiments personnels en ce qui concerne cette notion contradictoire: croissance zéro veut dire non croissance ou absence de croissance. J'ai toujours préféré l'expression "budget constant". Ce budget constant doit bien sûr - et cela personne ne l'a dit - être un budget d'équilibre et non pas un budget de décroissance.

Le point important qui a fait l'objet de discussions est celui relatif aux augmentations de coût. Je l'ai dit au départ, je crois que les augmentations de coût reposent sur des éléments absolument objectifs. Or je n'ai entendu aucune délégation mettre au cause l'objectivité des calculs qui ont amené aux propositions d'adaptation des coûts et aux augmentations de coût.

Il n'y a pas de désaccord sur le calcul, je crois qu'il est important de le noter. Il est important pour la Commission II de la Conférence de savoir que le calcul qui a mené aux propositions faites par le Secrétariat pour l'augmentation des coûts n'a été mis en cause par aucun membre du Conseil. C'est un élément important et je me devais de le souligner.

On a parlé du "lapse factor". Là, je n'aurai rien à ajouter à ce que vient de dire M. Shah très brillamment. Nous sommes tous conscients du fait que la FAO doit avoir des capacités de réponse et que l'excellence des moyens qu'elle doit mettre à la disposition de ses Etats Membres est fonction de son capital humain, de la formation, du recyclage et aussi du cadre fourni. Le cadre n'a pas été mis en cause. Le cadre très souvent, pour des raisons que vous connaissez tous, n'a pu être complété. Un effort vigoureux a été fait pour parvenir à obtenir que le cadre soit suffisamment étoffé pour répondre aux interpellations de ce monde et aux tâches que notre Organisation se doit d'assumer.

Beaucoup ont parlé du PCT. Je crois avoir dit qu'il existait un document, qui va être actualisé, reprenant tous les projets du PCT, et que le Service des opérations de terrain dirigé par M. Rinvile est à la disposition de tous les Etats Membres pour fournir toutes les explications voulues sur la base du dernier rapport qui a été établi en 1989 et qui contient un "listing" complet des opérations du PCT. Bien peu d'interrogations ont été faites au service compétent. De toute façon, les pays qui estimerait n'avoir pas suffisamment d'informations peuvent les obtenir sans aucune difficulté. J'en ai moi-même fait à de nombreuses reprises l'expérience et j'ai toujours reçu réponse aux questions que j'ai posées.

Certains ont inventé le terme de "Pnudisation", savoir s'il fallait effectuer cette répartition. Je crois que l'on peut difficilement le dire, mais la question sera débattue lors de la Conférence, s'il y a un accord, parce que cette répartition, pour moi, est un peu une répartition de boutiquier et elle changerait fondamentalement le rôle du PCT.

Je ne discuterai pas du montant, j'ai déjà dit ce que j'en pensais. Il est évident que les montants sont insuffisants, compte tenu des besoins du monde. Le Directeur général a dû faire des arbitrages, et il les a faits courageusement, pour obtenir un ensemble qui permette à l'Organisation de survivre, de vivre et de fonctionner normalement.

En ce qui concerne l'étude Asie, la réponse a été donnée, et en ce qui concerne le niveau du budget, nous aurons l'occasion, lorsque nous examinerons le rapport du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques, de nous pencher sur un projet de résolution. En ce qui concerne la procédure à adopter ultérieurement, nous avons fait une expérience qui semble avoir rencontré un large agrément des membres du Comité financier et du Comité du programme. Je n'ai pas entendu d'objections fondamentales à la procédure telle qu'elle a été suivie. Elle est peut-être un peu lourde, un peu longue, peut-être faudrait-il à l'avenir la simplifier et l'alléger quelque peu. Notamment dans le sommaire du Programme de travail et budget, on pourrait quelque peu simplifier les choses. Mais je crois que les procédures qui sont proposées, telles qu'elles ont été appliquées, ont permis d'arriver à ce que tous les membres du Conseil ont demandé, un consensus qui permette l'adoption du Programme de travail et budget.

Je voudrais maintenant remercier tous les membres du Conseil de leurs interventions concernant ce point, qui était un des points particulièrement importants soumis à notre Conseil. Je suis convaincu que la synthèse qui a été faite par M. Shah qui sera reflétée, ainsi que l'opinion de tous les membres du Conseil, dans le rapport que nous présenterons à la Conférence, permettra à la Commission II un large échange de vues et un large débat qui contribuera au succès de l'opération entreprise: l'adoption du Programme de travail et budget par consensus. C'est mon vœu le plus sincère et je suis convaincu que c'est votre vœu à tous.

Nous passons maintenant au point 4: Propositions de candidature aux fonctions de Président de la Conférence et de Présidents des Commissions de la Conférence.

Comme vous le savez tous, il y a trois commissions. La Commission I s'occupe spécialement des problèmes de l'agriculture, la Commission II s'occupe des problèmes budgétaires et du Programme de travail, et la Commission III s'occupe spécialement des problèmes constitutionnels et juridiques. Les trois Commissions auront une tâche importante. De nombreux contacts ont eu lieu entre les différents groupes, et je voudrais vous faire une proposition en ce qui concerne la présidence des trois Commissions. Ce n'est pas à nous, Conseil de la FAO, de décider au sujet de ces présidences, mais c'est à nous qu'il appartient de faire une proposition à la Conférence, proposition qui je l'espère ne rencontrera pas d'objections de votre Conseil.

II. ACTIVITIES OF FAO (continued)

II. ACTIVITES DE LA FAO (suite)

II. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO (continuación)

4. Preparations for the 26th Session of the FAO Conference (continued)

4. Préparatifs de la vingt-sixième session de la Conférence de la FAO (suite)

4 Preparativos para el 26º periodo de sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO (continuación)

4.1 Nomination of the Chairman of the Conference, and of the Chairmen of the Commissions of the Conference (Recommendations to the Conference) (continued)

4.1 Proposition de candidatures aux fonctions de Président de la Conférence et de Présidents des Commissions de la Conférence (Recommandations à la Conférence) (suite)

4.1 Propuesta de candidaturas para la Presidencia de la Conferencia y de las Comisiones de la Conferencia (Recomendaciones a la Conferencia) (continuación)

**LE PRESIDENT:** S'il n'y a pas d'autres remarques concernant le point 11, je déclare ce point clôturé.

En ce qui concerne la Commission I, il est demandé de proposer à la présidence de cette importante commission, M. Waleed A. Elkhareiji, Représentant permanent du Royaume d'Arabie Saoudite, dont je salue la présence.

S'il n'y a pas d'interventions sur cette proposition, nous proposerons donc pour la présidence de la Commission I notre ami et collègue Waleed A. Elkhareiji.

En ce qui concerne la Commission II, un accord est intervenu au sein du Groupe OCDE, après contact avec le Groupe des 77, pour proposer à la présidence de cette Commission, M. Hans Jorgen Kristensen, Président du Comité national danois pour la FAO. M. Hans Jorgen Kristensen a déjà participé à de nombreuses réunions de la FAO qu'il connaît bien et, sauf objection de votre part, nous proposerons à la Conférence la nomination pour la Commission II de cette personnalité.

S'il n'y a pas de remarques sur la présidence de la Commission II, nous considérons que vous l'approuvez. L'intéressé n'est pas présent mais je le félicite d'avance.

En ce qui concerne la Commission III, je crois que c'est celle qui a posé moins de problèmes.

Como Presidente de la Comisión III, se propone al Sr. don Samuel Fernández Illanes, Ministro Consejero de la Representación Permanente de Chile. Es un jurista de gran calidad y que conoce todos los problemas constitucionales y jurídicos de la FAO. Quisiera, en nombre de todos, congratular al Sr. don Samuel Fernández Illanes, y vamos a proponer su candidatura a la atención de la Conferencia.

S'il n'y a pas d'interventions, les propositions des présidences des Commissions seront transmises à la Conférence comme je viens de l'indiquer.

Je voudrais maintenant proposer un changement à l'ordre du jour de nos travaux.

Il est souhaitable que sur tous les points importants, nous arrivions à dégager de manière claire les positions que notre Conseil entend prendre, et je crois qu'il existe encore certaines discussions en cours en ce qui concerne le point 17.

Je proposerais donc d'entamer immédiatement - et ce serait beaucoup plus logique - le point 15 qui concerne les rapports de la soixante-troisième session du Comité financier. Je crois qu'il y a une interrelation étroite entre le point 15 et le point 11 qui traite du Programme de travail et budget que nous avons toujours bien présent à l'esprit. Ensuite, nous devons décider sur la nomination du Commissaire aux comptes, nous devons examiner un projet de résolution concernant l'administration du Fonds du PAM, nous devons examiner les questions que nous avons réservées en ce qui concerne les deux Fonds: "Working Capital Fund" et "Special Reserve Account".

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

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

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

- 15. Reports of the 63rd Session of the Programme Committee and the 72<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Finance Committee, including:
- 15. Rapports de la soixante-troisième session du Comité du Programme et de la soixante-douzième session du Comité financier, notamment:
- 15. Informes del 63° periodo de sesiones del Comité del Programa y del 72° periodo de sesiones del Comité de Finanzas, en particular:
- 15.1. Appointment of the External Auditor
- 15.1. Nomination du Commissaire aux comptes Nombramiento del Auditor Externo Other Financial Matters
- 15.2. Autres questions financiers Otras cuestiones financieras Administration of the WFP Fund: Draft Conference Resolution
- 15.3. Administration du Fonds du PAM: Projet de résolution de la Conférence
- 15.3. Administración del Fondo del PMA: Proyecto de resolución para la Conferencia
- 15.4. Personnel Matters
- 15.4. Questions de personnel Asuntos de personal Other Matters Arising out of the Reports
- 15.5. Autres questions découlant des rapports
- 15.5. Otras cuestiones derivadas de los informes

**LE PRESIDENT:** S'il n'y a pas d'objections, je passe au point 15 de notre ordre du jour, en saluant la présence du Président du Comité financier, notre ami Carlos Di Mottola, ici présent au podium. Je suis heureux qu'il puisse présenter les travaux particulièrement fouillés du Comité financier et du Comité du Programme ainsi que la session conjointe de ces deux Comités. Nous procéderons de manière systématique de façon à ce que nous puissions, au cours du débat aborder les différents points pour lesquels, soit des propositions devront être faites, soit des décisions devront être prises.

La parole est au Président du Comité financier.

**Carlos DI MOTTOLA (Presidente del Comité de Finanzas):** Gracias, señor Presidente, por darme el uso de la palabra. Presento mi saludo respetuoso a usted y a todos los señores delegados presentes en este período de sesiones. El Sr. Shah, en su brillante intervención, facilita mi tarea de entrar en detalles bastante importantes.

Tengo el placer de resumir para usted, señor Presidente, el informe del 72° período de sesiones del Comité de Finanzas, que figura como documento CL 100/4. Usted ya ha estudiado el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1992-93, así como sobre los asuntos presupuestarios conexos. Ha recibido también usted un informe completo sobre la situación financiera de la Organización. Por ello, no me refiero a estos temas ahora ni a los asuntos

examinados por el Comité y que se presentan al Consejo únicamente para su información.

El 72° periodo de sesiones del Comité se celebró del 16 al 26 de septiembre de 1991.

Bajo el epígrafe "Asuntos financieros", el Comité examinó la propuesta del Director General de estimular el pago de cuotas, en respuesta a la Resolución 15/89 de la Conferencia y de las subsiguientes deliberaciones del Consejo y del Comité de Finanzas. En pocas palabras, dicha propuesta prevé que los Estados Miembros puedan obtener un descuento de su cuota correspondiente al año correspondiente. La cuantía del descuento sería fijada por el Director General teniendo en cuenta las previsiones del nivel general de los tipos de interés para el año en que se aplique.

El Comité convino en que la Organización debería ensayar el plan de descuentos. Sin embargo, algunos miembros expresaron el temor de que el plan no lograra su objetivo real de estimular a los Estados Miembros a pagar pronto sus cuotas, ya que no afronta realmente los problemas que provocan el retraso de los pagos, tales como las dificultades financieras de los Estados Miembros, los procedimientos administrativos con respecto a la aprobación del Presupuesto y, en algunos casos, consideraciones políticas. Otros miembros expresaron la opinión de que, al determinar la cuantía del descuento que habría de ofrecerse, el Director General debería contar con el asesoramiento del Comité de Finanzas.

El Consejo recordará que, en su última reunión, el Director General le indicó que examinaría la necesidad de incrementar la cuantía del Fondo de Operaciones. El Comité examinó las propuestas del Director General al respecto. La propuesta del Director General de que se aumentara el Fondo de su nivel actual de 20 millones a 25 millones de dólares y su justificación están incluidas en nuestro informe. El aumento tendría que costearse con una aportación adicional de Estados Miembros, de conformidad con el Artículo 6.2(b) del Reglamento Financiero.

Un miembro del Comité se opuso a la resolución y otro no pudo estar de acuerdo con la aportación especial. Otros miembros convinieron en la necesidad de un Fondo de Operaciones. Sin embargo, expresaron la preocupación de que una aportación adicional supusiera un ulterior esfuerzo para la capacidad de los Estados Miembros de los países en desarrollo y países que experimentan dificultades presupuestarias. El Comité acordó transmitir al Consejo el proyecto de Resolución de la Conferencia que figura en el párrafo 3.89 del Informe.

El Comité examinó también la propuesta del Director General relativa a la reposición de la Cuenta Especial de Reserva para 1992-93. El bienio de 1992-93 comenzará sin recursos en la Cuenta Especial de Reserva. A menos que se adopten medidas para reponerla, no habría protección alguna para la ejecución del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto, el Comité examinó las opciones para la reposición y la propuesta del Director General de que dicha reposición se efectuara mediante la asignación de cuotas especiales a los Estados Miembros. El total de tales cuotas ascendería a 32,6 millones de dólares para poder reponer la Cuenta hasta su nivel estatutario del 5 por ciento del presupuesto total efectivo de operaciones propuesto para el bienio subsiguiente.

Dos miembros del Comité se opusieron a la propuesta debido a que se requerían cuotas adicionales. Uno de tales miembros, citando la oposición de principio de su Gobierno a la asignación de cuotas especiales, expresó también reservas sobre la necesidad misma de una Cuenta Especial de Reserva teniendo en cuenta otras medidas disponibles en los mercados financieros para proteger a la Organización contra las fluctuaciones monetarias desfavorables. Los demás miembros del Comité apoyaron la propuesta considerando importante que esta Cuenta tenga el nivel necesario de recursos para cumplir su finalidad. Se expresaron, no obstante, ciertas quejas y reservas sobre la carga que supondría la asignación de una cuota adicional a los Estados Miembros para aquellos países que se enfrentan con graves problemas de deuda exterior. Por consiguiente, la mayoría del Comité apoyó el proyecto de Resolución de la Conferencia que figura en el párrafo 3.99 del Informe del Comité.

El Comité examinó también los Estados de Cuentas del Economato de la FAO correspondientes a 1988 y 1989. El Comité apoyó la recomendación de que se aumentara la cuantía de la Reserva de Operaciones del 12 al 13 por ciento del volumen anual de ventas y se elevara de 300 a 400 millones de libras la Reserva para la sustitución del equipo. El Comité aprobó también el proyecto de Resolución de la Conferencia que figura en el párrafo 3.113 del Informe, mediante el cual se provee a introducir una enmienda secundaria en el segundo Artículo de la Resolución 16/89 de la Conferencia. Con dicha enmienda se reconocerá la práctica de distribuir los beneficios netos del Economato al Fondo de Bienestar del Personal, después de haber asignado fondos para las reservas necesarias.

Señor Presidente, recordará usted que, de conformidad con el Artículo XXVII 7(m) del Reglamento General, el Consejo debe nombrar un Auditor Externo de la FAO para el bienio que comienza con la comprobación de las cuentas del año 1992. En respuesta a la invitación hecha por la Organización, dos miembros presentaron propuestas formales. Tales propuestas fueron presentadas al Comité por la Oficina Nacional de Comprobación de Cuentas del Reino Unido y por el Tribunal de Cuentas francés. El Comité quedó favorablemente impresionado de la profesionalidad y experiencia ofrecidas por ambas organizaciones. En sus deliberaciones el Comité examinó las necesidades de auditoría externa de la Organización y, en particular, la necesidad de una continuidad en la función de la auditoría externa en este momento en que se están produciendo cambios en los sistemas financieros. Por ello el Comité recomendó que se volviera a nombrar al Interventor de Cuentas y Auditor General del Reino Unido.

El proyecto de resolución que se somete a la aprobación del Consejo figura en el párrafo 3.119 del Informe. El Comité tomó nota de que el actual Auditor Externo desempeñaba su cargo desde 1951. Al mismo tiempo que agradeció los servicios prestados por el actual Auditor Externo, el Comité estimó que redundaba en beneficio de la Organización tener la oportunidad de recurrir a la experiencia y conocimientos de auditores generales de otros Estados Miembros. A este respecto, el Comité pidió a la FAO que, para futuros nombramientos, presentara para su examen propuestas alternativas, incluido el actual Auditor Externo.

En lo que respecta a los Asuntos de personal, se informó al Comité de los cambios que se habían producido en las escalas de sueldos y los subsidios desde su reunión anterior y de las novedades recientes en las actividades de la Comisión de Administración Pública Internacional (CAPI), y del Comité



Mixto de Pensiones del Personal de las Naciones Unidas. La CAPI examinó, entre otras cosas, la remuneración del personal de las categorías profesionales y superiores, las condiciones de servicio de los subdirectores generales y subsecretarios generales y la remuneración de los servicios generales y categorías conexas en relación con el análisis detallado de la remuneración pensionable de dichas categorías.

En lo que respecta al Comité Mixto de Pensiones del Personal de las Naciones Unidas, hubo dos temas de particular importancia para las organizaciones y el personal: el examen de las modificaciones al sistema de reajuste de las pensiones y el análisis completo de la remuneración pensionable y las consiguientes pensiones del personal de servicios generales y categorías conexas. Se resume esta información en los párrafos 3.124 a 3.137 del Informe.

Señor Presidente, de conformidad con los deseos de la Conferencia, el Comité de Finanzas ha mantenido en examen los progresos hechos por la Organización en la aplicación de las recomendaciones presentadas por los consultores sobre gestión como parte del Examen de la gestión de la FAO. El Comité examinó los informes sobre los sistemas de imprenta, operaciones de tesorería, normas y procedimientos contables, políticas y prácticas de personal, recursos informáticos y servicios de mantenimiento y seguridad. El Comité aprobó en general las medidas adoptadas por la Organización.

Con respecto a los temas relacionados con el Programa Mundial de Alimentos, el texto completo del informe referente al PMA se incluye en la Parte IV del Informe del Comité de Finanzas. Se señalan a su atención los párrafos 4.14 a 4.25, relacionados con el examen que el Comité hizo del Reglamento Financiero propuesto para el PMA. El Reglamento General Revisado del PMA, que el Consejo refrendó en su 99º período de sesiones, prevé que el Director General continúe estableciendo el Fondo del Programa Mundial de Alimentos con arreglo al Artículo 6.7 del Reglamento Financiero de la FAO. Sin embargo, la gestión del Programa se regirá por su Reglamento Financiero distinto del Reglamento Financiero de la FAO. Dicho Reglamento requiere la aprobación de la Conferencia, para lo cual, en el párrafo 4.25 se incluye un proyecto de Resolución que se presenta a la aprobación de la Conferencia.

Deseo expresar el agradecimiento de todos los miembros de mi Comité por el honor que se nos ha concedido de realizar las tareas brevemente descritas y estoy dispuesto a ofrecer cualquier otra explicación que se necesite con relación a este informe.

V.J. SHAH (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): There are three subjects on which I would like to offer clarification to the Council. Two of them have been referred to in the debate you had on Item 11. Let me start with the first one - the subject of the Working Capital Fund. The proposal that the Director-General has submitted is to increase the level of the Working Capital Fund from US\$20 million to US\$25 million. Sometimes it has been felt by some delegations that perhaps what is involved here is an assessment of US\$25 million. Very definitely not, Mr Chairman - very definitely not. The assessment that would be required would only be US\$5 million to raise the Working Capital Fund from its present to its proposed level - US\$5 million.

The second point which has been made repeatedly in the debate is about the need for an assessment. Is there any other way in which the Working Capital Fund level can be raised without an assessment? The Basic Texts and in particular the Financial Regulations are very clear on this point. I would refer to Financial Regulation VI, paragraph 6.2 (b)(iv) which reads: "If the Conference decides to change the level of the Working Capital Fund, there shall be a reassessment".

Members of long-standing will remember that when the Conference decided in 1987 to raise the level of the Working Capital Fund from what it was then - US\$13.3 million - to US\$20 million, there was an assessment. This matter seems to us absolutely clear so why, then, is the suggestion raised that the payment of contribution arrears be used to replenish the Working Capital Fund? Perhaps there is a clarification I can provide there.

We need to distinguish the raising of the level of the Working Capital Fund, which is what is proposed now, from payments to the Working Capital Fund when any amount is drawn from it. For this reason, Financial Regulation 6.1(b) says very clearly that: "Any cash surplus in the General Fund at the close of any financial period shall be allocated among Member Nations in accordance with the Scale of Contribution... and... shall be released and applied to liquidate, in whole or in part first any advance due to the Working Capital Fund; secondly, any arrears of contributions; and thirdly, contributions for the calendar year following the year in which the audit is completed". So the cases are very separate.

In the case of a cash surplus, yes, Member Nations can very well direct that their share of the cash surplus be used to fund the Working Capital Fund and specifically their share of the Working Capital Fund, but in this case the Texts are very clear.

In view of the recognition of the amount of contributions outstanding, in view of the recognition that certain Member Nations - among them, as has been referred to, the two largest contributors - for good reasons of their own make their contributions in the last quarter of the year, the Working Capital Fund at its present level is just not enough. At its present level the Working Capital Fund is 3.5 percent of the present Budget. For the next Budget, whatever level you decide on, the Working Capital Fund even at its higher proposed level, would still be under 4 percent; it would be 3.75 percent. If we are talking of percentages, the current level of arrears is 50 percent of the annual assessments for the biennium. If you have arrears of current contributions still outstanding, they are over 70 percent of the annual assessment in this biennium, so we are talking about a very modest increase, and I believe this point has been well recognized.

The second subject is that of the Special Reserve Account and a brief clarification may help Council Members who have referred to this point. The Special Reserve Account, according to the Conference Resolution which establishes it, has three purposes. One is to supplement the Working Capital Fund when the Working Capital Fund is inadequate. When its resources have been used, then the Special Reserve Account comes to the rescue to supplement the Working Capital Fund. The justification for this is on the same lines as the one I have given for the Working Capital Fund, and I think this is well accepted.

The second purpose is that of currency protection. Here it is sometimes suggested, "Oh well, if you adopt different ways of dealing with currency protection you do not need a Special Reserve Account". With all respect I would disagree. I think the Conference recognized this when it established the Special Reserve Account. When the Conference established the Special Reserve Account, it was very well aware that there was a Working Capital Fund. It was very well aware that there were effects of currency fluctuations which could not be faced in any other way. Certainly there are ways of dealing with exchange rate problems such as through a split assessment system - an assessment partly in one currency and partly in another. We are aware that the Vienna-based Agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and also UNIDO have been using this split assessment system in recent years, but the benefits of the system have not been proven even in their own eyes. The possibility in our case has been examined by the Finance Committee, by the Council and by the Conference over the last four years, and without prejudging what may be any future decision, at least at this stage you have not decided to apply a split assessment system.

Forward currency cover is another option. As you know, we have used the possibility of forward currency cover in recent years. But its availability and the terms of the forward cover depend on exchange rate trends and on interest rates, so it is not always possible to find a solution which is in the interests of the Organization. Of course, we will look for it. We do look for it whenever it is available. Moreover, forward cover, forward purchase of currencies is normally limited for shorter periods than for a whole biennium.

There is another alternative - forward cover option; that is, the Organization could decide at a future date whether to exercise an option for forward cover or not, but this has a cost. If you want to envisage this possibility we would have to include provision for its cost in the budget estimates and we have not done so.

The third purpose of the Special Reserve Account is to cover unbudgeted costs. Now, I have replied earlier with some clarifications on the extent to which our resources do not cover costs which we are actually incurring. The result of this is that in the last biennium, and in this one, we have had to cover unbudgeted costs and in this biennium since the resources of the Special Reserve Account are totally used up in the coverage of the currency losses, there is no possibility of meeting unbudgeted costs through the Special Reserve Account.

The issue then arises, are there ways of replenishing the Special Reserve Account other than through an assessment? Certainly the options have been laid down by the Conference and have been examined by the Director-General. The first option is that if there is any balance of funds remaining in the Special Reserve Account at the end of this biennium, we carry it forward. Well, this is just not the case. If the Special Reserve Account is zero we have nothing to carry forward.

The second option is when there is a cash surplus. When there is a cash surplus, before that money is returned to Member Nations the Conference has established that whatever sum is required for the Special Reserve Account is kept for that Account and the balance returned to Member Nations, but "magari" as our Host Country nationals say. There is no cash surplus

certainly in this biennium, nor one that I can see in the foreseeable future.

The third option is that, if there is no cash surplus, the Director-General is authorized to apply to the Special Reserve Account any sums received in subsequent biennia in payment of arrears of contributions for previous biennia. This is worth considering. Since there are substantial arrears of contributions, if one could be sure of the payment of these arrears and the extent of the payments, they could be utilized to replenish in part or in whole the Special Reserve Account.

Are Member Nations prepared to give us the guarantees, give each other the guarantees, of what payments will be made on the arrears in order that they can be used, first of all, to cancel the budget deficit that is carried forward to meet the obligations that the Organization already has, and then what is left over to replenish the Special Reserve Account?

Since that is not a possibility that the Director-General can envisage with certainty, he submits the fourth option, which the Conference itself realized would have to be exercised, and that is to replenish the Special Reserve Account through proposals submitted to the Conference, that is, through an assessment.

Nobody likes to pay more; everyone has difficulties. I submit to you that this is a matter of the common good, the common interest of all Member Nations. You have a Special Reserve Account; you established it in your wisdom. It has a purpose and a continuing validity. Would you consider a perspective over the last ten years? In 1980-81 there was a favourable currency effect of over US\$18 million, which went into the Special Reserve Account. There was a cash surplus of US\$1.1 million of this currency effect after the 5 percent that was retained in the Special Reserve Account. In 1982-83 there was a favourable currency effect of US\$16.4 million, and after the 5 percent was left for the Special Reserve Account, US\$13.7 million went into the cash surplus distributed to Member Nations. In 1984-85 there was US\$10.6 million of a favourable currency effect. After the 5 percent retention, US\$9.8 million went into the cash surplus returned to Member Nations. There were years of good luck and good fortune; Member Nations benefited from them. In 1988-89 we had a favourable currency effect of US\$10.9 million.

That is not a bad record. If in four biennia Member Nations have benefited from favourable currency effects and the device of the Special Reserve Account permitted them to capture these benefits, then surely in the years of difficulty - not just for the Secretariat - for your Organization, there would be some equity in Member Nations accepting responsibility for the additional burden that falls on them.

The third subject that I need to draw to the attention of the Council is a matter that arises not only from the Report of the Finance Committee but also from the Report of the Programme Committee, and from the joint meeting. That concerns the Programme Budget Process. There are two issues that the Council may wish to consider.

The first one has been referred to extensively in your earlier discussions, and that is the continuation of the Budget Outline step. On that point the Programme and Finance Committees recommend that the "Outline step become an

established feature of the FAO Programme Budget Process", and "that appropriate amendments be introduced in the Basic Texts of the Organization". This recommendation was unanimous in the two Committees. Accordingly, the Director-General has submitted to the CCLM proposals for the amendment of the Basic Texts, which are submitted through the Report of the CCLM, and with your comments will go to the Conference.

The second subject is other improvements in the Programme Budget Process, other improvements in the documentation and the scheduling of their consideration by the Governing Bodies. The Director-General thought it fitting that he submit his suggestions on the subject. The Programme and Finance Committees have endorsed these measures suggested by the Director-General with a view to their implementation on an experimental basis in the next biennium, 1992-93, and for the budgetary exercise for the Programme of Work and Budget 1994-95.

These measures consist of: a) a shorter summary of the Programme of Work and Budget, which would avoid duplication with the full Programme of Work and Budget, as you yourself have often suggested; b) a more uniform and meaningful involvement of the Technical Committees of the Council - the Committees on Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries; c) a consideration of the Medium-Term Plan by the Programme and Finance Committees and by the Council, respectively, at their May and June sessions, thereby addressing the longer term prospects in a more logical fashion and reducing the pressures in these bodies at their autumn sessions; and, d) an enhanced system of reporting that would involve a programme implementation report and a programme evaluation report, each one dealing with both the Regular and the Field Programmes, and coupled with an improved schedule of their consideration by the concerned bodies.

We hope that the result of these measures, the clearer impact of these measures, would be in terms of reduced duplication in discussions, more productive use of the time of delegations, and a more realistic schedule of programming. I emphasize that all of these suggestions are made for the benefit of Member Nations and their representatives in our Governing Bodies. None of these suggestions are made for the conceivable or potential benefit of the Secretariat. I can see very well that if you endorse these suggestions and if the Conference approves them, there would be no less work that we would have to do. We would just try to do better what we have done so far.

In the light of the reactions of the Programme and Finance Committee the Council may wish to consider endorsing these suggestions for examination by the Conference and, in that event, may I suggest that the extract of the Council's Report be drawn to the attention of the Conference, together with the extracts of the Report of the Programme and Finance Committees and the document that the Director-General submitted in order that the Conference has a full picture of what were the suggestions and reactions of each body that considered these suggestions.

LE PRESIDENT: Sur le point 15 de l'ordre du jour, nous avons une décision à prendre et nous devons émettre un certain nombre d'avis à la Conférence au sujet des différentes questions qui viennent d'être explicitées par M. Shah.

Si vous n'y voyez pas d'objection, je voudrais commencer par le projet de résolution du Conseil relatif à la nomination du Commissaire aux comptes. Je vous donne lecture de ce projet de résolution qui figure à la page 64 du document CL 100/4:

"Le Conseil,

Notant que le Comité financier recommande de nommer à nouveau le Contrôleur et Vérificateur général des comptes du Royaume-Uni Commissaire aux comptes de l'Organisation;

Reconnaissant l'efficacité des services rendus par le Commissaire aux comptes,

Décide de nommer le Contrôleur et Vérificateur général des comptes du Royaume-Uni Commissaire aux comptes de l'Organisation pour une nouvelle période de deux ans commençant à la vérification des comptes de l'année 1992."

Y a-t-il des demandes d'intervention sur ce point précis?

**Jacques WARIN (France):** Il n'est pas dans mes intentions de faire objection à ce projet de résolution mais je veux simplement faire une brève intervention qui donne le point de vue de mon Gouvernement en la matière.

Je remercie tout d'abord très vivement le Président du Comité financier, M. Di Mottola d'avoir tout à l'heure parfaitement résumé la question de la nomination du Commissaire aux comptes. Je rappellerai que M. Di Mottola a résumé en trois points saillants les débats du Comité financier. Le premier point, c'est qu'il y avait, cette année, deux candidats pour assumer cette charge, la Cour des comptes française et le National Audit Office britannique, et que ces deux candidats ont été entendus par le Comité financier. Le deuxième point, c'est que pour des raisons conjoncturelles, à savoir les difficultés financières actuelles que connaît la FAO et les modifications qui sont apportées au système financier de la FAO, c'est-à-dire le système d'informatisation, il a été jugé utile de conserver le Contrôleur et Vérificateur général actuel, qui est celui du Royaume-Uni. Le troisième point sur lequel j'insiste, c'est que le Comité a noté que le présent Commissaire aux comptes est en fonction depuis 1951. Cela fait quarante ans. Nous allons fêter samedi prochain, au Capitole, les quarante ans d'installation de la FAO à Rome et nous pourrons fêter également les quarante ans d'installation du National Audit Office dans la structure de la FAO.

Cela dit, je note que le Comité financier a estimé qu'il était dans l'intérêt de l'Organisation d'avoir la possibilité de recourir à l'avenir à l'expérience d'autres vérificateurs des comptes.

Je crois que cette remarque est importante, et également la remarque selon laquelle la demande exprimée par le Comité financier de voir de nouvelles candidatures se présenter à lui.

C'est là dessus que je voulais vous rassurer et que vous en preniez acte.

La Cour des comptes française, qui avait présenté une très bonne demande, étayée à la fois sur le plan formel et sur le plan financier, et qui d'autre part jouit d'une bonne expérience de la vérification des comptes dans le système des Nations Unies, puisqu'elle a déjà assumé cette charge pour le PNUD et pour une autre institution spécialisée de Genève, a l'intention de représenter sa candidature en 1993. Je ne sais pas si je serai encore là pour la défendre, mais en tout état de cause je souhaite que la troisième fois soit la bonne.

**EL PRESIDENT:** Je remercie M. Warin de son intervention. S'il n'y a pas d'autres interventions nous pourrions considérer que ce projet de résolution est adopté par consensus. Le projet devient une résolution du Conseil.

Nous devons fournir un avis en ce qui concerne le "Working Capital Fund". Il y a un projet de résolution qui se trouve dans le rapport que vous avez sous les yeux. Il existe également un projet de résolution de la Conférence en ce qui concerne le "Special Reserve Account".

Vous pouvez l'aborder dès maintenant, mais la procédure fait l'objet d'un projet de résolution de la Conférence annexé au Projet de rapport du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques. Je vous demanderai de le discuter après le point 15 lors de la discussion du point 17, qui viendra après la discussion du point 15.

Il y a également un projet de la résolution de la Conférence concernant l'administration des fonds du PAM. Dans le programme de ce mercredi, il est indiqué "pour décision". En fait, il n'y a pas de décision à prendre, il y a des commentaires à transmettre à la Conférence, qui prendra, elle, la décision sur la base de la proposition du projet de résolution que nous soumettrons à la Conférence.

Je donnerai immédiatement la parole au représentant du Pakistan en présentant nos excuses au délégué du Liban, car notre ami pakistanaï doit se rendre à l'aéroport pour recevoir son Président.

Mohammad Saleem KHAN (Pakistan): I would like to thank the Chairman of the Finance Committee and Mr Shah for their extensive presentation on the various issues and I fully share the view expressed by Mr Shah at the end that gave the importance of the issues. We must transmit the extract of the Report from Council to the relevant Commissions of the Conference along with all the other documents he noted.

My delegation in its intervention yesterday under Agenda Item 11 had touched upon certain key points in relation to the Programme of Work and Budget 1992-93. In the interests of brevity we do not wish to repeat the same but would request that our views expressed under that item be kept under consideration while preparing the report under Agenda Item 15.

The delegation of Pakistan would like to start by noting its appreciation for the extremely thorough scrutiny carried out by the two Committees of the various issues placed before them and the concrete proposals they have made for the consideration of the Council and Conference. It has greatly facilitated our task. My delegation in general shares the consensus within the two Committees and do not wish to go into any points of agreement. At

this stage we would like to take particular note of the views of the UNDP support costs successive arrangements noted at para. 1.17 and para. 1.19 of the report. We agree that while national execution within the parameters of operational capacities of governments is desirable FAO will have to play an important role in capacity building and advisory services, while continuing to participate in projects. We would also agree with the view that in the adjustment phase towards the new situation a degree of uncertainty prevails and that the Director-General should have the flexibility during this transitional stage to manage the staff establishment for field operations within the resource available.

The delegation of Pakistan also wishes to endorse the desirability of institutionalizing the additional step in the programme budget process and adoption of the linked resolution provided we are able by the end of the Conference to adopt the budgetary proposals with consensus. In this context we would recall the underlying objective of consensus building with which this step was initially conceived as an experimental measure.

My delegation in its statement under Agenda Items 3 and 11 had also noted that in the interest of sound operations of the Organization and with past experience in view, we support the proposals for replenishment of the Special Reserve Account and the US\$5 million increase in the Working Capital Fund. On the same note my delegation sees the logic behind and support the proposal to maintain the lapse factor at 3 percent. We appreciate the additional financial burden that these three measures which I have noted would entail for Member States, particularly keeping in view the present financial difficulties of a large number of developing countries. Nevertheless we all agree that services of FAO are necessary and irreplaceable and to enable the administration to maintain this quality certain measures are necessary. Pakistan therefore is willing to undergo this sacrifice in the greater interest of the Organization and would hope other members would do likewise.

The delegation of Pakistan would also like to note its appreciation for the diligent manner in which the present External Auditor has absolved himself of his duties and endorse the proposal for his re-appointment for the next biennium. However, we would like to note that in future appointments due consideration shall also be given to available audit services in the developing countries. The Auditor General of Pakistan, for example, has been auditing accounts of various agencies of the United Nations family and could certainly provide similar services to FAO if required.

Turning to matters relating to WFP we do not at this stage wish to go into greater details since as members of the CFA Pakistan would have the opportunity to do so in the CFA. At this moment we would confine ourselves to endorsing the appended draft resolution on the administration of the WFP Trust Fund.

The Finance and Programme Committees constitute an important stage of inter-governmental deliberations over issues relating to the finances and programmes of the Organization. The two Committees beyond doubt have done well in the performance of the task assigned to them. Nevertheless for decisions of the two Committees to be representative and widely acceptable the principle of just and balanced geographical representation enshrined in the Basic Texts of FAO is important.



You will recall from the intervention of my delegation yesterday morning which we made on behalf of the members of the Asian region on the Council expressing our concern that the Asian region has not been adequately represented in the Finance Committee for several terms now and we requested the Council to review the arrangements for election to the two Committees in pursuance of Conference Resolution 11/87 and para. 281 of the report of the Twenty-fifth Session of the FAO Conference. I would like to clarify that it is not the intention of the Asian region to deprive any other region of its due and rightful representation on any inter-governmental body. All we seek is respect of the same right for our region. We respect the principles enshrined in the Conference Resolution 11/87 and endorse the urgings of the report of the Twenty-fifth Session of the Conference for greater rapport and consultation between the various regions and the various countries to respect these principles. It was in this spirit that following the unfortunate upset in 1987 When Asia got three seats on the Programme Committee to the detriment of Africa that for elections in 1989 we disciplined ourselves and put up only two candidates for the election to the Programme Committee, thus restoring the balance which had been upset in 1987. In seeking a separate agenda item it was never our intention to force a decision on any one region. We only wished an opportunity to voice our own grievances and to seek the assistance of the Council and Conference in redressing these as the informal negotiations had not been able to achieve much success in the past. We therefore feel sorry that some of our colleagues misunderstood us and denied us this right to express our views in the Council. The Asian region wishes to thank the Chairman and members of the Latin American group for their understanding of the issue of rotation of one seat between our two regions and meeting with us to have a dialogue on this issue. We would continue to maintain this informal dialogue with them in seeking a mutually amicable solution to this problem. Nevertheless the susceptibilities of informal arrangements are not only apparent but lead to unnecessary bitterness between regions and countries. The Asian region therefore beseeches all members over here, particularly those within the Group of 77, to work jointly with us in evolving a just and durable solution over the eight seats on the Programme Committee and the six seats on the Finance Committee earmarked in the General Rules of the Organization for our four regions of Africa, Asia and the Pacific, the Near East, and Latin America and the Caribbean. We are sure such an arrangement could improve the accord and understanding between the regions and allow us to focus better on the basic issues relating to food and agriculture.

We appreciate the constraints of time available to the Council at the present session and would not insist in a discussion on this item but would request that the views which we have expressed now and earlier during the adoption of the agenda should find a place in the report of the Council and that we should have an opportunity to continue the discussion between now and the Conference and if possible during the Conference.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Puis-je demander aux membres du Conseil de faire un effort pour être concis. Il faudrait nous limiter aux commentaires sur les propositions de résolution de la Conférence concernant le "Working Capital Fund" et le "Special Reserve Account". En ce qui concerne la procédure de budget et programme, je crois qu'il serait bon d'en discuter lorsqu'on abordera le point 17 de notre ordre du jour, après avoir entendu l'exposé du Président du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques.

en est de même en ce qui concerne l'administration du Fonds du PAM. Essayons donc de nous limiter aux deux propositions de résolution que je vous ai citées.

**Amin ABDEL MALEK (Liban) (Langue originale arabe):** Tout d'abord je tiens à remercier M. di Mottola sur les travaux de son Comité dont j'ai l'honneur d'être membre. Et je tiens à féliciter M. Shah pour les informations très claires qu'il nous a présentées sur cette question. Je pense qu'après tout cela je pourrai être très bref sur deux questions très importantes. La délégation appuie ce qui a été dit dans le rapport en général et nous appuyons tout particulièrement la proposition du Directeur général pour augmenter le Fonds de roulement de 20 à 25 millions et aussi de faire passer à 32 millions de dollars le Fonds de réserve spécial, ce qui représente 15 pour cent du niveau du budget, ce qui est nécessaire pour qu'il remplisse son rôle et pour faciliter les travaux de l'Organisation. L'augmentation de 5 millions de dollars pour le Fonds de roulement qui représente 5 millions de dollars par an ne touchera pas les pays en développement, surtout le Liban, qui ont une petite contribution; donc ces pays en développement ne paieront que 250 dollars et cela ne permet de payer qu'un bon repas dans nos restaurants. Donc nous ne pouvons nous satisfaire de cette augmentation ainsi que de l'augmentation d'autres propositions pour accroître le Fonds de roulement ainsi que le Fonds de réserve spécial.

**Gerald J. MONROE (United States of America):** Mr Chairman, I will heed seriously your admonishment and cue only those substantive resolutions with respect to the replenishment of the two special accounts. I think I can do that in good conscience as a member of the Finance Committee. Our views on all of these subjects have been exhaustively aired.

Let me say, however, from the outset that regrettably the United States opposes both resolutions in their present form. This is not a new position; we made clear our concerns at the June Council Session, as we did at the Finance Committee Meeting in September.

Let me make quite clear what our problems are. They relate primarily to the funding of the Working Capital Fund increase and the purposes of the Special Reserve Account as well as the character of the proposed funding mechanism, i.e. special assessments.

Mr Chairman, we have problems with special assessments. Let me turn first to the Special Reserve Fund. It was established in 1977 to mitigate the adverse effects of currency fluctuations. Since that time the FAO has engaged in the practice of entering into contracts for forward purchase of lire. This has proven to be an effective tool in dealing with many of the effects of currency instability. In general, the United States supports international organizations taking reasonable measures to minimize the adverse effects of currency fluctuations. As Mr Shah has pointed out, there are several approaches adopted within the system. Some convert their budgets to local currency, and I refer to the ITU, the WIPO, UPU and the IMO. Some, as Mr Shah pointed out earlier, use a split assessment system, the IAEA and UNIDO. Others, as we have noted before, engage in extensive forward purchasing activity. They include the ILO as well as the FAO.

Taking those considerations into account, the United States is sceptical about the need for the continuation of the Special Reserve Account in so far as it deals with exchange rate adjustments. If the membership approves this increase, we must confront the fact that Member Nations will pay significantly higher assessments. We have noted, as we have discussed here before, that a majority have difficulty paying their regular assessed contributions to the Budget. Against this background, approving such an increase in aggregated assessments strikes us as counter-productive.

We note that Special Reserve Account is used to finance budgetary expenditures pending receipt of contributions. In our judgment - and this is a general principle we pursue inasmuch as the FAO Working Capital Fund serves the same purpose - we find the use of the Special Reserve Account redundant and would risk, in our judgement, certain inefficiencies.

Moving on to the Working Capital Fund, we support the use of the Working Capital Fund by international organizations such as the FAO to bridge the time and gap between payment of budgeted expenditures and receipt of contributions, but we cannot support a proposal which will increase assessments on Member Nations by US\$5 million provided it is funded via surplus funds available to the Organization.

I might add the proposed overall US\$25 million level of the Working Capital Fund would be in line with the previous recommendation of the JIU, which we support. We are fully cognizant of the apparent contradiction in terms of the current provisions within the FAO's Basic Texts. We think, however, those can be dealt with by the Conference. Conference put the regulation there in any case, we would presume.

In constant dollars, the current proposed 1992-93 Budget, as we now have it before us, could raise assessments by 15 percent. The special assessments for the SRA and the Working Capital Fund will add another six percent to this already significant increase. Under an increasingly unfavourable scenario, assessments on Member Nations could increase by significantly more than that figure.

Therefore, we retain our opposition to the special assessments.

**C.B. HOUTMAN (Netherlands):** We have a problem with the special assessment on the Working Capital Fund. Despite the lucid introduction by Mr Shah, we have not seen the light so as to be able to go along with it. Therefore, we shall have to reserve our position on this increase to US\$25 million on special assessments until the Conference.

On the Special Reserve Account, we are in line with what the United States has said on the losses incurred due to currency exchange rates. We would not oppose replenishment of the Special Reserve Account, but we would impose a type of condition which could possibly be aired. We shall have to discuss that during the Conference. There is a sentence in the resolution where we request the Director-General to submit proposals which in future exclude the losses incurred through currency exchange rates. If that were the case, we would endorse such a resolution because we have some reservations about the losses due to exchange rates because it smells a little of speculation now and then. For good planning of the financial situation in the Organization, we should try to exclude that.

That is the position of the Netherlands.

**Ray ALLEN (United Kingdom):** I would first like to welcome the document and the information it provides to members on the important deliberations of the Programme and Finance Committees. I would like to thank the Chairman of the Finance Committee and Mr Shah for their very clear introductions.

I will not, as we agreed yesterday, address all those elements in the report that refer to the reviews of the Regular and Field Programmes. We will address these at the Conference.

My delegation is particularly pleased to note the recommendations that the outline budget step becomes an established feature, and that amendments be made to the Basic Texts to allow for this. We are also very pleased to see the inclusion of Appendix A which gives a more detailed account of the Programme Budget Process and the proposed changes to streamline the procedures. We note that these proposed changes introduce economies without sacrificing quality of information to the membership. We endorse the conclusions of the Committee and look forward to seeing these changes introduced on an experimental basis for the 1994-95 budgetary exercise.

We welcome the comments on the Medium-Term Plan, and again we will address these further at the Conference; likewise the Programme of Work and Budget where, like most delegations, we hope the Conference can arrive at a consensus decision balancing the need to protect the Programme of Work and the need to contain increases in assessed contributions.

We note from paragraphs 3.17 to 3.23 the proposals regarding the lapse factor. We also note that the Finance Committee was not able to reach a consensus on the level of this. My delegation would like to add their voice to the concerns expressed by some members at that Committee. In our view, the lapse factor should not be used as a supplement due to the inadequacy of overall resources, but it does have a direct bearing on the vacancy rate. That is what it is there for. We strongly urge that the level be increased more correctly to reflect the actual vacancy rate.

Regarding the measures to encourage prompt payment of contributions, we will address these further at the Conference. I would however, like to highlight here that my delegation would have difficulty accepting the proposal for a discount for early payment. This would suggest that assessments are set at a level higher than the Organization requires. FAO cannot afford to sacrifice part of its income in the form of discounts.

I would now like to turn to the proposals to increase the Working Capital Fund and the Special Reserve Account. My delegation opposes any increase in these funds which would entail additional assessment on Member Nations. Members who pay their contributions in full should not be penalized by the imposition of additional assessment to cover for those members who have not paid. We are not opposed per se to the increase in the Working Capital Fund, but in our view this should be met from surplus funds as and when they arise. We have taken note of Mr Shah's comments in his introduction regarding the use of surplus funds and the financial regulations, but, like my American colleague, we consider this is something the Conference could address and pass a resolution on accordingly. We cannot support a special

assessment on Members at a time when contributions to the Organization already represent a significant burden to many.

Regarding the Special Reserve Account, again we cannot support a proposal which would entail a special assessment on Member Nations. We consider that the Organization should seek alternative ways to minimize the adverse effects of exchange rate fluctuations.

My delegation is concerned by the Report on the Implementation of FINSYS, mentioned in paragraphs 3.155 to 3.158. We are disappointed to see that despite repeated reassurances at earlier Council Sessions there are still significant problems with FINSYS. We would be grateful if the Secretariat would inform this Council how much it has cost so far to remedy the problems of FINSYS in terms of hardware, software and staff costs, and how much it is likely to cost - an approximate figure will do - to implement all the system modifications referred to in the Report.

We would also be grateful to know when the Secretariat expects all the problems to be finally overcome.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je crois qu'il n'y a pas que la FAO qui a des problèmes avec son système informatique et avec le système FINSYS-PERSYS. Certains pays, et on en a d'ailleurs parlé dans la presse, ont eu également certains problèmes, c'est une question générale, et des progrès ont été faits et vous serez tenus au courant de ces progrès.

**John Bruce SHARPE (Australia):** Australia's views on the increase in the Working Capital Fund and the replenishment of the Special Reserve Account, and our opposition to them and also to external borrowing, have been made known in the Finance Committee and also as recently as yesterday when the financial position of the Organization was discussed under Agenda Items 3 and 11. You also had our views at that time on the TCP, the lapse factor and the cost increases. We would like those views to be taken into account when the Report of the other Council is being prepared.

On the question of the proposals to encourage prompt payment of contributions which are contained in the Finance Committee's Report, Australia considers that all members should endeavour to meet their financial obligations to the Organization. Without a cash flow, many of the very positive elements of FAO's work cannot be achieved. As a member of the Finance Committee, Australia has been party to the careful consideration which has been given to this matter by the collect Committee. It looked at a number of alternatives. Those that involve penalty elements were rejected because they were considered inequitable: firstly, they disadvantaged those developing countries who, because of economic circumstances, were having difficulty in meeting their payments; secondly, they disadvantaged those countries who, because of their domestic budgetary arrangements and timing, were required to make their payments later or in the second half of the year. Australia, who always makes its annual contribution and is never in arrears, falls within that category.

The Finance Committee, in putting forward its proposals based on incentives, also complied with Council Directives that penalty schemes not be included in measures proposed. There is however one area of the proposal

which we would wish to see changed. We consider that the Finance Committee should have the opportunity to advise the Director-General on the amount of the discount to be offered to eligible countries. The proposal does not outline that.

Unfortunately, we have some reservations about whether the proposals will accomplish the desired objectives of encouraging Member Nations to pay their assessments promptly. There are too many other factors involved. We hope that it will. As a country which wishes to see members fully meet their financial obligations, we support FAO trying the discount scheme proposed.

Australia supports the proposed changes to the Programme Budget Process, and to the permanent retention of the Outline.

Our views, and the reasons for holding them, are contained in the Report of the Finance Committee where the views of the members were unanimous. We noted in particular that the proposed changes will not diminish the quality and quantity of the information available to Member Countries for their consideration.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Il est évident que si tous les pays suivaient l'exemple de l'Australie de payer les contributions à temps, on n'aurait pas de problèmes. Hélas, il y en a.

**Milad Abdessalam SCHMEYLA (Libya) (Original language Arabic):** I would like to congratulate the Programme and Finance Committee on the work accomplished by this Committee, which is excellent. I would also like to thank Mr. Shah for his presentation of the subject.

My country has contributed to the discussion of the Working Programme and Budget when this was discussed in the Programme Committee and the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committee. We agree with the proposals of resolutions which are in the Reports of the two Committees and we approve the Director-General's proposal to increase the Working Capital Fund in order to make up for the sums withdrawn from the Special Reserve Account.

**Earl WEYBRECHT (Canada):** My delegation shares the concern expressed by many other delegations over the proposals to levy a special assessment on Member Nations to provide for the replenishment of the Special Reserve Account, as well as the assessment resulting from the proposed change to the Working Capital Fund. These additional assessments would impose a substantial additional financial burden on the membership over and above the increases already proposed in the budget level itself. We are not in a position to support these two resolutions.

We have a number of general concerns over the Terms of Reference and the operation of the Reserve Account itself and over the use of funds from the Working Capital Fund and we may pursue these in the discussions in the Conference. Several of these concerns have already been raised. While we have noted the clear explanations given by Mr. Shah, we feel that there are other mechanisms that may be more effective in protecting the Organization

against currency fluctuations and believe it would be useful to have a close look at the experiences in other organizations.

Finally, we have studied the proposal put forward in the Finance Committee Report on an incentive scheme to encourage the early payment of contributions. In principle we support the idea of an effective scheme to encourage early payments and would be supportive of efforts to reach a consensus on an effective scheme. Our general preference however would be to try to avoid a proliferation of different schemes within the UN system.

**Haruo ISHII (Japan):** We mentioned yesterday that we are opposed to the increased burden placed on Member States because of the Working Capital Fund and the Special Reserve Account.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Quelqu'un désire-t-il encore intervenir sur ce point? Il reste quatre orateurs et je vais clore la liste des orateurs.

**Assefa Yilala (Ethiopia):** The Ethiopian delegation would like to thank the Chairman of the Finance Committee and Mr Shah for the explanation provided on Item 15. We would however like to make some specific remarks on some of the points in Item 15.

We agree with the recommendations of the Finance Committee for raising the level of the Working Capital Fund from US\$20 million to US\$25 million, this US\$5 million proposed increase being met through assessed contributions.

We fully share the view that the Special Reserve Account should be kept at five percent of the total Capital Budget, as was decided in earlier Conference deliberations, the present level of US\$32.6 million being five percent of the total Budget. As decisions have been made on this matter in earlier deliberations, we are just bringing it to the attention of the Conference. In this connection we fully share the view that none of us are pleased to see assessed contributions increased, but the hope of seeing successful implementations of programmes which have been approved is forcing us to accept this difficulty, which is particularly unfortunate at a time when the economic situations in our countries are extremely serious and difficult.

We have examined the proposed measures to encourage prompt payment of contributions through discounts on assessed contributions. Even though the discount envisaged is to be covered either through this measure or through the interest rate which will be earned, we fear that Member Countries might be forced to pay higher assessed contributions. We would like to express our reservations on this, because we fear that unless we have a guarantee that the discount to be made is going to be covered through interest to be earned, we have no way of increasing our assessed contributions because Member Countries fail to fulfill their obligations on time and in full.

**Jacques WARIN (France):** Je m'efforcerai également d'être bref. En fait, je n'ai à faire que deux brèves remarques sur le Fonds de roulement et le Compte de réserve spécial. Je crois qu'il faut distinguer les deux cas. Nous n'avons pas la même position de principe à leur sujet.

Pour ce qui est du Fonds de roulement, je note que l'augmentation demandée est relativement modeste - elle est de 25 millions de dollars - et que cela situe le Fonds de roulement à un niveau tout à fait acceptable qui est de moins de 5 pour cent du budget annuel, ce qui me paraît tout à fait compatible avec les règlements en vigueur dans les autres grandes organisations. Donc, je soutiendrai cette augmentation du Fonds de roulement.

Pour ce qui est du Compte de réserve spécial, je suis un petit peu plus sceptique pour deux raisons essentielles: au fond, ce Compte de réserve spécial - cela nous a été expliqué par M. Shah - a pour objet essentiel de limiter les effets des fluctuations de change. Ma première raison pour m'en inquiéter, c'est que je me demande s'il n'y a pas d'autres moyens de se garantir contre les effets des fluctuations de change. Un autre moyen, ce sont les achats à terme de devises qui sont pratiqués dans d'autres grandes institutions spécialisées des Nations Unies, notamment, je crois, l'OMS, à Genève. Je me demande si la FAO ne pourrait pas étudier un schéma de ce genre au lieu de nous proposer tout de suite la reconstitution à un niveau élevé du Compte de réserve spécial.

Ma deuxième inquiétude vient de ce que j'ai entendu certains grands pays qui ont parlé avant moi dire qu'ils étaient opposés à une contribution spéciale. S'ils y sont opposés, ils risquent de suivre l'exemple pratiqué dans le passé par leurs gouvernements: lorsqu'ils votent contre le budget, ils ne paient pas leurs contributions. Donc, s'ils s'opposent à une contribution spéciale, ils ne verseront pas cette contribution. Et qui la versera? Ceux qui auront voté en sa faveur et qui seront encore une fois les bons payeurs. D'où la réticence que j'éprouve à l'heure actuelle à conseiller à mon Gouvernement de voter pour ce projet de résolution. Je prends une position réservée. Je demanderai des instructions à ma capitale et je vous en parlerai plus tard, au cours de la Conférence.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je me permettrai de faire remarquer que le budget de l'OMS est établi en francs suisses et que les fluctuations du franc suisse n'ont que peu de rapport avec les fluctuations de la monnaie dans laquelle le budget de la FAO est établi. Il s'agit d'un vaste problème et nous aurons certainement l'occasion d'en discuter à la Commission II.

**Gian Luigi VALENZA (Italie):** Je voudrais, moi aussi, être bref et je me limiterai à féliciter tant le Président du Comité financier que M. Shah, dont l'exposé a été brillant comme toujours.

La délégation italienne souhaite qu'à partir de l'année prochaine, les contributions ordinaires à la FAO soient payées par tous les Etats Membres sans le retard de ces dernières années. Je ne peux donc qu'appuyer, à ce propos, ce qu'a dit mon collègue de l'Australie. En effet, si tout le monde faisait son devoir, comme il est du reste prévu par le Règlement, la FAO ne serait peut-être pas appelée, dans un futur immédiat, à faire d'autres emprunts ou à demander d'autres ouvertures de crédit, comme l'a expliqué hier M. Shah.



**Joseph TCHICAYA (Congo):** Je tiens à féliciter le Président du Comité financier et M. Shah pour leur brillante introduction de la question soumise à notre examen.

Je serai bref pour dire que, en ce qui me concerne, nous nous sentons un peu coupables face aux propositions qui sont faites ici. Je dis un peu coupables parce que, nous-mêmes, nous n'avons pas payé à temps notre contribution. Par conséquent, notre culpabilité est évidente et c'est cette culpabilité qui amène la délégation congolaise à appuyer fermement les deux projets de résolutions.

**Srta. Mery HURTADO (Colombia):** Quería, en nombre de mi delegación, felicitar al Sr. Shah y al señor Presidente del Comité de Finanzas por estos informes y, como Ud. dijo, voy a ser muy breve. Es para apoyar la declaración del delegado del Congo en el sentido de que se apoyen las dos resoluciones propuestas por el Consejo.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je voudrais signaler que le projet de résolution concernant l'administration du Fonds du PAM sera examiné avec le rapport du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques et que le projet de résolution relatif à la procédure du budget-programme sera également examiné dans ce cadre.

En ce qui concerne les projets de résolution présentés à la Conférence au sujet du Fonds de roulement et du Compte de réserve spécial, nous avons entendu des points de vue assez divergents mais clairement exprimés par un certain nombre de délégations. Je crois que le problème sera longuement discuté à la Commission II. Je demanderai seulement à ceux qui ont marqué une opposition de présenter des solutions constructives et valables permettant d'aboutir à un consensus sur ces deux questions importantes, à savoir la reconstitution du Fonds de roulement et celle du Compte de réserve spécial. Il faudra trouver des formules mais cela ne peut pas se faire dans le cadre du Conseil.

On a lancé un certain nombre d'idées quant aux moyens d'éviter les fluctuations des taux de change. Je crois qu'il est très difficile d'éviter ces fluctuations et que même la formule des achats à terme n'est pas une solution miracle parce que, si tel était le cas, les spéculateurs seraient certains de gagner en faisant des achats à terme. Or ce n'est pas toujours le cas, la spéculation étant essentiellement fondée sur un jeu de hasard. Personne ne peut dire quelle sera, dans les deux années à venir la fluctuation de la monnaie de référence dans laquelle est établi le budget de la FAO. Je note toutefois beaucoup de bonne volonté. Je constate que certains pays s'opposent à la formule actuelle. Je crois que, dans le cadre de la discussion, il sera bon de ne pas maintenir une opposition purement négative et d'en arriver à une opposition constructive, c'est-à-dire progressive et concrète, de façon à permettre à l'Organisation de fonctionner. L'appel qui a été lancé par les représentants de l'Australie et de l'Italie réglerait tous les problèmes. Hélas, il ne pourra pas être entendu par tous et je crois qu'il faudra en tirer un certain nombre de conclusions.

Une question précise a été posée au sujet du système FINSYS/PERSYS. Je crois que, dans le rapport du Comité du programme et du Comité financier se trouve un passage sur la mise en oeuvre du système FINSYS. Des progrès incontestables ont été faits et nous aurons l'occasion d'en parler au cours de la Conférence. Je me permettrai de renvoyer l'honorable représentant du Royaume-Uni à ce passage du rapport. Le Secrétariat se tient, bien sûr, à son entière disposition pour lui fournir tous les éléments utiles concernant l'évolution de la situation ou l'application du système. M. Mehboob pourra prendre contact avec lui pour lui fournir toutes les explications voulues.

Quant à l'exposé introductif de M. Shah, il a été tellement complet qu'il ne nécessite pas de conclusion.

S'il n'y a pas d'autres remarques en ce qui concerne le point 15 de l'ordre du jour, nous allons immédiatement passer au point 17, que nous avons quelque peu reporté ce matin.

IV. CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS (continued)

IV. QUESTIONS CONSTITUTIONNELLES ET JURIDIQUES (suite)

IV. ASUNTOS CONSTITUCIONALES Y JURIDICOS (continuación)

17. Report of the 57th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters

17. Rapport de la cinquante-septième session du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques

17. Informe del 57º periodo de sesiones del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos

**Fotis POULIDES (Chairman of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters):** Mr Chairman, it is with great pleasure I shall introduce the Report of the Fifty-seventh Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters over which I have had the honour to preside for the past four years.

This session of the CCLM was certainly among the most important of the last four years. The Committee had before it a wide range of subjects including a number of matters which could have important implications for our Organization. As these matters are numerous and each requires a very great deal of attention, I shall introduce them individually before your discussion, item by item.

Item 2: Proposed amendments to the Constitution and the General Rules of the Organization to allow for a form of membership for Regional Economic Integration Organizations in FAO, including the reports of the Committee established pursuant to the decision of the Ninety-ninth Session of the Council. The first item on our Agenda was that of the possible form of membership for Regional Economic Integration Organizations in FAO. The CCLM had already considered this matter at its Fifty-fourth Session in May 1990, at its Fifty-fifth Session in September 1990 and at its Fifty-sixth Session in April 1991. The Report of the Fifty-sixth Session was presented to the Council in June 1991 at its Ninety-ninth Session. At that Session the Council agreed to transmit to the Conference proposed draft amendments to the Basic Texts of the Organization to allow of membership for Regional

Economic Integration Organizations in FAO. It also decided to establish a Committee consisting of a limited number of Member Nations to review the Texts.

The Council decided further that the Texts subsequently be reviewed by the CCLM at its Fifty-seventh Session. The Report of the Committee of Member Nations established by the Council known as REIOC was also to be submitted to the CCLM. Thus, the CCLM had before it a great number of documents on the subject which it was to consider in its Report to the Council. The Committee of Member Nations established to review the proposed amendments to the Basic Texts of the Organization to allow of membership of REIOC held two sessions prior to the Fifty-seventh Session of CCLM and their reports were considered by the CCLM. I should like to suggest that it might facilitate the understanding of delegates to the Council if the Chairman of REIOC, Ambassador Bula Hoyos, be allowed to present the report of the two sessions of REIOC at this stage since they constitute an essential element of the CCLM Report on this subject.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je salue le Président du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques et je le remercie de sa gentillesse habituelle. Pour des raisons techniques nous avons proposé ce matin de modifier quelque peu l'ordre du jour de notre séance plénière en joignant le point 15 au point 4 et nous avons donc dû remettre le point 17 à plus tard. Cela peut arriver dans l'organisation de n'importe quelle réunion. Je présente donc mes excuses au Président du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques, je le remercie de sa présence et je lui passe la parole.

**Fotis POULIDES (Président des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques):** M. le Président, je vous remercie infiniment, mais avec tout le respect que j'ai pour la présidence du Conseil et l'amitié qui me lie personnellement à vous, je dois faire remarquer que ce sujet du rapport du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques qui contient des questions très importantes pour l'Organisation était inscrit comme premier sujet à examiner ce matin, et vous me donnez la parole à 12h25... De toute façon je pense que malgré cette heure tardive, on peut commencer.

Resolution 46/57 and the Appendix thereto, Part R, Volume II of the Basic Texts. This Resolution laid down a number of principles and procedures which concern conventions and agreements concluded under Articles XIV and XV of the Constitution, as well as Commissions and Committees established under Article VI of the Constitution. The purpose was to introduce a measure of uniformity into such agreements.

The Resolution was adopted by the Conference in 1957, and the CCLM noted that, since that time a number of important developments had taken place within the Organization, and that the type and nature of agreements had evolved substantially. In particular, there had been a development of commissions established under Article XIV which had independent budgets outside of the framework of the Regular Programme of the Organization. Moreover, other commissions now being revealed should be given a broader range of responsibilities and increased authority.

The CCLM agree that it would be opportune and legally acceptable to modify Conference Resolution 46/57, particularly with respect to agreements establishing bodies that would have autonomous budgets. The CCLM noted that the matter had become quite urgent since new commissions were being discussed, particularly in respect of fisheries management. Moreover, the Member Nations that were interested in establishing said commissions had specifically requested that the Secretariat take measures to amend the Council Resolution in the sense that was being proposed.

The CCLM recommended that the amendments that are set out in Appendix B to its Report be transmitted to Conference for adoption.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je remercie le Président du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques de sa présentation. Nous pourrions examiner ce point précis de la proposition de révision de la Résolution 46 de la Conférence de 1957 qui se trouve dans les Textes fondamentaux. Cette proposition de révision de résolution doit être transmise par le Conseil à la Conférence qui prendra sa décision. Il serait souhaitable qu'elle puisse la prendre avec l'éclairage de la position que pourrait prendre votre Conseil. Aussi, je vous demanderai de nous faire connaître vos avis et considérations sur cette proposition de révision de la Résolution 46/57 qui vise à modifier l'article 14 des statuts régissant la FAO.

Y-a-t-il des observations sur ce point?...

Puisque personne ne demande la parole, il ne nous reste qu'à transmettre cette proposition de modification de la Résolution 46/57 permettant l'adaptation de l'Article 14. Nous la renvoyons à l'attention de la Commission III et de la séance Plénière de la Conférence. La Commission III aura l'occasion d'en délibérer sur la base du rapport du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques et de la présentation qui vient d'en être faite par son Président.

Je demanderai maintenant au Président Poulides de poursuivre son exposé.

**Fotis POULIDES (Chairman of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters):** Item 4, Draft Conference Resolutions concerning financial matters. The CCLM was requested to review three resolutions concerning financial matters: A proposed increase in the level of the Working Capital Fund, the replenishment of the Special Reserve Account, and an authorization to allow the administration of the Working Capital Fund to be carried out in accordance with separate financial regulations to be approved by the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes.

The CCLM noted that these Draft Resolutions have been approved by the Finance Committee at its Seventy-second Session and were annexed to the Report of that Session.

The CCLM considered the resolutions from a strictly formal point of view, and concluded that they were legally correct.

**LE PRESIDENT:** En ce qui concerne les deux propositions concernant le "Working Capital Fund" et le "Special Reserve Account", nous venons d'en discuter. Le rapport reflétera les positions assez divergentes de votre Conseil en les transmettant à la Conférence, spécialement à la Commission III où certainement on discutera très longuement de ces deux propositions de résolution.

En ce qui concerne la troisième proposition de résolution examinée par le Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques, elle concerne la question du Fonds du PAM. Je demanderai aux membres du Conseil s'ils ont des commentaires à faire concernant l'administration du Fonds du PAM. Vous avez tous eu l'occasion de vous pencher sur cette question qui a déjà été examinée lors du Conseil précédent. Le projet de résolution a été examiné sur le plan juridique par le Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques. Peut-être l'un ou l'autre des membres du Conseil souhaiterait prendre la parole sur ce point, de façon à ce que nous puissions présenter à la Conférence ce projet avec les avis et les considérations du Conseil. Ou pouvons-nous estimer que le Conseil avalise le travail fait par le Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques en transmettant la proposition de résolution telle quelle à la Conférence?

Puisque personne ne demande la parole, nous transmettrons la proposition de résolution concernant l'administration du Fonds du PAM à la Conférence et je passe à nouveau la parole au Président du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques.

**Fotis POULIDES (Chairman of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters):** Amendments to the General Rules of the Organization regarding the Programme Budget Process. The CCLM reviewed the text of the Draft Conference Resolution that would introduce a new step in the proceedings of the Organization's Programme Budget Process.

The CCLM noted that, at their Joint Sessions in September 1991, the Programme and Finance Committees had recommended that a new Outline step, which had been introduced on an experimental basis, be introduced permanently into the Programme Budget Process.

The CCLM considered that the Draft Conference Resolution, which is attached to this Report as Appendix C, was legally correct.

**LE PRESIDENT:** En ce qui concerne la procédure du budget et programme, il a été souligné par plusieurs membres du Conseil que cette procédure a été suivie dans le but d'en arriver à l'approbation du Programme de travail et budget dans un esprit de consensus. La procédure est une procédure relativement lourde qui pourrait peut-être être quelque peu simplifiée dans l'avenir, notamment le sommaire de Programme de travail et budget pourrait être davantage synthétique. Mais le long cheminement de janvier à novembre qui est suivi, lors de la session de la Conférence, de façon à préparer l'adoption par la Conférence du Programme de travail et budget, se justifie par la volonté clairement exprimée par tous d'en arriver à trouver ensemble des formules de consensus. C'est non seulement le vœu de votre Président mais c'est certainement le vœu de tous les membres du Conseil et ce sera le vœu de tous les membres de la Conférence, d'en arriver à une adoption par consensus du Programme de travail et budget pour l'exercice 1992-93. Je

crois qu'il était important de souligner que la nouvelle procédure proposée qui entraîne des modifications de textes qui font l'objet d'une proposition de résolution qu'a examinée avec beaucoup d'attention et de soin le Comité de questions constitutionnelles et juridiques, sera transmise à la Conférence dans l'éclairage qui a été donné. Nous avons déjà eu l'occasion de parler de cette procédure du budget et programme. Il est possible que les membres du Conseil désirent ajouter certains commentaires en ce qui concerne la proposition de résolution qui devra être transmise à la Conférence et je vous demanderai de nous communiquer vos commentaires supplémentaires sur cette proposition concernant la procédure et le cheminement du budget et du programme.

Puisque personne ne demande la parole, nous transmettrons à la Conférence, suivant l'éclairage qui a été donné, la proposition d'adoption de la nouvelle procédure du budget et programme.

La parole est au Président Poulides qui poursuivra son exposé.

**Fotis POULIDES (Président du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques):** Ce sont maintenant des observations personnelles sur la constitution du CCLM que je me permets de soumettre au Conseil.

In the course of its deliberations at its last session some questions arose in respect of terms of reference of the CCLM as set out in Rule XXXIV. Some members considered that the terms of reference have become too restricted and had been outdated to some extent by the evolution of the scope of activities of the Organization. It was suggested that the terms of reference could usefully be reviewed in due course.

In the light of my experience as Chairman of the CCLM for the past four years I should like to add some brief personal remarks to what the Committee itself has stated in its report. The last four years have witnessed a marked increase in the number and importance of items which are being referred to the CCLM. The members of the Committee have responded to this new challenge in an exemplary fashion. However, the Committee has been restrained in many instances by the limits of its terms of reference. It is my conviction that these terms of reference should be reinforced in order to allow the CCLM to deal with a broader range of subjects and to allow it to make recommendations on certain matters, as is the case in respect of the Finance Committee.

**LE PRÉSIDENT:** Je remercie l'Ambassadeur Poulides de son intervention et également de ses suggestions qui pourront être utilement examinées en Commission III lors de la Conférence. Je crois que ses suggestions tiennent compte des évolutions de l'Organisation et sont très positives. Elles devraient, bien sûr, faire l'objet d'une note et d'un examen attentif. Il sera possible à la Commission III de se pencher sur les suggestions qui ont été faites par un Président sage et plein d'expériences. Il nous reste alors un point que nous n'avons pas traité dans le cadre du point 17, c'est le point 17.1 concernant les propositions d'amendement à l'Acte constitutif et au Règlement général de l'Organisation visant à permettre l'adhésion à la FAO des organisations d'intégration économique régionale, notamment le rapport du Comité établi conformément à la décision prise par le Conseil à sa quatre-vingt-dix-neuvième session. Je crois que des négociations sont en

cours. L'Ambassadeur de Colombie est très occupé en ce moment. De toute façon il est tard. Il est une heure moins dix. Je m'excuse encore auprès du Président, nous avons un horaire très court, avec un programme très chargé. Nous nous reverrons à deux heures trente précises si vous le voulez. Alors, à 14 h 30 je vous ferai une proposition précise sur le programme de cet après-midi. Nous avons un point qui pourra être traité assez rapidement, le point 5, le Rapport de la cinquante-huitième session du Comité des produits. Il y a le rapport intérimaire sur les préparatifs de la Conférence internationale sur la nutrition. Un point qui retiendra certainement davantage l'attention de la Conférence qui est le point 7 concernant les faits nouveaux pour le programme d'action pour les forêts tropicales. Nous examinerons le programme de terrain 1990 et 1991, aussi synthétiquement que possible. On émettra un certain nombre de commentaires en ce qui concerne une certaine notion que tout le monde connaît bien parce qu'amplement discutée, les "support costs" du PNUD. On examinera le point 13, "Mise en oeuvre des conclusions de l'Examen de certains aspects des buts et opérations de la FAO". Ce point a déjà été amplement examiné et discuté. Tous les membres du Conseil sont au fait de la question et nous situerons le point 17.1 en fonction de l'état d'avancement des travaux. Mais peut-être vais-je passer la parole au représentant de la Colombie.

**Srta. Mery HURTADO (Colombia):** Quisiera presentar las disculpas a usted, señor Presidente, y al Consejo, por la ausencia del Embajador Bula Hoyos, a quien asuntos privados de la oficina le impiden estar aquí en este momento para rendir su informe. Les puedo garantizar que esta tarde estará presente en este Consejo.

**Juan NUIRY SANCHEZ (Cuba):** Perdóneme que haya solicitado la palabra, señor Presidente, pero fue tan rápido el pase de la terminación del Embajador Poulides a que se abordara otro tema, que no me dio oportunidad de levantar el letrero de mi país.

Como todos sabemos, próximamente habrá elecciones para la Presidencia del CACJ, y no quisiéramos que pasara esta oportunidad sin, en nombre de mi delegación, hacer un reconocimiento del Embajador Poulides. Creo que su trabajo ha sido excelente, que su talento, su personalidad y su profesionalidad han estado presentes en todo momento en estos cuatro años de algunas veces reconocidos y otras ocultados triunfos de este tan importante CACJ. Pero, al mismo tiempo que estamos de acuerdo con lo que acaba de expresar el Embajador Poulides, queremos que también en el CACJ se plantee, se tome en consideración y se discuta la responsabilidad por regiones. No sé si esto está recogido, pero nosotros lo hemos sufrido en nuestra región de América Latina y el Caribe, que no ha estado representada en el CACJ. Eso ha sido un talón de Aquiles que hemos tenido en nuestra región, y yo quisiera que en este momento, unido al reconocimiento del Embajador Poulides, se tomara en cuenta este aspecto, que es muy importante para el equilibrio que debe tener toda dirección de la FAO, y fundamentalmente ésta en especial.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je crois que le Représentant du Maroc désire prendre la parole. Je lui demanderai d'être très bref car l'heure avance. Mais je voudrais dire que la question soulevée par le représentant de Cuba fera l'objet de la cent et unième session du Conseil qui se tiendra

immédiatement après la Conférence, sous une présidence encore inconnue puisque mon mandat arrive à son terme à la fin de la Conférence et il sera fonction d'une réélection et donc nul ne sait qui sera en charge de la cent et unième session du Conseil.

**Srta. Mery HURTADO (Colombia):** Un minuto, Señor Presidente, sólo para apoyar lo expresado por el representante de Cuba en el sentido de velar porque exista un equilibrio regional más adecuado.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je crois que nous avons bien travaillé ce matin. Nous allons nous retrouver pour la quatrième session plénière à 14 h 30 précises. La troisième séance plénière est levée.

The meeting rose at 13 hours.

La séance est levée à 13 heures.

Se levanta la sesión a las 13 horas.



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FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

**conseil**

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

**consejo**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 100/PV/4

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**Hundredth Session**

**Centième session**

**100° período de sesiones**

FOURTH PLENARY MEETING  
QUATRIEME SEANCE PLENIERE  
CUARTA SESION PLENARIA  
(6 November 1991)

The Fourth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.30 hours

Mr Antoine Saintraint. Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La quatrième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 30

sous la présidence de M. Antoine Saintraint. Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la cuarta sesión plenaria a las 14.30 horas

baio la presidencia del Sr. Antoine Saintraint. Presidente Independiente del Consejo

- II. ACTIVITIES OF FAO (continued)
- II. ACTIVITES DE LA FAO (suite)
- II. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO (continuación)
- 5. Report of the 58th Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems (Rome. 15-19 July 1991) 5.Rapport de la cinquante-huitième session du Comité des produits (Rome. 15-19 juillet 1991)
- 5. Informe del 58° periodo de sesiones del Comité de Problemas de Productos Básicos (Roma. 15-19 de julio de 1991)

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je vais demander au Directeur général adjoint, M. Dutia, de nous présenter, avec sa compétence habituelle, le point 5.

**B.P. DUTIA (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department):** Mr Chairman, I have the honour to present to Council the Report of the Fifty-eighth Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems which met in Rome 15-19 July 1991. The report is represented to you in Council document CL 100/6.

The Committee, as required by its terms of reference, reviewed the world commodity situation and outlook. Among the highlights, it noted that the situation in agricultural trade had continued to deteriorate. It expressed particular concern over the continuing decline in the real prices of agricultural exports during the past year. The prices for exports from developing countries were some 35 percent lower than those prevailing at the beginning of the 1980s, and prices for exports from developed countries were 17 percent lower. The decline in prices of coffee and cocoa had been particularly large both between 1988 and 1990, and also over the past decade as a whole. Among other important export commodities of the developing countries, the real export prices of sugar, oilseeds and natural rubber had also continued to decline. Furthermore, the Committee noted that in the cases of coffee, cocoa and natural rubber, large stocks had been accumulated which would continue to place downward pressure on the international market with devastating effects on the economies of the producing countries.

The Committee also noted that the value of food imports by developing countries had continued to rise and they now exceeded the value of their food exports by an unprecedented amount. Delegations from developing countries expressed deep concern over this deterioration which had further exacerbated the severe debt problem confronting many of these countries, including the low-income food-deficit countries, had led to undesirable changes in dietary patterns, and reflected a growing dependency on imports.

The Committee considered the short-term outlook for agricultural trade to be unpromising. For 1991 it noted that the world economy would experience only slow growth and that it was forecast that the likelihood was for higher prices of manufactured goods than for an overall increase in agricultural commodity prices.

The Committee endorsed all of the reports submitted to it by its subsidiary bodies, that is the Intergovernmental Groups on jute, kenaf and allied fibres, rice, oilseeds; oils and fats, hard fibres, bananas, grains, tea

and citrus, as well as the report of the Consultative Subcommittee on Surplus Disposal. The review of these activities is included in paragraphs 16 to 36 of the Report of the Committee and I will not go into the details. It may be noted, however, that a wide range of issues have been considered by the various Intergovernmental Groups and that the CCP expressed appreciation for the continued usefulness of the Groups in enhancing market transparency, in identifying and analyzing problems and in seeking suitable remedial measures.

I would also like to inform the Council that the Groups on both jute and hard fibres are giving increased attention to environmental activities which stress the environmental friendliness of natural fibres compared to competing synthetics. This advantage could in time help to restore the competitive position of the natural fibres with consequential benefits to a considerable number of low-income developing countries.

The Committee also welcomed the designation in February 1991 of eight Intergovernmental Commodity Groups, plus the Sub-Group on Hides and Skins and the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade, as International Commodity Bodies by the Common Fund for Commodities. It considered that this development provided an opportunity for FAO to make a significant contribution to improving the competitive position in agricultural trade of developing countries. In this connection the Committee took note of work that was already under way in the Groups on project identification and development. I may add that a first project, on bananas, has recently been formally submitted to the Executive Board of the Common Fund and is under evaluation. We expect that additional projects for other commodities will also be finalized in the near future.

Mr Chairman, as at its previous sessions the Committee considered special topics of importance to international trade. At the last Session, the Committee considered the implications on trade of a European single market. This is summarized in paragraphs 37 to 41 of the Report. The Committee recognized that the process leading to the single market was not yet complete, and therefore that it was not yet possible to undertake a full assessment of the implications of the single market. It recognized that the European Communities had a number of special policies for particular commodities that led to differences in the way that these commodities were treated among Member Nations and that the EC Commission had not yet made proposals on common rules for certain commodities. Several delegations stressed the need for careful monitoring of developments in the single market by the CCP and for extensive consultation on the single market process. The Committee welcomed the assurance given by the Observer of the EC to provide the CCP with information on the single market process and to hold consultations with interested countries.

The Committee also undertook its regular review of agricultural protectionism and additionally it considered developments in the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations. These deliberations are covered in paragraphs 42 to 62 of the Report. The Committee noted that in the two years since its previous session there had been numerous moves toward a greater orientation of agricultural production to market conditions. However, overall there were still high levels of protection of domestic markets in many agricultural products. In particular the level of agricultural protection in OECD member countries had risen to a record level in 1990. The Committee also noted that changes in the level of

protection, as measured by the PSE, were more a reflection of movements in the levels of prices in international trade than due to changes in policies bearing on protectionism. When discussing the high levels of protection many delegations stressed the economic and social dimensions of problems associated with protectionism, especially in many Third World countries.

Overall, the Committee deplored that agricultural trade protectionism had grown during the past decade as reflected in measures of support and protection. While there had been few instances of significant improvements in market access conditions for some developing countries, subsidization of exports had caused even greater distortions in world agricultural trade. The Committee also noted with concern that increased taxes on coffee and cocoa in certain countries could impede market access for these products and urged that all possible measures be taken to assist producers of these commodities, the majority of whom were Third World countries, in obtaining market access.

In its review of developments in the Uruguay Round relating to agriculture, the Committee emphasized the need to intensify efforts for a successful and rapid conclusion as this was essential not only for agriculture, but also to ensure a successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round as a whole. It agreed that failure to conclude a successful negotiation on agriculture or to agree on only weak provisions would have a highly negative impact on agricultural trade, including a likely increase in protectionism and use of export subsidies. In conclusion, the Committee urged that FAO continue its support for the Uruguay Round and for the provision of technical and other assistance to interested participating countries.

Finally, the CCP reviewed recent international action concerning agricultural trade and the related role of FAO. This included inter alia activities connected to the Common Fund as mentioned earlier and the institutional and operational arrangements being developed by the Fund. The Committee also noted the growing number of regional trading and international arrangements which were coming into force, and the expansion of generalized preference schemes. In particular, the Committee urged FAO to continue and strengthen its activities to promote economic cooperation and regional and subregional economic integration among developing countries. At the multilateral level, the Committee supported the continuing collaboration of FAO with other international organizations and in particular stressed the importance of close collaboration with the GATT, especially on sanitary and phytosanitary issues.

In conclusion, and on behalf of your important Committee on Commodity Problems, I submit this Report to the Council for its consideration and endorsement.

**CHAIRMAN:** Thank you very much for that very substantial and interesting introduction.

Nous sommes saisis du document CL 100/6, qui est un document de synthèse particulièrement complet et qui nous permettra probablement d'avoir un débat relativement bref sur cette question.

A la page ii de ce document, vous trouvez les questions de nature à retenir particulièrement l'attention du Conseil: l'examen par le Comité des principaux aspects de la situation et des perspectives mondiales des produits; son examen des activités des Groupes intergouvernementaux sur les produits et du Sous-Comité consultatif de l'écoulement des excédents; son examen de la mise en oeuvre d'un marché européen unique; son examen des faits nouveaux survenus en matière de protectionnisme dans le commerce agricole et de certaines questions touchant à la réforme des politiques agricoles comme le suivi de la Résolution 2/79 de la Conférence et des Négociations dites d'Uruguay; et son examen de l'action internationale concernant les produits agricoles menée dans d'autres organisations.

M. Dutia en a parlé dans son exposé introductif.

Je demanderai maintenant aux délégués qui désirent intervenir dans la discussion de ce rapport de bien vouloir se faire inscrire sur la liste des orateurs.

**Elias REYES BRAVO (México):** Para mi delegación, este Informe ha merecido nuestra atención porque plantea la situación reciente y las perspectivas de los productos básicos en un mercado internacional urgido, de sentido y de eficacia. La baja de los precios reales, así como la pérdida de poder adquisitivo de los productos agrícolas, constituyen una muestra de la necesidad clara y permanente de conciliar posibilidades productivas con posibilidades de mercado. A ese propósito, es necesario que haya avances y resultados útiles en la Ronda Uruguay de Negociaciones Comerciales Multilaterales. Los avances esperados en el GATT y la participación y reconocimiento de los grupos intergubernamentales por el Fondo Común son factores que coadyuvarán a mejorar las condiciones de comercio y desarrollo de los productos agrícolas, con particular referencia a los considerados por este Comité.

Por otra parte, consideramos que, como ya ocurre en otros Comités, es recomendable que este Comité de Problemas de Productos Básicos aborde, en sus sesiones, aspectos de campo que inciden en la producción, el comercio y el consumo de los productos básicos.

**S. NAJMUS-SAQIB (Pakistan):** Document CL 100/6 has been prepared comprehensively. We have been taking an active part in the Committee on the Intergovernmental Group on Rice, and have also been following deliberations in other groups very closely; the outcome we see today in the shape of a Report by the Committee.

We share the Committee's overall satisfaction as well as concern on the various important issues highlighted in the said Report. The size of the value of import of food in developing countries is marked by a rising trend - this went up by 14 percent in 1989. At the same time, the earnings of the developing countries from food items experienced a declining trend. This situation was further accentuated by a host of other problems faced by the developing countries, debt problems being one of these. This unfortunate trend is likely to go on even as we step into the next century.

We also concede to the proposal urging greater attention to the production of traditional foods in the developing countries, for which, we feel,

institutional, as well as bilateral, technical and financial assistance should be provided. Also, major trade reforms as envisaged under the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations should be speeded up.

Accordingly, efforts have to be made and solutions found for the problems being faced by the peoples of the developing countries.

We feel that assistance in the formation and building up of various viable projects for sustainable development in this sector in the developing countries should be provided. Rules of the Common Fund should accordingly be geared so as to help develop projects based on urgent respective requirements of the developing countries concerned. For instance, for oilseeds and tea particular attention is required in countries like Pakistan - these two items adversely affect the country's balance of payments position.

In this respect, possibilities for the use of the Common Fund should be so explored where the developing countries are not at a disadvantage.

Fruits and vegetables produced in the developing countries is a case in point. This needs particular attention as the export of these commodities (although of good quality) is totally restrictive - this is because of the sanitary and phytosanitary restrictions rules of the developed countries.

We would like to state that we concede with the findings of the Committee.

**C.B. HOUTMAN (Netherlands):** During the considerations of the Committee on World Food Security, we commented on the Sub-Committee on Surplus Disposal. In this Report, in paragraphs 32 to 36, some nice things are said about the functioning of the Committee on Surplus Disposal. The only thing that we would like to state here is that we would still like FAO to make a study of the various matters, particularly, as mentioned in the Report on the functioning of the Committee on Surplus Disposal, the value of the use in the present, and possibly in the future, of the usual marketing requirements. We still consider that this is something that needs study.

CHAIRMAN: Mr Dutia will answer that question afterwards.

**Dato WAN JAAFAR ABDULLAH (Malaysia):** At the outset my delegation would like to commend Mr Dutia for his lucid presentation of the Report of the Fifty-eighth Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems. Although my delegation has no difficulty in endorsing the Report, we would like to make some comments on this agenda item.

We note with regret that world agricultural trade has performed dismally during the whole of 1990, particularly for the developing countries. We note also that overall economic growth was primarily favourable to developed countries, while growth in many developing countries slackened as a result of unresolved external debt problems, declining income in terms of trade, and the protectionist policies of developed countries. Between 1989 and 1990 the real prices of commodities primarily exported by the developing countries had declined by 9 percent as compared to 5 percent for the developed countries. Indeed, it is alarming to note that most

indicators of trade performance continued to favour developed countries. Therefore, my delegation feels that the need for major trade reform to improve the divergent performance in world trade between developing and developed countries is vitally significant.

With regard to the review of the activities of the Intergovernmental Group on Oilseeds, Oils and Fats, Malaysia views with concern the so-called rebalancing proposal of the EC agricultural commodity sector which includes the oilseeds sector. We consider this proposal would introduce a high level of protection for EC oilseeds and cereal substitutes. In this respect, Malaysia wishes to reiterate its strong opposition to the rebalancing proposal of the EC as it will discriminate against and restrict access to the Community for our palm oil.

On the work of the Consultative Sub-Committee on Surplus Disposal, my delegation agrees with paragraph 34 of the Report which stresses the strengthening of the application of the Principles of surplus disposal, especially in regard to the notification and consultation procedures. This is important to ensure that food aid will not have an adverse effect on the domestic market of the receiving countries, but also on the commercial agricultural market as a whole. As a member of the Cairns Group we are in full agreement with the call for a successful conclusion to be reached at GATT. Such progress would contribute to the momentum of trade liberalization and would slow down further protectionism in agricultural trade.

We support paragraph 62 of the Report where it is suggested "the Secretariat analyse the impact of trade liberalization, including changes in sanitary and phytosanitary regulations, on developing countries and particularly the low-income countries, and the effects of closer linkage of domestic and international agricultural markets on low-income countries".

My delegation notes that the Committee also reviewed the international action relating to agricultural commodities in other organizations such as UNCTAD, the Common Fund and GATT as mentioned in paragraphs 63 to 72 of the Report. We also support the continuing collaboration of FAO with GATT, in particular on the sanitary and phytosanitary issues through its significant contribution to the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the International Plant Protection Convention.

**José V. ROMERO Jr. (Philippines):** I associate myself with the members of this august body who have congratulated Dr Dutia for a very expert and comprehensive presentation of the commodity picture in the world today and the more important issues. One thing we note with interest is the continuing validation of the single commodity doctrine which is not yet obsolete. We are all familiar with the doctrine which says that terms of trade of developing countries, particularly in the area of primary exporters, tend to favour their partners'importing countries because prices of commodities are affected by the supply situation, as we have seen last year in cocoa, coconuts and other products, and the supply situation tends to produce an imbalance in the supply and demand conditions, bringing down prices. It is difficult for poor countries to continue to be hewers of wood and carriers of water, which brings us to the subject of the Common Fund for Commodities. As an Executive Director of the Common Fund we are very grateful to FAO for providing us with the intergovernmental commodity

groups which have been very useful not only in identifying projects, but also in the preparation of project feasibility studies which, at this stage of our development in the CFC, we cannot afford to produce in any great quantity.

Dr Dutia mentioned that the CFC is looking at bananas. I am very glad to report that at the eighth Executive Board meeting which ended only a couple of weeks ago, in fact the CFC has approved eight projects of the intergovernmental commodity groups; these include bananas, rubber, jute, palm oil, and a few other items which escape my mind at the moment. What is significant is that the CFC is not looking at the first window because the first window does not have enough funds to be able to produce compensatory financing for specific commodities, nor to engage in strategic stockpiling and buffer stocking. So at present we are content to deal with the second window which concentrates only on research and development projects. It is also significant that the second window is more interested in adding value to commodities.

I do not believe that we primary exporters of commodities will continue to be crucified on this cross of primary products. We will have to move up the agricultural ladder and add value to our exports. It is the only way we can improve terms of trade. This is something the CFC is trying to do with the help of FAO.

Finally, may I address myself to a small matter with regard to the Codex Alimentarius? My delegation is hoping that the very stringent application of standards that has been imposed by the Codex Commission will not act as a trade barrier, but will instead promote a freer flow of commodities.

**Peter Gary FRANKLIN (Australia):** Australia as an active member of the Committee on Commodity Problems endorses the Report of that Committee as presented in document CL 100/6. However, I wish to make reference to a few aspects of particular interest to us.

The review of the World Commodity Situation and Outlook as contained in document CL 100/6 makes depressing reading. This is especially so for countries such as Australia which have a high level of economic dependence on the exports of agricultural and food commodities. It is depressing because it seems that regardless of how much effort we as individual nations of FAO devote to improving the efficiency of our agricultural sectors through the adoption of appropriate technology, sustainable agricultural practices and domestic policy reform, we are inevitably confronted with distorted and artificially depressed international commodity markets, markets which do not adequately or fairly reward effort, efficiency, or comparative advantage.

It is for this reason that Australia is, and will continue to, both as an individual nation and as a member of the Cairns Group, press for substantial reductions in trade-distorting protection and export subsidies as well as in border protection. The extent of our concern is reflected by the fact that we, along with our Cairns Group partners, have made it clear that in our view there cannot be any successful outcome of the Round without a substantial result for agriculture. The prerequisite of any such agreement is a structure which generates long-term reform and increases market access.



In this forum, a particular and on-going concern for us has been the continuing threat of the EC rebalancing proposal on oilseeds and cereal substitutes. We thus reiterate our call, and that of others, for the EC to withdraw this proposal which we see as one of the more significant stumbling blocks on the way to achieving a successful Uruguay Round outcome.

The only other substantive comment I wish to make relates to the suggestion in paragraph 34 of the CCP Report that the efforts of the Sub-Committee on Surplus Disposal should be strengthened and for increased cooperation between the CSD and GATT. We see this suggestion as having considerable merit. However, we note that if this is accepted it is then a matter of judgement whether the enhanced role for the CSD is best facilitated by remaining with FAO, or by being more directly incorporated in GATT and accordingly subject to GATT disciplines.

**Nusyirwan ZEN (Indonesia):** My delegation wishes to express its appreciation to the Secretariat for preparing this document and to Dr Dutia for his clear presentation on matters now under consideration by Council. My comments will be brief.

With regard to the Review of the World Commodity Situation, document CL 100/6 stated that the real price of commodities primarily exported by developing countries declined about 9 percent between 1989 and 1990, while those exported by developed countries fell by 5 percent. This is of deep concern to us, since the export of Indonesian agricultural products has been gradually increased. We appreciate the efforts of FAO to complete in 1992 the projections of prospects for all the main agricultural commodities to the year 2000.

But at the same time underline the need for major trade reform and the importance of achieving an early and successful conclusion to the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations that is acceptable to all parties concerned. My delegation appreciates the designation of eight FAO Intergovernmental Groups, plus the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade as International Committee Bodies (ICBs) by the Executive Board of the Common Fund for Commodities.

As regards oilseeds, oils and fats, we wish to reiterate the appeal made by the Philippine delegation at the Twenty-fourth Session of the IDG on Oilseeds, Oils and Fats to the EC Commission, the EC Council of Ministers and the governments of the EC member states to withdraw officially, categorically, definitely and definitively the rebalancing proposal.

We welcome the study by the Intergovernmental Group on Rice regarding the cost of producing rice, as well as identification of new technology in selected countries.

Regarding the IGG on Tea, my delegation would like to support the view that promoting tea as a healthy drink would be an essential component in any general promotion campaign for tea.

As noted by the Committee, my country also follows with concern the development in the Community with regard to implementation of directives concerning harmonization in sanitary and phytosanitary regulations. We

share the view and concerns that the possibility of harmonization of sanitary and phytosanitary regulations could lead to a reduction in excess of EC markets for third country exports. We also share the view that the process of harmonizing should not lead to the adoption of unnecessarily strict standards or standards not based on sound scientific principles.

Therefore, we join the Committee in urging that the process should be as transparent and open to third country comments as possible.

We are pleased that the Committee delivered a clear message on the need to intensify methods to achieve a fair and market-oriented agricultural trading system, and stresses the importance of achieving successful progress in the Uruguay Round of GATT.

Indonesia attaches high importance to achieving improvements in the international trade environment in agricultural products in the current MTN Round, and we feel that there is an urgent need to achieve early reform through a substantial and progressive reduction in support and protectionism, and the establishment of stronger and more effective GATT rules.

My delegation sincerely hopes that the Uruguay Round of MTN arrives at a satisfactory result. In pursuing its trade policies Indonesia has always adhered to the guidelines of GATT. One of the most recent steps taken by Indonesia is the implementation of a package of policy reforms in June 1991 governing the liberalization of trade on some agricultural commodities such as palm oil and citrus.

My delegation follows the Committee's suggestion that FAO continue to assist in technical matters the developing countries in their efforts to successfully participate in the Uruguay Round MTN negotiations.

**David Sherwood (Canada):** We would like to express our appreciation for Dr Dutia's concise review. In endorsing this report, Canada will keep its remarks brief.

We have a number of comments and suggestions to make on document CL 100/6.

Canada views the work of the Committee on Commodity Problems as an important activity of the Food and Agriculture Organization, and is very supportive of its work. In particular, we find that this review is a very useful umbrella to the Intergovernmental Commodity Groups, providing an integrated and overall assessment of world agricultural commodity markets.

Canada actively supports a number of intergovernmental commodity groups, particularly those where it is an important producer or exporter of those commodities. However, we must express our disappointment about the cancellation of a Meat's Group during the last year. Canada would like to ensure that this Group convene regularly on a biannual basis.

The designation of eight Intergovernmental Commodity Groups to advise on the Second Account of the Common Fund is a valuable development. Canada will support these activities.

It will be important for the Secretariat to provide technical support to allow the Group to provide effective decisions on priorities. One area where Canada believes that the Committee on Commodity Problems could be more effective is to improve its forecasting information. First, we would be very supportive of a proposal made in the Committee to improve the medium-term forecasting. We understand that the Secretariat is doing both longer-term commodity forecasts and updating the Agriculture Toward 2000 study for the Twenty-seventh Conference in 1993. We would like to see these forecasts updated on an annual basis and distributed to Member Countries.

Canada would like to congratulate the Consultative Sub-Committee on Surplus Disposal for its good work. The Sub-Committee provides an excellent forum for the coordination of food aid and the protection of commercial markets. We strongly encourage the Committee to continue its good work.

In commenting on the special project on European Economic Community integration, we consider that this is clearly an important area of work. We would suggest that this work continue with more analysis of the impact of integration and with more focus on the processing sector, and include reference to competition policy.

A number of projects have been prepared for the Secretariat to carry out the impact of trade liberalization arising from an eventual GATT agreement. This is the kind of analysis and the kind of work for which the Secretariat has considerable expertise. Canada would support this work, but we would also encourage the Secretariat to draw on work ongoing in other international agencies in carrying out this work.

**Gonzalo BUIA HOYOS (Colombia):** Señor Presidente, en su Informe este Consejo debe lamentar que el descenso en los precios de los mercados mundiales de los productos básicos haya afectado, particularmente en forma considerable, a los países en desarrollo. Todo ese proceso ha conducido, como lo afirma el párrafo 11, a un nuevo deterioro en la relación de los términos de intercambio.

Señalaremos con preocupación, como lo dijo el colega de Indonesia, que no obstante los esfuerzos que venimos haciendo por aumentar el volumen de nuestra producción, el poder adquisitivo de las exportaciones agrícolas de muchos países en desarrollo, ha disminuido considerablemente. Que las regiones más afectadas fueron: Africa, 28 por ciento y América Latina y el Caribe, 18 por ciento. De acuerdo con el párrafo 45 el Consejo debe deplorar que el proteccionismo comercial agrícola haya aumentado durante el pasado decenio.

Este Consejo debe expresar su preocupación porque, no obstante las promesas, los compromisos, las declaraciones de muy alto nivel, según las cuales representantes de importantes Gobiernos vienen comprometiéndose a reducir gradualmente el proteccionismo, aún siguen existiendo muy altos niveles de proteccionismo. El grado de proteccionismo agrícola en los Estados Miembros de la OCDE, los 24 países más ricos del mundo, alcanzó en 1990 niveles sin precedentes. Hechos como esos confirman que la teoría y la literatura que se vierte al respecto se contradice con hechos decepcionantes como estos.

Al tiempo que la Ronda Uruguay sigue estancada - la reunión del Comité tuvo lugar en julio pasado - muchos acontecimientos han tenido lugar, De todos modos el buen éxito de las negociaciones sobre la agricultura sigue siendo definitivo para todo resultado positivo en la Ronda Uruguay.

Apoyamos lo que dijo al respecto nuestro colega y amigo, Peter Franklin, de Australia, con la autoridad de ese país, Australia, que es dignísimo Presidente del Grupo de Cairns, al cual pertenece Colombia.

El Consejo debe reafirmar la máxima prioridad al adecuado cumplimiento de los propósitos básicos de la Ronda Uruguay prioridad que ha sido unánimemente reconfirmada al muy alto nivel ministerial en la declaración del Consejo de la OCDE, de los Ministros del Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación y del Grupo de Cairns.

En cuanto al banano, los representantes de Colombia reafirmamos la preocupación de muchos Gobiernos en el sentido de que hay que salvaguardar el derecho de los países productores de banano a seguir teniendo libre y aún más amplio y progresivo acceso a sus mercados tradicionales y, particularmente, que es necesario pedir a la Comunidad Económica Europea que al realizarse el mercado único a partir de 1993 el ingreso de bananos procedentes de los países de América Latina y el Caribe, no se vea afectado por ninguna de las medidas que conlleve el establecimiento del mercado único europeo.

En nuestro Informe deberemos insistir en la necesidad inaplazable y la conveniencia común de liberalizar el comercio mundial del banano. Y ante cualquier posibilidad de exceso de producción en el futuro, se estime y apoye por todos los medios la diversificación, sobre todo en aquellos países donde el banano ocupa lugar preponderante en sus economías.

A ese respecto nos complació la información del Dr. Dutia en su magnífica presentación, que ya nos había sido transmitida por el Sr. Perkins, Director de la División de Productos Básicos y Comercio, en el sentido de que ya se ha presentado al Fondo Común, el programa revisado del mejoramiento del banano. Esperamos que en Amsterdam, sede del Fondo Común, el resultado de la evaluación sea satisfactorio para que este proyecto pueda ser financiado adecuadamente.

El Consejo debe, también, consignar su inquietud en el Informe, ya que son, señor Presidente, hechos muy actuales y preocupantes, por la forma como se está procediendo a unificar los reglamentos sanitarios y fitosanitarios, y como se irán a aplicar las normas de calidad sobre todo en el mercado único europeo.

A principios de este año los países de América Latina y el Caribe productores de banano, en el seno de los países de la Comunidad Económica Europea, fueron sometidos a injustas y generalizadas medidas sanitarias demasiado severas que pusieron en peligro la importación de banano y otras frutas a los mercados de algunos Estados europeos, todo por reacción frente a la epidemia del cólera que en nada afectaba realmente esas exportaciones. Si a la desgracia del cólera y a sus inmensas y desastrosas consecuencias humanas, sociales y económicas se agregan estas restricciones, ciertamente no se está procediendo con justicia. Pero es más grave todavía e inquietante, señor Presidente, que ahora, hace pocos días tenemos informaciones de otras medidas aún más restrictivas de la Comunidad

Económica Europea sobre la importación de frutas a los mercados de esos importantes doce países.

Con la cordialidad de la amistad y simpatía que nos une a los representantes de la CEE, quisiéramos pedirles que procedan con mano suave, con un mínimo de comprensión y consideración para los países productores de banano cuyas economías dependen tan sustancialmente de ese producto.

Apoyamos la oposición expresada ya, sobre todo por los grupos de ASEAN y el Grupo Cairns a la famosa propuesta de reequilibrio formulada por la CEE en la Ronda Uruguay. Tenemos la esperanza de que, seguramente al final de este debate, intervendrá el representante de la Comunidad Económica Europea y nos comunicará la grata noticia de que esa propuesta ha sido retirada, como venimos pidiéndolo tantos representantes de gobiernos.

Finalmente, señor Presidente, acerca de las repercusiones del mercado único europeo sobre el comercio de los productos básicos, los representantes de Colombia confiamos de que ese gran mercado único europeo será más abierto para que los principales productos agrícolas de exportación de los países en desarrollo puedan penetrar sin trabas ni limitaciones en los importantes mercados de esos países.

Apoyamos firmemente la declaración de nuestro colega y amigo de Malasia sobre la conveniencia y necesidad inaplazable de introducir reformas serias y profundas en el comercio internacional para hacerlo más justo y más equilibrado.

Kwang Wook AN (Korea, Republic of): Thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to express my delegation's opinion on the report of the Fifty-eighth Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems.

As is mentioned in the Report, growth of the world economy had slowed and there had been decreases in the world market prices of commodities. It was right when the Committee was concerned that since the beginning of the 1980s the real prices of agricultural commodities decreased by 35 percent for developing countries and for developed countries by 17 percent. Moreover, we are all concerned that imports of food by developing countries rose 14 percent in 1989 to US\$61 billion. These imports exceeded their earnings from food exports of US\$48 billion.

My delegation sincerely hopes that the Uruguay Round of GATT negotiations would be successfully concluded so that we could create the environment of a freer trade of world agricultural products.

However, we believe, that different nations should be given fair opportunities to develop their agriculture in terms of their different development stages.

We share the view of the Committee that cyclical shifts from surplus to tight supplies would remain a feature of the world grain economy after the Uruguay Round negotiations. It naturally leads us to the conclusion that even if global grain trade were more liberalized, government interventions would be indispensable to ensure a certain level of domestic supply, especially for the developing countries.

Under an unstable market situation after the trade liberalization, the agricultural price would fluctuate more substantially. It would lead us to a situation of volatile farm income accordingly. Consequently, each country should be allowed to compensate their farmers' income. In other words, an income safety net should be provided by the government if it is required by the changing world agricultural market situation.

Another aspect my delegation wants to note is that changes in the level of producer subsidy equivalent were more a reflection of movements in the levels of prices in international trade than due to changes in policies bearing on protectionism. In order to achieve a more liberalized international market for agricultural products, we should agree upon a better basic measurement system first.

Finally we sincerely hope that the international community would be able to design a better scheme to measure the overall support level of agriculture, other than one that heavily depends on the difference between domestic and international prices.

**Ms Marasee SURAKUL (Thailand):** The report of the Fifty-eighth Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems has given clearly the situation of various commodities that are a threat in the world markets. I believe that each country has paid a different degree of attention on different commodities, according to the need of individual countries. Therefore I shall not concentrate my comments on particular commodities but would remark on the commodities as a whole.

First my delegation fully agrees with the suggestion in para 12 of the document in front of us. We urge the FAO to pay more attention to the medium-term outlook for every commodity on which the FAO normally held meetings.

Secondly, concerning the Common Fund, we are very pleased to note that nine commodity bodies within the FAO have been designated as international commodity bodies. We also learn that project proposals on some commodities are being developed and would be submitted to the Common Fund in the near future. My delegation would encourage the Secretariat which is responsible for the commodities for which project proposals have not been planned to do as soon as possible in consultation with the intergovernmental group meetings.

Thirdly my delegation acknowledges the work of the Consultative Sub-Committee on surplus disposal and would encourage the CSD to continue its important function in monitoring transactions involving the disposal of surplus commodities and in ensuring that normal commercial trade is not dispersed nor agricultural production discouraged.

My delegation always believes that the practice of the developed countries in applying various managements in protecting their agricultural products has caused great distortions in the world's agricultural markets as successful agreement on agriculture and trade by all countries concerned and regional integration of economic organizations would lead to agricultural trade liberalization. We therefore urge all parties concerned to conclude the Uruguay Round as soon as possible.

Finally my delegation would like to associate with the others who requested the Secretariat to analyse the impact of trade liberalization on the developing countries as stated in para 46.

**Sra. Monica DEREGBUS (Argentina):** La delegación argentina considera que el Comité de Problemas de Productos Básicos ha efectuado un gran trabajo durante su última sesión y que este Consejo debería expresar su aprecio por el texto del informe que nos ha sido presentado. En este informe se refleja también el sustantivo trabajo llevado a cabo por los grupos intergubernamentales que dependen del Comité, y que mi delegación valora altamente. Por ese motivo nosotros creemos que el Consejo debe endosar el documento que tenemos a nuestra consideración, y debe reafirmar también la necesidad de reformar la situación del comercio internacional y subrayar la importancia de concluir con éxito la Ronda Uruguay del GATT, tal como está expresado en los párrafos 15, 52, 55, 56 y 57 del Informe que consideramos. La tendencia hacia una mayor liberalización, tanto de la producción como del comercio internacional de productos agrícolas en general, llevará a una mayor transparencia de tales mercados así como a un marcado crecimiento de los niveles de precios fortaleciendo la posición de los países de característica agro-exportadora e incentivando la producción en otros países que hoy no pueden producir por resultar ello imposible con los actuales niveles de precios.

Nuestro país expresa su agrado por el hecho de que la FAO prevea llevar a cabo la actualización del estudio "La agricultura hacia el año 2000", para ser presentado en la 27ª Conferencia de la Organización.

En lo relativo específicamente al Grupo Intergubernamental sobre Semillas Oleaginosas, Aceites y Grasas, nuestro país expresa su acuerdo, su coincidencia con la oposición manifestada por muchos países, incluidos los del Grupo Cairns, en oportunidad de la reunión de dicho grupo, respecto de la propuesta de reequilibrio formulada por la Comunidad Económica Europea en la Ronda Uruguay del GATT, como parte de su propuesta de octubre de 1990, y que según recientes declaraciones del Comisario Macharri seguiría aún vigente.

El proyecto de reforma del régimen de oleaginosas de la Comunidad Económica Europea aún no aprobado, presentado por la Comisión para adecuar el régimen de oleaginosos a las conclusiones del panel del GATT, no cumpliría para la Argentina con las conclusiones del panel por los siguientes motivos: el apoyo que se otorgaría, aunque no está vinculado directamente a la cantidad producida, alienta la producción interna de tal manera que se sigue menoscabando el valor de la concesión en frontera.

Para recibir el apoyo, el productor debe demostrar que tiene firmado un contrato de venta con un comprador. Esto fortalece la posición negociadora de los procesadores. Ante variaciones en los precios internacionales superiores al 8 por ciento, se ajustaría el precio de referencia proyectado que se utiliza para el cálculo del monto del subsidio. De esta manera, contraviniendo las conclusiones del panel, se mantendría el aislamiento de los productores locales frente a las fluctuaciones en los mercados internacionales.

Para la Argentina las exportaciones de oleaginosas y sus productos tienen una enorme importancia, y el principal mercado para esos productos es la

CEE. De allí, la prioridad que tiene para nuestro país que la Comunidad Económica Europea adopte un régimen que cumpla plenamente con lo dispuesto por el panel del GATT.

Con respecto al informe del Grupo Intergubernamental sobre Cereales, se refrenda la posición sustentada por algunos delegados durante la reunión de este Grupo en el sentido que la actividad más constructiva y apropiada para los gobiernos es la de asegurar un sistema comercial libre y equitativo. Con respecto a lo informado acerca del Grupo Intergubernamental sobre frutos cítricos, mi Gobierno apoya el establecimiento de la red interamericana sobre cítricos que permitirá coordinar los esfuerzos de desarrollo en materia de producción e incrementar la transferencia de tecnología e información.

Finalmente, señor Presidente, con relación al Capítulo 5 del documento en debate, algunas cuestiones relativas a los productos básicos y al comercio, repercusiones de un mercado único europeo, la delegación argentina se permite exponer en este foro, coincidiendo con otras delegaciones, la preocupación de su Gobierno respecto de la posibilidad de que la armonización de los reglamentos sanitarios y fitosanitarios reduzca el acceso de las exportaciones de terceros países, como también respecto a que el proceso del mercado único afecte negativamente las oportunidades comerciales de los países no integrados a él.

**Ulrich D. KNÜPPEL (EEC):** First, I would like to thank Mr Dutia for the very comprehensive introduction he has given to an even more comprehensive document. It is an extremely rich document which covers a great number of subjects, and it is almost unjust not to approach it globally but to pick up individual aspects.

As I had the honour to speak on behalf of the Member Nations on most of the subjects in the Fifty-eighth Session of the CCP, I think I should reply to a number of points and questions raised by quite a number of delegations. I am somewhat astonished that the major part of the debate has concentrated on the Community again. Important as the Community may be, it is not that important that we should ignore other parts of the world. But let things be as they are. I will try to take up the points in the order in which they were raised.

The first point concerned rebalancing. The statement which we made during the Fifty-eighth Session of the CCP and which is reflected, although only briefly, in paragraph 58 of the Report, remains valid. We stated there that the Community had taken a flexible approach which was possible in the context of a global and balanced solution of the Uruguay Round. This situation has not changed. As other countries, the Community considers that agriculture is an important part of the Uruguay Round negotiations. The Community will take its responsibility to contribute to a successful conclusion. It is working very hard in various areas, including the GATT but also outside, to come to such a successful conclusion. Those who are dealing with GATT matters more closely are well aware of it. In our view, the negotiations are progressing, not just in agriculture but also in other important areas such as services and intellectual property rights. We hope a successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round is close.



The Ambassador of Colombia and others have pointed to various aspects of the Single European market, to sanitary and phytosanitary matters, but in particular also to bananas. Let me refer as to the substance to paragraphs 28, 40 and 41 of the Report which reply to those concerns, which were expressed regarding bananas. I can assure you that the Community will continue to look for a solution which will preserve the export possibilities of all traditional exporters to the Community and I hope you will take that assurance with some belief as the Community is not producing large quantities of bananas itself and has no intention of doing so in the future.

The same is true for large quantities of fruit and vegetables in general. As the Community is a major, if not the world's largest, importer of fruit and vegetables, and will remain so, it has a multi-billion dollar deficit in the trade of fruit and vegetables. Therefore, it would not be right to believe that the Community could wish to impose sanitary and phytosanitary measures under the simple aspect of protecting domestic production in the so-called evil sense. There are real health concerns as with the cholera epidemic. These are new experiences and I think we have to learn to deal with such measures as we go along. However, as the process of implementation of harmonized sanitary and phytosanitary measures is still going on, as we said during the CCP meeting, we think that the harmonized system will be of much advantage to third country exporters as well as third country investors who would wish to invest in the Community as it would avoid having to deal with an extremely difficult number of rules and approaches in the application. If there should be remaining difficulties which do not conform to standards otherwise recognized, for example, by Codex Alimentarius, there are two ways of dealing with the matter if bilateral contacts and consultations or negotiations with the Community are not sufficient. It is the legal system inside the Community and, as I hope, the Uruguay Round will come up with a special set of rules on sanitary and phytosanitary measures which will allow us to deal much better with those questions than we were able to do in the past. Still, we are looking forward to those countries which have concerns with one or the other measure, either as regards the rules as such or their application, that they come forward and deal with the Commission's services bilaterally through the normal channels. Our services certainly welcome such contacts.

As to the question of cooperation with the FAO Secretariat on the Single European market, obviously our offer stands. In so far as there are questions on major new developments, we are more than pleased to stay in contact with the Secretariat in order to give an up-date or to reply to questions that may arise.

Finally, just a brief comment on the Community's agricultural reform which is an important one. Negotiations inside the Community on those matters are progressing. People are working very hard in the Commission, together with Member States, and we are looking forward to finding ways to achieve those reforms which we ourselves consider important and which, I think, other countries will appreciate.

As regards the EC oilseed regime more specifically, we think that the proposals that we have put forward, and on which a certain orientation has been reached in the Council but which still needs Parliamentary opinion, reply to the conclusion of the GATT Soya Panel. Whilst I have great respect for the opinions of those delegations who may have different views, if no

better understanding and interpretation of our orientations can be found, obviously once those rules are adopted, the way forward for GATT members is to ask for a new consultation in the GATT context.

I would however not wish to close on that sort of note, Mr Chairman. I would like to say to you that my experience in the Fifty-eighth Session of the CCP, which was my first experience of that type, was a very positive one. I was very pleased to be able to cooperate in that Committee, to reply to questions, and I am looking forward to doing so in the future.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Nous avons encore comme orateurs inscrits la Côte d'Ivoire et le Soudan. Je propose de clore la liste.

La parole est à la Côte d'Ivoire.

**Konan Daniel YOMAN (Côte d'Ivoire):** A dire vrai, nous n'avions pas l'intention de prendre la parole sur ce point, mais il est difficile à un pays comme la Côte d'Ivoire qui, comme vous le savez, est producteur de cacao et de café et membre du Comité des produits, de rester sans rien dire sur ce point qui est à l'examen de notre ordre du jour.

En parcourant ce document, vous vous êtes certainement penchés sur les grandes questions qu'il inspire et qu'a su si bien traduire le Dr Dutia au cours de sa présentation liminaire.

De quoi pourrais-je parler?... Il s'agit d'abord de la montée vertigineuse du protectionnisme agricole dans les pays de l'OCDE. Il s'agit de la montée vertigineuse des importations alimentaires dans les pays à faible revenu et à déficit alimentaire. Il s'agit de l'augmentation vertigineuse de l'endettement des pays en voie de développement, notamment en Afrique. Il s'agit de l'augmentation vertigineuse des préoccupations des pays en voie de développement quant à leur sort, suite à la création prochaine du marché unique européen et à ses conséquences que même un expert en la matière comme M. Dutia, à juste titre, ne peut encore en ce moment délimiter avec précision. Il s'agit de l'augmentation vertigineuse de nos préoccupations quant au sort des négociations de l'Uruguay Round encore dans le flou. Il s'agit de l'augmentation vertigineuse des taxes sur le café et le cacao dans les pays européens, situation extrêmement dangereuse pour un pays producteur de café et de cacao comme le mien, malgré les limites du STABEX et des autres mécanismes compensatoires. Ce document est le reflet de l'injustice et de l'égoïsme que nous ne cessons de dénoncer. On ne paye pas les efforts de nos producteurs agricoles au juste prix, à un prix rémunérateur, qu'il s'agisse de la banane, des oléagineux, du cacao, du café et j'en passe.

La FAO devrait poursuivre ses efforts liés au mécanisme du Fonds commun des produits de base, et veiller, par exemple ici en son sein, à la création d'un groupe spécifique sur les racines et les tubercules.

Ce document est exhaustif. Nous l'approuvons dans ses lignes générales, nous appuyons ses différentes recommandations et nous appelons l'attention de ce Conseil sur les suggestions du Directeur général contenues dans sa déclaration du 15 juillet devant le Comité des produits, notamment en ce qui concerne la réforme du commerce agricole mondial.

**Musa M. MUSA (Sudan) (Original language Arabic):** Thank you for giving me the floor once again. I also thank you for including the item concerning the report of the Fifty-eighth session of CCP contained in document CL 100/6 in our agenda. Dr Dutia has made a clear, comprehensive presentation of the contents of that document.

In fact, the Sudanese delegation views the review of such activity as one of the important functions of FAO. Its impact is quite clear and it also reflects clearly on the people of many of our countries who rely on agriculture. It is for this reason that my delegation appreciates the inclusion of various agricultural crop commodities in the activities of intergovernmental commodities bodies and extension of the concerns of the Common Fund to support such commodities. For example we firmly believe that it is important to protect natural fibres from the predominance of artificial fibres and sharp market fluctuations. We also believe that cotton (the main cash crop in Sudan) which produces some 25 million tons of fibres annually, cultivated in extensive areas is a key element in the economies of many developing countries in all continents. It is therefore not surprising that we should underscore the need to give adequate attention to cotton, giving it a leading role and allocating funds to help cotton-producing countries. We hope that efforts will be made to protect our countries from the unhappy trade practices of certain large groupings.

We therefore believe that capable developing countries have an ethical role to play in assisting developing countries, not only by creating a just and favourable trade climate, but also by supporting their food producing capacities and promoting their exports and competitiveness. There is no doubt that these countries are aware of this situation and do not need any further reminders.

I do not think that the countries affected can wait indefinitely - without any further suffering - for GATT resolutions and the outcome of deferred Uruguay rounds. Immediate and decisive action has to be taken by FAO in cooperation with other organizations to spare our countries the consequences of rapid deterioration.

In conclusion, Mr Chairman, we hope FAO will continue its efforts towards expanding and developing intergovernmental commodity bodies and creating the necessary channels to solve the problems relating to such commodities and to increase their returns with a view to supporting the economies of the countries which rely on agricultural resources. Our country will certainly respond positively to such effects.

**B.P. DUTIA (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department):** First of all, through you and with your permission, Sir, I would like to thank the Members of the Council on behalf of the Committee, on behalf of my colleagues, and on my own behalf, not only for their endorsement of the work done by the Committee and its Report, but also for the appreciation that has been expressed for this Committee's work and the work of its intergovernmental groups. The debate has been substantive, it has been interesting, and a number of views have been expressed. I do not want to go into those aspects, because they will, as is the usual custom, be reflected in the Report which will be submitted to the Drafting Committee for its consideration. I would however like to refer to some of

the questions that have been raised and some of the remarks that have been made which do require some response from the Secretariat.

First of all, references have been made to the request by some Member Governments in the Committee on World Food Security as well as in the Fifty-eighth Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems about the need to undertake a review of the principles of surplus disposal, of its notification and consultative procedures, as well as the UMRs, in the light of the outcome of the Uruguay Round. The Secretariat has taken due note of the requests that have been made of this Committee, and we shall certainly assist the Committee to the fullest possible extent in undertaking such a study, depending on the outcome of the Uruguay Round.

Of course, if such a study were to be undertaken it is but natural that one should also take into account the new perceptions concerning food aid. Some references were also made to the impact of food aid on domestic production. That is one of the aspects, but there are several new perceptions of food aid that have emerged. There is also certainly a need to look at this whole question bearing in mind the fact that the last time that the Committee on Commodity Problems looked at the principles of surplus disposal was some time ago - sometime in 1969. I would therefore just like to tell Council Members that this is a subject which will receive attention as soon as possible after completion of the Uruguay Round.

A number of members have referred to the Common Fund and its recognition of the intergovernmental commodity groups and the eligible ICBs for promoting the projects for consideration by the Common Fund. This is certainly a new dimension to the work of the IGGs which we expect to become more and more important as years pass.

The banana project has already been submitted, as the distinguished Ambassador of the Philippines informed us some time ago. This was considered by the Common Fund Committee, and we understand that it has received its approval in principle. We are waiting to hear from the Common Fund, and if necessary we would revise this project and submit it again to the Common Fund for its final approval and financing, possibly on a co-financing basis.

We are also at the same time in the process of developing some more projects on other commodities, and we hope to bring them also to the attention of the Common Fund for consideration and eventual decision concerning financing. We do hope that in this way we shall be able to assist our Member Countries with the help of the Common Fund.

I would now like to refer to the concerns that have been expressed by a number of Members of the Council regarding the sanitary and phytosanitary restrictions on trade and the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission in this respect. The standards developed by the Codex Alimentarius Commission are based on objective and scientific evidence, and in our view that is the only way to ensure that unjustified restrictions on trade are not enforced, restrictions based on some subjective considerations which are often not supported by facts. It is also the only way of really ensuring that the concerns of health are taken into account in their due sense, but they do not enforce any restrictions on trade. I would appeal to the Members of the Council to look upon the Codex Alimentarius work from this point of view. Again, these standards are developed after a rigid and professional review

by experts who are representing a number of Member Governments in a number of Codex committees. Because of this, it is also heartening to note that in discussions in the Uruguay Round Codex Alimentarius standards have been accepted in principle as the guiding principles for work on sanitary and phytosanitary matters.

I do recognize that some developing countries might be in a situation in which they regard the standards of the Codex Alimentarius Commission to be rather high, to be rigid, and which they may not be able to meet. We recognize that this is an important aspect which needs to be tackled; there, FAO already has a programme of giving technical assistance to the developing countries in reviewing their current standards, and also to help them by advising them so as to reach the Codex Alimentarius standards levels and strengthen their own food quality and safety activity. We already have, at the moment, some 30 countries to which we are providing assistance. Also, it is encouraging to note that in discussions on sanitary and phytosanitary matters in the Uruguay Round, there is a recognition of the need to assist developing countries in reaching the level of the standards so that they can take benefit from the opportunities that will be opened up as a result of the liberalization of world markets.

Lastly, I would like to refer to the citations that have been made by the distinguished delegate from Canada and some other members regarding the need for FAO to undertake medium-term forecasting work. As Members of the Council might be aware, we are at the moment engaged in a commodities projection exercise which will be looking forward up to the year 2000. We hope to complete this work next year and it will be ready for publication towards the end of the year.

At the same time, we are undertaking the revision of the Agriculture Towards 2000 study, and this time our intention is to look up to the year 2010. Of course, while the commodity projections will be looking at the outlook for production, consumption and trade as far as commodities are concerned, the Agriculture Towards 2000 will take a wider view of agricultural and rural development as a whole.

While this exercise is going on - and I can assure you there is a close link between the two works going simultaneously in FAO - at the same time, we are working with a group - or one might say a consortium - including other agencies engaged in forward-looking exercises, agencies like OECD and the World Bank, and we are involved in certain discussions going on in this respect between FAO and other agencies involved in this work. Hopefully, these consultations and the joint work will lead to more frequent assessments of the medium-term prospects of commodities. We hope to be able to make them available on a more cost-effective basis in the cooperative, mutual agency framework. I hope this answers all the questions raised, but if I have missed anything I shall be very happy to come back.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je crois que nous avons examiné de façon approfondie le rapport de la session du Comité des produits dans tous ses aspects. Nous avons traité du problème du Fonds commun, des mesures sanitaires et phytosanitaires, du Codex Alimentarius, et M. Dutia a apporté des éléments importants concernant les travaux qui sont entamés. Pour le moment, en ce qui concerne les projections du commerce des produits jusqu'à l'an 2000 et l'adaptation de l'étude Agriculture 2000 dans une perspective 2010, ce sont

des documents importants et intéressants. Je crois que toutes les interventions faites au cours de cet intéressant débat seront reprises dans le rapport. Les suggestions faites seront toutes prises en compte. Je crois que nous avons été absolument comblés et nous remercions tous les membres du Conseil pour leur participation active à la discussion du point 5 de l'ordre du jour. Y a-t-il d'autres remarques ou d'autres questions qui n'auraient pas reçu de réponse de la part de M. Dutia? Une réponse complète et satisfaisante? Je suis convaincu que l'exposé introductif de M. Dutia ainsi que sa réponse auront été de nature à vous satisfaire.

Je crois que nous pouvons considérer comme clos le point 5 de notre ordre du jour. Il en est ainsi décidé.

6. Progress Report on Preparations for the ICN

6. Rapport intérimaire sur les préparatifs de la Conférence internationale sur la nutrition (CIN)

6. Informe parcial sobre los preparativos de la CIN

**LE PRESIDENT:** Nous allons passer immédiatement au point 6 qui est un point pour information et le rapport intérimaire sur les préparatifs de la Conférence internationale sur la nutrition (CIN). Je demanderai immédiatement à M. Dutia de le présenter.

**B.P. DUTIA (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department):** I appreciate very much this opportunity to inform the Council of the progress being made in preparation for the International Conference on Nutrition, the ICN. However, since Council has a very heavy agenda before it in a limited time, and also because this subject will be discussed more fully during the FAO Conference in Commission I, I shall keep my remarks rather brief and will highlight only a few points at this stage.

First of all, as Council Members are aware, the international conference itself will be held in Rome in the first half of December 1992. It will be preceded by a preparatory meeting of government representatives at a technical level in August 1992, and this preparatory meeting will be held in Geneva.

The ICN will not only be the first intergovernmental conference on nutrition, but it will also be a nutrition conference whose final results and recommendations will be based on extensive preparatory activities at both national and regional levels. I would like to stress this point. There has indeed been a very encouraging response by Member Countries to the ICN in initiating country-level preparatory activities. To date some 115 countries have appointed ICN country focal points and they are currently preparing country papers on their nutrition problems and the action needed to tackle them. Due to the multi-faceted nature of the nutritional problems involved - food, health care and many other aspects - national intersectoral committees or working groups have been established in the countries with representatives from a wide range of Ministries, including

agriculture, health, education, planning, economy and trade. These committees have been formed in order to assist with the country-level ICN preparatory activities.

In addition, some 59 countries have indicated that they have convened or are planning to convene national ICN-related seminars or workshops. These numbers in themselves are indeed encouraging, but of even greater significance is the fact that in many countries the ICN preparatory activities have brought together various Ministries, sectors and interests to focus on nutritional problems and on what can be done to alleviate them.

Another key feature of the ICN process will be the convening of joint FAO and WHO regional and sub-regional meetings in early 1992. These regional and sub-regional ICN meetings will provide a mechanism for linking country-level preparatory activities and a global-level conference. They will also provide an opportunity to review the nutrition situation in each region, to evaluate relevant policies and programmes, and to discuss strategies for ensuring nutritional well-being. The results of these regional and sub-regional meetings will provide inputs into the global assessment paper and the global declaration of a plan of action which will be considered by the ICN in December 1992.

The first regional/sub-regional meeting is scheduled to be held in Bangkok for the Asia and Pacific Region from 27 to 31 January 1992. It will encompass all the countries in the Asia and Pacific Region. Additional regional and sub-regional meetings are scheduled during the months of February and March 1992 for Francophone Africa, for the Near East, for Anglophone Africa, for Latin America, for the Caribbean and for Eastern and Central Europe. In our view, these meetings are a vital step in the ICN preparatory process and based on the deliberations on the FAO governing bodies, we believe these meetings are also highly valued by Member Countries.

It is our hope that this approach could well catalyse ongoing national and regional level commitment and action directed at improving nutrition not only before and during the conference, but more important after it in follow-up actions.

Several countries have been able to mobilize their own resources in order to prepare for the ICN, but regrettably many others have not been able to raise the necessary resources. The FAO and WHO, the co-sponsoring agencies, are using their own limited resources to support country-level preparations and to organize the regional and sub-regional meetings. It is also encouraging that some donor governments and NGOs have also provided funds for country delegations' participation in the regional and sub-regional meetings. However, many countries still need assistance in order that they can participate in these regional and sub-regional meetings, especially as it is hoped that representatives from more than one sector can attend.

I sincerely hope that delegations attending the Council and the Conference will be in a position not only to confirm their commitment, but also to indicate their readiness to make more funds available for these and/or other of the regional or sub-regional meetings - for truly much more is needed. Once again we are appealing to donors to assist and thus give

further momentum to the genuine bottom-up preparations for the ICN that have already been initiated. The staff members of the ICN Joint Secretariat will be very happy to meet with interested donor countries to provide more detailed reports on country and regional level activities, and to discuss possibilities for supporting them.

Parallel to the country and regional-level preparations taking place, FAO and WHO are preparing a series of technical and background working documents for ICN. These consist of an oral assessment paper which examines nutritional problems and programmes throughout the world, papers by selected teams of case studies on particular countries and issues of interest. In addition, a framework of a draft declaration of a plan of action for consideration by the ICN is also being prepared. Various national, international and non-governmental organizations are assisting in the preparation of the ICN, including the preparation of some of the documents to which I have just referred. For example, UNICEF, the International Food Policy Research Institute (INFPRI) in Washington and the ACCSCN Secretariat are helping FAO/WHO in preparing major theme papers, as also is the Nutrition Institute of India and the Food and Drug Administration of the United States. Other sister UN bodies and NGOs are also providing specific contributions in their areas of competence, which we greatly appreciate.

We look forward to the comments of the Council, and at a later date the comments of Conference to guide our preparatory efforts.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je remercie M. Dutia de cet exposé introductif intéressant et complet. Je le remercie également pour l'appel qu'il a lancé aux pays donateurs afin qu'ils fassent dès à présent un effort tout particulier pour la préparation de cette importante conférence. C'est maintenant que cet effort doit être fait et il est certain que les moyens financiers doivent être fournis afin de pouvoir préparer dans de bonnes conditions tous les documents ainsi que les réunions préparatoires de cette importante conférence internationale sur la nutrition.

L'exposé de M. Dutia a été exhaustif. En outre, les représentants de tous les pays auront l'occasion, durant la Conférence, de l'interroger à nouveau sur la procédure qui va être suivie en vue de cette conférence. Toutefois, si des membres du Conseil désirent poser des questions, je leur demanderai de le faire de la manière la plus brève possible car nous avons un ordre du jour très chargé. Je crois que l'exposé introductif complet de M. Dutia dispensera les membres du Conseil de poser beaucoup de questions et de faire de très longues interventions.

Y a-t-il des représentants qui souhaitent intervenir au titre du point 6 de l'ordre du jour, qui traite du rapport intérimaire sur les préparatifs de la Conférence internationale sur la nutrition (CIN)?

**John Bruce SHARPE (Australia):** Australia congratulates FAO and its joint initiative with WHO for the International Conference on Nutrition.



Australia is actively engaged in a process to develop a country paper which takes account of the inter-sectoral aspects of food and nutrition. The paper development includes input from a wide range of organizations and will be finalized in February 1992.

Additionally, Australia is undertaking a process toward the development of a national food and nutrition policy oversighted by a multi-sectoral committee from the agricultural, media, consumer and industry sectors. As part of the consultation phase of the policy development, a national conference is envisaged in March 1992. The aspects being dealt with in the policy process are consistent with the aims and objectives of the ICN, and the national conference will provide a forum for contributing to the ICN preparations.

**Alberto DE CATERINA (Italy):** The Italian delegation has read with great interest the document C 91/27 concerning the preparations for the International Conference on Nutrition (ICN) which will be held in Rome in December 1992. The progress report gives a very clear picture of the situation so far and we are grateful to the Secretariat. We also very much appreciate the extensive introduction of Dr Dutia, and we thank him very much.

The Italian delegation confirms, as on previous occasions, its strong support to FAO and WHO for the ICN. Italy certainly assures FAO of its help in the different sectors of the preparation process. Details confirming the extent of financial contributions that will be contributed by Italy for disposal by FAO and WHO are being finalized and will be known as soon as possible.

The Italian delegation would be very interested in knowing something of the favourable attitude of other donor countries. We have just heard Australia and we appreciate its efforts very much.

In the meantime we can confirm that Italy, as the very first country in the family of the Universal Postal Union has inaugurated the International Philatelic Campaign sought by the above-mentioned organization. As is well known, an ICN Italian commemorative stamp will be issued in 1992.

Finally, we are glad to confirm that Italy will provide three people to work specifically for the ICN at FAO Headquarters. One of the three is already working at the Headquarters of FAO as an associate professional officer.

Before concluding, Mr Chairman, I have a small question for Dr Dutia. He mentioned that the PrepCom I is in August 1992 while paragraph 28 of the Report mentioned early September 1992. I would appreciate confirmation that it is in August, and if the dates are already known.

**Adel EL-SARKI (Egypt) (Original language Arabic):** I will begin by thanking Dr Dutia for his very clear introduction to this document C 91/27 on the forthcoming International Conference on Nutrition.

I would like to say that in my country this is considered to be a very important Conference and we intend to participate fully. In fact, we have already established a national committee to prepare for this Conference. It includes a number of high-level scientists who will prepare a working paper, which will be an input from Egypt for the Conference.

Next month we are holding a national seminar on nutrition in Cairo, which will be attended by leaders of our country in this area, who will prepare further documentation for the International Conference.

We would like to congratulate FAO and WHO on this happy initiative.

**S. NAJMUS-SAQIB (Pakistan):** Pakistan is keenly looking forward to participating in the ICN. We are actively involved in the preparation of our country paper by top Pakistani scientists for the International Conference on Nutrition, with particular emphasis on the nature of nutrition and diet-related problems, description and analysis of factors determining nutritional status, population analysis of current policies, programmes, and interventions affecting nutritional status.

We would also like to say that FAO and WHO need to be congratulated for preparing such a valid and useful document.

**Gonzalo BUIA HOYOS (Colombia):** El informe del Dr. Dutia fue muy completo. Los representantes de Colombia nos complacemos de que la colaboración entre la FAO y la OMS vaya a asegurar la realización de una buena Conferencia Internacional sobre la Nutrición. Queremos insistir, señor Presidente, en que para que esa Conferencia produzca los resultados que todos deseamos deberá hacerse hincapié en la asistencia a los países en desarrollo para que éstos puedan presentar buenos informes nacionales, y también en la conveniencia de que se obtengan recursos para financiar la representación de los representantes de los países en desarrollo que así lo soliciten. Cuando habíamos planteado este tema, señor Presidente, se nos dijo que los recursos que se propone aumentar en el programa ordinario para el próximo bienio en favor de la CIN se destinarían especialmente a actividades en la Sede y sobre todo al Comité Mixto FAO/OMS, lo cual encontramos razonable, pero ya que hay ahora ofrecimientos generosos de recursos extrapresupuestarios, como lo ha hecho recientemente Italia, esos fondos deben utilizarse para que los países puedan presentar informes nacionales y la Conferencia se realice sobre bases realistas, conociendo directamente la situación y las necesidades en materia de nutrición en los países en desarrollo. La reciente intervención del colega de Egipto sobre el seminario que va a celebrarse en El Cairo es un buen ejemplo de este propósito que los representantes de Colombia apoyamos.

**David DRAKE (Canada):** As we will have the opportunity to review this item in the Conference, I will be brief.

The Canadian delegation would like to thank the Secretariat for this document updating the status of preparations for the ICN. We also welcome the progress of ICN preparations and extend our sincere appreciation to the members of the joint FAO/WHO Secretariat who we know are working exceptionally hard to make the ICN a success.

Canada is presently in the final stages of preparing its national paper for the International Conference on Nutrition. A consultative process has been established in the Canadian Government for the production of the paper, which is expected to be ready next month.

Canada is pleased to note that it will be providing assistance for the preparation of country papers to four nations.

Canada has consistently stated that it would have preferred that the ICN take place at a later date. While postponement no longer is an option, we are concerned that the tight time schedule now proposed is an obstacle to effective production of papers and the essential associated process of consultation at the national, sub-regional and regional levels, especially in developing nations. Let us not forget that the primary purpose of the ICN is to focus on nutritional requirements of developing nations. In our view this Conference represents an important development opportunity that may not arise again in the foreseeable future.

Our delegation urges all Members of the Council to make best use of the process associated with this Conference, and the Conference itself, in order to advance the cause of nutrition in the developing world.

**DONG QING-SONG (China) (Original language Chinese):** First of all I would like to thank Dr Dutia for his comprehensive and clear introduction to this item. We are very happy to learn of the preparations for this important Conference.

In order to prepare for the International Conference on Nutrition FAO and WHO have cooperated and coordinated to great extent. We hope that this kind of cooperation will continue in order to achieve maximum results.

However, I would like to stress here that in order to make this Conference successful the aim and target of this Conference should be action-oriented. Secondly, we have to establish a kind of indicative figure; thirdly, we have to set out a monitoring system. Only by doing this can ICN bring about a practical and fruitful result. Also the Chinese Government in recent years has placed a great emphasis on nutrition and the food work, therefore our Government has set great store on participation in this important Conference. Presently all the preparatory work for this Conference, especially the country statement, the country report still being prepared by the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Public Health of the PRC. The Chinese Government will participate in this Conference and will make its active contribution to the successful holding of this Conference.

**Luis MALDONADO VENEGAS (México):** Seré breve también en mi intervención considerando que el tema será objeto de la mayor atención seguramente en la Conferencia.

Desearía en primer término transmitir nuestra más cálida felicitación al Sr. Dutia por la presentación del documento en el que se informa de los avances y preparativos de la Conferencia. En el mismo orden, hacer extensiva esta felicitación al Comité conjunto FAO/OMS por los avances ya obtenidos y la estrategia adoptada para la preparación de esta importante reunión.

Desearíamos hacer hincapié en un aspecto que ha sido ya materia de algunos criterios adoptados por este Consejo en su 99º período de sesiones. Especialmente atentos a las actividades que habrán de desarrollarse tanto a nivel nacional y regional con miras a la organización de la Conferencia, y especialmente a la reunión del Comité preparatorio que se ha previsto celebrar en septiembre de 1992 con el objeto de preparar y perfeccionar el plan de acción que habrá en su momento de debatir y aprobar la sesión plenaria de la Conferencia, resulta indispensable que no se pierda el enfoque interdisciplinario y multisectorial de los propósitos que se ha planteado la misma. Será preciso, desde luego, estar muy atentos en el desarrollo de todos estos trabajos para que este propósito y este mecanismo ya adoptado con miras a la celebración de la Conferencia pueda cumplirse a plenitud. Esto permitirá que en la adopción de la estrategia global atienda al conjunto de los factores causales de la malnutrición y se puedan también adoptar medidas y compromisos de más amplio horizonte.

Quisiéramos expresar que México se encuentra, desde luego, con el mayor interés y comprometido en los preparativos de esta Conferencia. Hemos celebrado ya un seminario nacional, y este mes habrán de celebrarse dos seminarios complementarios, a nivel técnico. Asimismo, estamos ya prestos a integrar el informe nacional, con objeto de poder presentarlo, en su oportunidad, a la FAO. Nos congratulamos igualmente con la ocasión que se nos brinda de acoger, en el mes de marzo de 1992, la reunión regional para Latinoamérica.

**Kiyoshi SAWADA (Japan):** My Government really appreciates the activities of FAO with WHO on the ICN. I would like to inform you on this occasion that my Government has designated a focal point for the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries coinciding with the Ministry of Health and Welfare and we have started to prepare the Japanese country paper jointly. We are pleased to participate in this meaningful Conference based on our experience to improve our nutritional intake after World War II to realize the system to supply enough nutrition to the multi-malnutritioned people in the world ICN should be a trigger for the countries to develop concrete strategy for that. We hope FAO will play a big role in ICN and constantly be active as well.

**José Eduardo MENDES-FERRAO (Portugal):** Nous suivons avec grand intérêt la Conférence internationale sur la nutrition. A cet égard, nous avons créé un groupe de travail élargi avec la collaboration directe des organisations locales de la FAO et de l'OMS et avec une contribution très importante en hommes et en intérêts particuliers.

En ce moment, notre objectif est la réunion de divers éléments et le rapport se trouve dans la phase de rédaction finale. Nous avons déjà manifesté à la FAO notre disponibilité pour collaborer avec les pays africains de langue portugaise et les aider à la préparation de rapports nationaux. On a organisé à Lisbonne une réunion préparatoire avec l'assistance d'un spécialiste portugais pouvant collaborer avec les diverses délégations des pays africains de langue portugaise au niveau local. Les frais sont assumés par le Gouvernement portugais.

**Natigor SIAGIAN (Indonesia):** We thank Dr Dutia for his very informative explanations on the preparation of the ICN. My Government fully supports the idea of confining this ICN and therefore will cooperate closely with WHO and FAO. We believe that the works on combating malnutrition will be much assisted by the United Nations Member Nations through active participation at the ICN.

The Government of Indonesia had requested the top scientist on nutrition to assist in the preparation of this document for ICN and a national preparatory committee has been set up and will work for the preparation of the ICN. We thank the WHO, UNICEF and the donor countries for their efforts in assisting us in the national preparations. The national seminar for the preparation for this ICN will be convened in Jakarta in December 1991 with the good participation of WHO, UNICEF and USAID. We hope that as a result of this national seminar we can submit a complete country paper, both for the regional and global ICN meetings.

On the other side of the coin, however, we may request FAO Secretariat to take any possible efforts in assisting the developing countries in their national preparations for this Conference. Likewise like the previous speaker we also wish to request FAO to secure funds for assisting the attendance of representatives of all developing nations especially the least developed countries at the coming ICN, as well as to attend their regional meetings.

**Sra. Grafla SOTO CARRERO (Cuba):** Seremos sumamente breves, ya que este tema se discutirá más ampliamente durante la celebración de la 26 Conferencia, la semana próxima. Quisiéramos agradecer la presentación que ha hecho el Sr. Dutia sobre los preparativos que se hacen sobre la Conferencia Internacional de Nutrición. Cuba ha constituido un grupo nacional para la preparación del informe que nuestro país presentará a esta Conferencia, integrado por catorce organismos nacionales que trabajan en estrecha colaboración con las representaciones de la FAO y la OMS. También se ha nombrado el punto focal responsabilizado con estas tareas, y se celebró un seminario nacional sobre el primer borrador del informe nacional, para tratar de completar el mismo, el cual esperamos esté listo para el mes próximo.

Agradecemos mucho el ofrecimiento hecho por los Gobiernos de Italia, Canadá, Portugal y otros para lograr que los países en desarrollo tengan posibilidades de participar en la Conferencia con buenos informes nacionales y con delegaciones altamente calificadas. Creemos que ha sido una excelente idea de la FAO y de la OMS en la coordinación de esfuerzos para celebrar esta Conferencia, que estamos seguros tendrá el éxito esperado y necesario.

**B.P. DUTIA (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Department):** I

would like to thank you again, through you and with your permission, the Members of the Council for the support that they have expressed to the ICN and also the appreciation that they have given to the efforts that FAO and WHO are making in organizing this Conference. In particular I would like to thank the representatives of the donor countries who have already announced their readiness to support the country level activities and also the financing of the travel of the delegations to the regional and sub-regional

meetings. We do hope that this is still the beginning and that we will get more support and more commitment to this from the donor countries because this is an exercise which for the first time has started from the bottom up. Let us not let it slip through our fingers. This is a very important occasion to rise to and I am optimistic that the donor countries will respond generously in assisting in these matters.

I would like to express my particular thanks to the representative of Italy, the host country for the great support that they have given to us right from the very beginning and we expect that with their full support we will be able to make this Conference an even greater success.

The member of Italy asked a question, whether the dates of the preparatory committee is in September or in August. Since the paper had been prepared we have given further consideration to this matter and now the preparatory committee is scheduled to be held in the last week of August in Geneva.

The member from Colombia appealed for the giving of more aid to the developing countries in the preparatory activities at the national level and also for assisting the delegations to attend the regional and sub-regional meetings as well as the ICN. As I said in my introduction, despite the budgetary constraints that both FAO and WHO are facing we have made special efforts to give assistance to the country level preparatory activities in a number of developing countries and we are also seeking funds from the donor countries to assist the developing countries in their travel to the regional and sub-regional meetings and eventually to the ICN itself.

The member of Canada referred to the time constraint that exists; yes, there is a time constraint but we in the Secretariat today are more optimistic in being able to succeed in producing a worthwhile basis for a worthwhile Conference.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Nous avons fait le point de la situation en ce qui concerne la préparation de la Conférence internationale de la nutrition, C 91/27. Ce point nous a été fourni pour information. Un examen plus complet de la situation sera fait lors de la Conférence. Je vous proposerai donc de clore ce point après cet intéressant débat qui fut d'ailleurs plus un échange de vues et d'informations qu'une confrontation sur un point quelconque, parce que je n'ai entendu aucune voix discordante en ce qui concerne l'organisation de cette Conférence internationale de la nutrition.

7. Developments Regarding the TFAP

7. Faits nouveaux concernant le Programme d'action pour les forêts tropicales (PAFT)

7. Novedades en relación con el PAFT

Nous passons au point 7 qui concerne les faits nouveaux concernant le Programme d'action pour les forêts tropicales, CL 100/2. Ce document, qui nous est fourni pour examen, est intéressant et synthétique. Je crois que nous devons être opérationnels et le plus bref possible.

Je demanderai à l'assistant spécial du Directeur général, M. Walton, de faire une présentation de ce point.

**Declan WALTON (Special Assistant to the Director-General):** The Council Session last June considered the revamping or renewal of the Tropical Forest Action Programme, the TFAP. The question which aroused by far the most controversy was the proposal to create a new international mechanism, a consultative forum on tropical forests, to provide overall strategic guidance to the TFAP. The Council suggested that the idea be further clarified through a contact group. A contact group duly met in Paris on 13-14 September, thanks to the generous cooperation of the French Government which made all the arrangements. The meeting was sponsored by the World Bank, UNDP and FAO. It included representatives from all three of the main groups of partners in the TFAP - namely donors, tropical countries and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The selection of developing countries, two from each main tropical forest region, was made after consultation with the regional groups in Rome.

The Report of the meeting is before the Council in document CL 100/2. The results are a classic situation on which you can place either an optimistic interpretation or a pessimistic interpretation. The optimist will say that the group worked out the most difficult of all problems for the new mechanism, namely its exact functions. The new text defining "functions" as developed in Paris is included in Appendix A of the document. I cannot say that this draft was fully satisfactory to all the parties present. Indeed, perhaps none of them was completely satisfied with it. Yet it did appear to be broadly acceptable to everyone. It was a compromise formulated in good faith and in a transparent manner, a success - however incomplete - towards which all parties contributed.

The pessimist, on the other hand, can say that the group left several key issues still untackled. The most important of these is probably the exact composition of the new body. Seen against the background of rising impatience in the outside world over the delays in completing the revamping of the TFAP, the pessimist can only be disturbed by the volume of unfinished business.

Incidentally, I received one comment on the Report of the Paris meeting from the representative of an industrialized country who felt that the text did not convey clearly enough the message of the meeting that time is of the essence for finding solutions.

The most important issue for the Council is to decide on the next steps that should be taken by FAO. I must perforce recall that the TFAP is not a piece of FAO property. It is jointly sponsored by FAO, the World Bank and the UNDP, and in a broader sense it is not even a programme of the co-sponsors, but a cooperative undertaking owned by the tropical countries, the donors and the organizations that participate in it. The Council can legislate regarding the action that should be taken by the FAO Secretariat, but the FAO cannot unilaterally decide on the future course of the TFAP as a whole; nor can any other single partner.

I hope that the Council will take into account the views of our co-sponsors, one of which - UNDP - is represented here today. Conversely, I hope that our co-sponsors, both the World Bank and the UNDP, will agree

to associate themselves in due course with whatever action may be decided upon by the FAO Council. In our document we have suggested three options. Option 1 is a further meeting of the Paris type to hammer out unresolved questions in the next few weeks. Option 2 is to proceed with an inaugural meeting of the new body on the basis of the agreements so far reached, leaving it to the mechanism itself to complete unfinished business regarding institutional arrangements. Our co-sponsors favour this option. Option 3 is to set up an ad hoc group that would discuss the unresolved issues until solutions were found.

Informal consultations in the last few weeks have not shown a consensus building up in favour of one option or another. They have, however, brought out three major considerations that the Council may wish to bear in mind even if they pull in opposite directions. First, if the TFAP is to become, in fact as well as in theory, a country-driven exercise, then the countries that are to drive it should have a major say in decisions on the shape of the new mechanism that is to provide strategic guidance, the new consultative forum. The driving countries, the tropical countries, appear to need more time and more consultation in order to reach a consensus on all important aspects of the new mechanism. This argument supports option 3.

The second consideration that has emerged, and I have already mentioned it, is a rising tide of impatience, and even exasperation, among donors and NGOs over the delays in finishing the TFAP revamping. There is a danger that a central role in the TFAP will slip away from FAO and funding for the TFAP at national and international level may decline in the absence of clear decisions and prompt action. This is an argument in favour of option 2.

Thirdly, it is still not clear to what extent the creation of the new consultative forum will lead to an increased flow of resources to tackle the forest problems of developing nations. This was raised in the Council the last time. I myself brought it up in my introductory statement in Paris. But the question remains without a clear and unambiguous response. Any light that the donors can shed in the course of this debate will certainly help the Council to arrive at a conclusion.

Mr Chairman, I would hate anyone to think that the TFAP had ground to a halt whilst meetings struggle with a definition of functions and secretariats worry about options. On substance, as distinct from institutions, the main features of the revamped TFAP have been clear since last March. Revamped operational guidelines have been approved by all groups of participants and are about to be issued. In recent months, if I may give one or two examples, the Presidents of the seven countries of Central America have decided to use the TFAP as the policy framework for environmental and forestry development with a linkage to agriculture. In Africa, the country with the largest tropical forests, Zaire, has as a result of its TFAP exercise developed a comprehensive forest policy for the first time, combined with arrangements for coordinated donor support to natural resource management. The largest forest country of Asia, Indonesia, has held a comprehensive consultation with NGOs on its National Forest Action Plan.



Mr Chairman, I will not say that the TFAP is in the best of health, but it is out of hospital and back at work. Let us contribute towards a final cure by making a clear decision on the next steps to solve the institutional issue.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je remercie M. Walton pour cette présentation. Il est extrêmement important de se prononcer de manière claire sur nos préférences concernant les trois options dont il a été fait mention. J'ai, pour le moment, comme premier orateur inscrit, la représentante de la Malaisie. Ensuite, le Liban, la France, les Pays-Bas, la Suède, la Thaïlande, le Royaume-Uni, l'Allemagne, le Brésil, l'Indonésie, le Japon, le Cap-Vert, Madagascar, le Mexique, le Canada, le Congo, l'Australie, les Etats-Unis, Trinité-et-Tobago, le Pakistan, le PNUD. Je passe la parole à la Malaisie.

**Miss Ting WEN LIAN (Malaysia):** First of all, I would like to thank Mr Walton for his report, but as usual please allow me to be very straightforward and to get straight to the point. As you know, Mr Chairman, my delegation has expressed its strongest reservations on the proposed consultative group. From now on, I will refer to it as CG. Our position remains firm, and in fact firmer than before, after participating in the contact group meeting on the TFAP in Paris on 13-14 September 1991.

It is very clear to us that the proposed CG has no respect for national sovereignty and sovereign forest resources. In this regard, I wish to stress that my country cannot accept a situation where the fate of our sovereign forest resources is submitted to a group of self-appointed people who have no official credentials or mandate or any authoritative or legal status. We cannot accept that a motley group without officially recognized credentials, and which include non-sovereign government entities, will be in a position to scrutinize and *assess* proposed plans and programmes of our sovereign national forestry resources.

We may perhaps appreciate the need of the sponsors to please their NGOs, but we are certainly not prepared to provide our sovereign forests for the electoral convenience of other countries. Our NFAP is drawn up with our own NGO input, and any insistence on such inputs from sectors outside our national boundaries will be considered as interference in our internal affairs.

My delegation wishes to know from where this proposed self-appointed group would derive its mandate. Even if its task, as we see it, is solely to sit in judgement on our forests, we should ask ourselves from where this forum intends to draw its strength - from the stigma of public censure? - from economic and financial blackmail? - from more trade boycotts and bans? Perhaps the main actors feel that this is where FAO has failed in its task. It is our view that FAO has done a good job of coordination in the TFAP process, and we want to see this role of FAO strengthened.

You know better than I do how important it is to establish an appropriate and workable governance for the TFAP. This is extremely pertinent because we are dealing with sovereign forest resources which belong to sovereign countries. National dignity and sovereignty cannot be compromised. We are the owners of our forest resources and we should all - I repeat all - have

the right to express our views on the nature of the assistance that may be offered to us to sustainably manage, conserve and develop our forests.

I repeat: Our views - that is, the views of all tropical forest countries - have to be taken into account not only on revamped guidelines, but also on any structural changes that may be proposed. In fact, it is the view of my delegation that the time has come for the whole structure of the TFAP and its component parts to be reviewed by tropical forest countries in the TFAP. We would like this review to be done so that we have a clear idea as to who is doing what to our tropical forests.

Now that our NFAPs are country-driven, according to the so-called "revamped guidelines", it is all the more necessary for us in our new role as managers and organizers of our forest programmes to assess and review the structure of the TFAP, and my delegation would like to include this as an item for discussion in the ad hoc Group proposed in option (c) of document CL 100/2. We support option (c) not to continue discussion on the proposed CG, but to discuss the status of our NFAP and the future of the TFAP.

We see the CG as a conditionality imposed by the donors or sponsors. If it is the CG today, tomorrow it may be human rights, and the day after tomorrow it may be environment, or the wrong kind of democracy. We all know very well that the sponsors of the TFAP had ample time to disburse funds to finance the NFAPs in the five years' existence of the TFAP, that only a negligible amount out of the 2.3 billion pledged was provided; and now, when almost all the NFAPs are in place, including ours, there was this sudden desire to revamp the TFAP.

It is clear from this move that the revamping exercise was a delaying tactic, and there is a big question mark on whether in the first place there was a genuine intention to release any financial resources to launch the NFAPs. Of course, with the revamped guidelines, TFAP participants are obliged to re-do their NFAPs. This naturally provides another breathing space for the sponsors or revampers. Meanwhile, the proposed CG was also thrown in for good measure to appease their own domestic lobbies.

Some of us - including you, Mr Chairman - know very well why there is this reluctance to release financial resources for our NFAPs. I only wish to remind the sponsors - I repeat, I wish to remind the sponsors - that the commitment of some 85 tropical forest countries to the goals and objectives of the TFAP should not be taken lightly nor taken for granted - and I hope Mr Walton will also take note of this fact: The commitment of 85 tropical forest countries to the goals and objectives of the TFAP should not be taken lightly. If this commitment erodes as a result of proposals received in total disregard for national sovereignty, we will all live to regret it. Malaysia for one will be sorry to see the TFAP destroyed.

We support the TFAP, and we have, like our fellow developing countries, prepared our NFAP for implementation - but we have been truly shocked to see that our forests have been used to further self-interests, to settle scores, and to perpetuate feuds. You know what I am referring to, Mr Chairman, and so do the main actors in this farce. If you wish, I can be more explicit.

If the contention is that something has gone wrong somewhere with the TFAP then let us find out or determine where the shortcoming is, and take the

necessary remedial action. The solution should seek to consolidate and not to proliferate.

We must also question the wisdom of creating a new body which risks duplication and wastage of resources. At this stage, we must also admit to being utterly amazed at the alacrity with which some new money magically appeared to fund the proposed CG, whereas the developing countries have always been told not to expect new funds and not to expect new institutions.

In fact, as I see it, the CG will have the principal task of monitoring and filing judgement reports - a kind of super-international jury on tropical forests. May I remind those present here that the question of monitoring and stewardship of all forests is discussed in the UNCED process under the guiding principles, under management, conservation and development of all forests, and there has been no agreement as yet on this. The discussions here on such a CG are therefore premature, and pre-judge or pre-empt what would essentially require a political decision of governments.

I wish to reiterate that our participation in the TFAP is a clear indication of our willingness to adhere to the TFAP goals and objectives. This willingness however does not give a "carte blanche" to new proposals which impinge on our sovereignty. I really think that the way forward is to build on the commitment we have shown in getting our NFAPs in place, and to identify the ways and means to get those programmes off the ground in the way that we have been proceeding, otherwise we have no choice but to reconsider our participation in the TFAP.

After all, our NFAP has always been country-driven, and we are not in the least attracted by the idea of putting our forests in the dock for the gratification of an international forest jury with the kind of credentials which have no useful relevance to the pragmatic response that we see.

After having said all that, we wish to remain optimistic and positive. It was this same attitude of mind - and we said this clearly in Paris - that prompted us to participate in the discussions of the Contact Group to define the function of the proposed CG and we said at that time that our participation in the discussion did not indicate our approval of the CG.

In the original proposals there was no mention at all of a fund-identifying role, and my delegation, together with those developing countries present in Paris, added a funding element in the proposed functions. However, as you can see, even these amended functions duplicate the work normally undertaken by FAO.

In the same spirit, we are prepared to join in the search for a workable and approachable mechanism that can bring our NFAPs forward. Most of the sponsor countries are on record in international fora as expressing concern at the fate of our tropical forests. The TFAP structure is the only means that exists which provides them with the most ideal opportunity to genuinely demonstrate their commitment to assist in a pragmatic way, otherwise they only have themselves to blame for missing this historic opportunity.

Malaysia still stands ready to find a way out of what we consider as a man-made impasse on the TFAP. However, I wish to reiterate that if the proposed CG is bulldozed into the structure of the TFAP, Malaysia will have no choice but to take the necessary action to reconsider our participation in the TFAP. We said this in Paris, and we say this again today in Rome.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je crois que le débat au Conseil démontre que le temps est un élément extrêmement important dans la recherche du consensus.

Je remercie Madame l'Ambassadeur de Malaisie de son intervention. Elle a clairement exprimé que ses vœux la portaient vers l'option c).

**Amin ABDEL MALEK (Liban)** (Langue originale arabe): Je tiens à féliciter M. Walton de son intéressante introduction au document CL 100/2 qui traite des faits nouveaux concernant le PAFT. J'ai lu ce document avec beaucoup d'attention. Il est très bref et très clair et il reflète tout à fait les efforts déployés par la FAO pour assurer le suivi nécessaire aux résolutions adoptées lors de la dernière réunion du Conseil.

Ce rapport indique que trois options s'offrent à nous - trois choix soumis à notre examen. La délégation libanaise choisit la troisième option, qui consiste à créer un groupe ad hoc pour débattre les questions en suspens dans le but d'aboutir à des solutions définitives.

La non-acceptation de la création d'un nouveau mécanisme vise à empêcher le double emploi dans le travail. Nous croyons, en effet, que le renforcement du mécanisme actuel est préférable à la création d'un nouveau mécanisme. Nous avons tout à fait confiance en la capacité de la FAO. C'est pour cela que nous insistons sur la nécessité pour la FAO de poursuivre ses efforts afin de coordonner les activités menées dans le cadre du PAFT. Il n'y a aucune excuse pour élever des barrières ou pour empêcher que la FAO assume ses responsabilités difficiles en créant un nouveau mécanisme.

Quoi qu'il en soit, nous sommes tout à fait ouverts et nous sommes disposés à étudier la question en profondeur dans le but de renforcer la FAO et de coopérer avec les Etats en développement pour appliquer leurs plans nationaux. Ce dont nous avons besoin maintenant, c'est d'une augmentation des ressources et de l'assistance technique dans le but d'aller de l'avant. Nous n'avons pas besoin d'une nouvelle entité pour nous apprendre quoi faire.

**LE PRESIDENT:** J'ai écouté attentivement l'intervention du représentant du Liban et je note sa prise de position concernant l'option c).

**Jean Pierre POLY (France):** Je voudrais tout d'abord remercier M. Walton pour son rapport, comme à l'habitude précis et concis.

Mon pays se félicite d'avoir accueilli à Paris, les 13 et 14 septembre derniers, en prélude au dixième Congrès forestier mondial, une consultation élargie ayant pour objet d'examiner les conditions générales de constitution d'un groupe consultatif international sur les forêts tropicales, sujet dont le Conseil a délibéré longuement lors de sa dernière session.

S'il est vrai que, faute de temps, les importantes questions concernant la composition et le fonctionnement du groupe n'ont pu être étudiées en profondeur, il n'en demeure pas moins que ces consultations ont permis de dégager un solide consensus sur le mandat du futur groupe consultatif en mettant l'accent, notamment, sur le principe du respect de la souveraineté nationale, sur le rôle purement consultatif de ce groupe, sur la promotion d'approches plus efficaces pour la foresterie tropicale, dans une perspective de développement durable, sur la transparence et la circulation de l'information, sur l'amélioration, enfin, des conditions de financement du PAFT.

Ces consultations doivent être naturellement prolongées et c'est donc fort opportunément que le Secrétariat propose au Conseil d'examiner de nouvelles mesures à prendre.

Pour sa part, ma délégation affiche sa préférence pour la seconde option proposée, c'est-à-dire pour la poursuite de la mise en place de cette nouvelle procédure, sur la base des fonctions du groupe définies à Paris et, pour d'autres questions, sur la base du rapport de la réunion de Genève d'ailleurs révisé lors de consultations ultérieures. Une telle solution, qui repose donc sur de solides fondements, aurait pour avantage de mieux lier à la FAO, dans une approche conjointe, la Banque mondiale et le PNUD pour dégager les perspectives de cet important Programme.

Ma délégation pourrait toutefois se rallier à la troisième option préconisée par certains, à savoir la création d'un groupe ad hoc, à condition de fixer une date limite pour la conclusion des travaux de cegroupe. Je pense qu'une échéance dans le courant du premier trimestre 1992 pourrait, par exemple, être retenue.

Je saisis cette occasion, enfin, pour rappeler l'importance que mon pays accorde également à la prochaine mission d'évaluation des activités de l'Unité de coordination du PAFT, mission d'évaluation dont les conditions générales de mise en oeuvre ont déjà été débattues avec le Secrétariat et mission d'évaluation, bien entendu, qui ne doit pas conduire à un nouvel examen d'ensemble du Programme.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Le représentant de la France a pris position pour l'option b), acceptant l'option c) dans la mesure où une date limite serait fixée pour les résultats des activités du groupe ad hoc.

**Frederik Ch. PRILLEVITZ (Netherlands):** I would like to thank Mr Walton for his introduction, which was a very good introduction to this agenda item.

The Netherlands participated in the Paris meeting which was a further consultation on the TFAP. Our delegation was quite satisfied with the outcome insofar as it concerned the function of the proposed new mechanism as reported in paragraph 4 of the Report of this meeting. So in this case we belong to the group of optimists, Mr Walton, but I must say my delegation regretted very much that the other agenda items like composition, and selection of members, establishment and organization, national-level arrangements and technical support of the consultative forum were not discussed.

My delegation does not understand why the right momentum, given the good atmosphere at that time in Paris, was not used to finalize the work. It puts us here in this Council meeting in a difficult position since we now know that, and I quote, "the other co-sponsors did not see a need for further consultations along the lines of the Paris meeting".

How do we go on from here? The Secretariat confronts us with three options for the next steps. It is the opinion of my delegation that option (a) is the only possibility for a very simple reason, namely, that we cannot afford to lose more time. When we follow the procedure that we have an open-ended ad hoc working group working during Conference, then we will know where we are within a couple of weeks. If we do not succeed during that period, then I can live with option (b) because then it is proven that we cannot find a solution here in the context of FAO.

It is of the utmost importance that a consultative mechanism for the TFAP is established as soon as possible, taking into account the working methods, as I pointed out in my statement on the subject in the ninety-ninth Council meeting of FAO. Today, I tried to attract your attention, Mr Chairman, after the intervention of my dear colleague from Malaysia. We have to stick to the rules of our Council meetings in that we do not repeat what we have said in an earlier meeting of the Council. I do not want to repeat myself here, and know why we have this opinion. I only want to say again that my Government intends to increase the amount of money available for forestry in the sphere of development cooperation up to US\$250 million in three years.

Since Paris I have consulted several delegations of important tropical forest countries and many NGOs. It has encouraged me to propose that we must arrange a possibility during the next weeks in such a way that we can finalize the work on the various agenda items. Without these discussions first among the interested Member Countries, and hopefully in the presence of co-sponsors and NGOs with the aim of resolving the last problems, it is not possible to start the consultative forum. Too many things which are of special interest to FAO - for instance the relationship with the coordination unit of TFAP and FAO - have to be discussed and solved first before the new mechanism can begin to function.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Si j'ai bien compris le représentant des Pays-Bas, il choisit l'option a), étant entendu que l'on sait que ni la Banque mondiale ni le PNUD ne sont disposés à parrainer une réunion comme celle qui s'est tenue

antérieurement. Le choix des Pays-Bas est donc l'option a), avec les conséquences qui en découlent.

**Sture THEOLIN (Sweden):** I would like to join the thunder outside and say first of all that we were pleased to participate, together with other distinguished Members of this Council in the Paris consultations on the Tropical Forests Action Plan/Programme. There can be no doubt in this body that Sweden and the other Nordic countries attach considerable importance to the TFAP as a potentially central operational mechanism for development, use and conservation of the forests of tropical countries. We have supported TFAP from its inception.

Thus, our comments today, - and I regret that they may appear too long - aim at further vitalizing and developing TFAP as a cooperative enterprise, at restoring the confidence of the NGO and donor communities, and most importantly, finally to move beyond administrative and organizational matters and make TFAP a real instrument for the 84 or so developing countries who express need for support towards working out action-oriented plans for the sustainable development, conservation and use of their forest resources.

TFAP has been discussed in this Organization for some considerable time. In document CL 100/2, the Director-General indeed asks for the Council's guidance on this matter. The Council has a unique opportunity at this juncture to provide such guidance if FAO is to remain a viable partner in the cooperative effort which TFAP represents. Some delegations fear that TFAP's very survival now is at stake. Lacking clear responses from FAO, others rather seem to welcome the fact that the important tasks and functions are taken over by others.

Sweden firmly believes that the Council has a duty, also in this case, to give sufficiently clear directions to the Secretariat.

To this end, it is fundamental that the comparative advantages of each multilateral organization involved in the TFAP process be mobilized and exploited, frankly speaking, in a much more coherent manner than has been the case until now. Thus, the role which each sponsor of the TFAP, that is, UNDP, World Bank, and FAO as well as that of the role that these NGOs can play in support of TFAP must be better and more sharply defined. These matters need to be viewed from a practical and pragmatic angle.

TFAP represents for FAO a challenge as well as an opportunity to demonstrate its willingness, its ability and competence. In our view FAO should primarily be responsible for the scientific and technological guidance in supporting developing countries in developing national forest plans, in identifying and selecting projects, and in coordinating research and data collection.

The other sponsor, UNDP, has the system-wide role of coordinating on a country level a full range of multilateral activities in strengthening capacity building of the tropical forests countries. UNDP should coordinate and manage the financing and execution of pre-investment and technical

assistance activities. Together with the agencies, in this case FAO, the 112 UNDP field offices play a key role in identifying projects, communicating with recipient governments, and the coordination with donor countries at the country and regional level.

The natural responsibility of the World Bank should be the investment operations. The Bank should identify, appraise and supervise tropical forests investment projects related to the TFAP, with the participation of UNDP and FAO.

Many Members of the Council undoubtedly recognize that this is the method of work within the recently established Global Environment Facility in which UNDP, UNEP and the World Bank cooperate. In our statement on this issue to the Ninety-ninth Council this particular cooperative approach was emphasized.

Of course, recipient and donor countries now are well accustomed to this pragmatic division of work. The recipient of funds, whether a government, an NGO or a specialized agency has the primary responsibility to make the project work. The World Bank administers the funds and is responsible for pre-investment and administering technical assistance. The specialized agency, such as FAO, ensures that operations are in line with the scientific and technological standards and gives policy advice to all parties involved.

Obviously, many of these matters referred to are not under the purview of FAO or of this Council. The Director-General seeks the Council's guidance on the next steps this Organization should take and suggests for consideration three options contained in the document.

It seems to us that none of the three options are likely to lead to a timely redivision among the TFAP sponsors of tasks, functions and decisionmaking. Alternatives (a) and (c) certainly bear the risk of leading to further expensive losses in time and tempo, prolonged uncertainty and, in fact, may ultimately undermine FAO's possibility and ability to effectively support multilateral efforts in this field.

Since the process of creating a new mechanism is underway with the Paris Consultations, a decision by the FAO Council on this process, as in option (b) does not seem necessary.

In this context, suffice it to say that it is important that such a mechanism is so designed that the comparative advantages of all the parties involved can be optimally exploited for the benefit of forest countries in the tropics.

Mr Chairman, a final point, which is very much in line with Mr Walton's introduction, for which I thank him, in which he underlined that time is the key issue, what step the FAO Secretariat should take, and the fact that this is not a piece of FAO property. Against this complex background we express the strong desire that the Report from this present Council give clear direction to the FAO Secretariat to go ahead and actively participate in the new mechanism.



**LE PRESIDENT:** Je vois que vous ne reprenez aucune des trois possibilités offertes, dans votre exposé, en demandant de réfléchir à un système rapide et opérationnel qui permettrait de trouver une synthèse des différents points que vous avez soulevés.

**John MACHIN (United Kingdom):** Perhaps I could also start by thanking Mr Walton for his very lucid introduction to this document.

I also share the views of others on the encouraging progress made in Paris in identifying the major choices that have to be made for taking the TFAP forward.

Mr Chairman, very little time remains before UNCED 1992. Therefore, we need to see a faster pace of progress on the outstanding issue, the TFAP reform. In our view the TFAP needs to be clearly defined as the principal mechanism by which developing countries are assisted in implementing their national forestry action plans, in achieving the ITTOs Sustainability 2000 and in enacting the agreements to be reached under Agenda 21 of UNCED.

In our view it is vital also that the TFAP is fully compatible with both ITTO resolutions and the statement of principle on sound management of the world's forests to be agreed at UNCED.

The United Kingdom supports the Geneva draft statement of principles and very much hopes that this will form the basis for agreement at UNCED.

We also consider it vital that the renewed TFAP is accountable to governments and to agencies and, indeed, to the people that it represents. Therefore, we doubt whether a small consultative group - and I emphasize - however well chosen, can achieve this.

Of the options identified in paragraph 8 of CL 100/2, the United Kingdom favours option (c), that is to say, an expanded contact group, which we suggest could meet in January to consider issues of governance and the respective roles of the TFAP advisory groups, FAO and the TFAP coordinating units. The results of this expanded contact group could then be considered by the UNCED PrepCom IV when it discusses Agenda 21.

In conclusion we would like to emphasize the importance of bringing together the work of UNCED and the renegotiation of the International Tropical Timber Agreement in coordination with the renewal of TFAP. In our view it is essential that the role of FAO in this process is both clearly defined and monitorable.

Finally, we reaffirm our commitment to full participation in the TFAP. We sincerely urge FAO to address the challenge of reform with all the urgency that the problem of global deforestation merits.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je vois que vous prenez clairement position pour l'option c) du document qui vous est soumis.

**Ms Marasee SURAKUL (Thailand):** Although Thailand was a non-participant in the Consultation in Paris on Tropical Forests Action Programme last September, we have followed this matter with keen interest.

On behalf of my Government I would like to express our appreciation to the Government of France for hosting this important Consultation. I am certain that this Consultation did not limit itself to only tropical forest countries or industrialized countries, but was also concerned with the world community, in particular the world environmental issues.

The participants of this consultative group should also receive our congratulations. We regret that the group did not complete all of the issues related to TFAP because of time constraints.

I shall limit my remarks to the Council's invitation given in paragraph 8 of document CL 100/2 to give guidance to the next steps to be taken.

My delegation is of the opinion that option (c) is our preference. However, we have a further suggestion that in setting up the ad hoc group, the membership of the tropical forest countries should be expanded to more than six countries, while that of industrialized countries and other parties remain constant. This is due to the likelihood that tropical forest countries have differing interests and policies on management, conservation and sustainable development of forests.

**Harald HILDEBRAND (Germany):** First of all I would like to thank Mr Walton for his clear and transparent introduction to this topic.

Germany's Government has actively supported the Tropical Forests Action Plan from the very beginning and has taken an active part in its implementation with the possibilities of our development cooperation. The potential for intensifying and improving international cooperation was identified by a number of encouraging TFAP country plans by elaborating comprehensive and transparent planning and coordination bases.

The experience gathered since 1985 has shown, as outlined in detail by the independent review of the TFAP, the Ullsten Report, that there is an urgent need to overcome bottlenecks and difficulties that exist, above all in the fields of TFAP management, quality protection and financing, as well as participative implementation which substantially restricts the sufficiency of the TFAP instruments.

We are, therefore, of the opinion that the reform step outlined by the mentioned report and other analyses to overcome these difficulties must be implemented energetically and without delay with a view to establishing the acceptance and the momentum of the TFAP as a central international cooperation mechanism in the tropical forest sector.

The establishment of the TFAP consultative group, which has been long proposed, in our view is a very important step within the framework of the TFAP process of reform. We welcome the fact that a consensus was reached on the function of such a body at the meeting of the contact group in Paris

last September. Even though a number of institutional questions have still to be settled, such as composition and selection of members, we feel that FAO in cooperation with the other co-sponsors, UNDP and the World Bank, should now take concrete steps to establish this consultative group in the near future. Therefore, my Government would favour option (b) of the document under review.

We thus hope that this Council Session will support with a vote in this sense, the urgent need to make convincing TFAP progress, in particular in light of the forthcoming UN Conference on Environment and Development. We also welcome the fact that FAO has taken the necessary steps, or intends to do so, through budgetary and personnel adjustments in the Forestry Department, enabling it to assume its functions more effectively in the fields of TFAP management and coordination. The TFAP will remain an important and fundamental instrument of coordination and cooperation for our bilateral development cooperation with the partner countries in the tropical forestry sector if these indispensable steps of reform are implemented in a convincing way without delay. Until the central reform is carried out we will continue to focus our support on the TFAP country programmes which are already underway or completed.

**Paulo Estivallet DE MESQUITA (Brazil):** From the outset Brazil has supported the efforts to renew and reinforce the Tropical Forestry Action Plan. This support stems on the one hand from the importance attached by the Brazilian Government to the underlying principles of the TFAP and on the other hand from the recognition that its accomplishments have fallen short of the expectations. In this connection we stated in the last Council Session that a positive outcome might encourage Brazil to move towards full participation in TFAP.

Unfortunately, however, the revamping process seems to have gone somewhat astray. In fact we believe that the current debate on institutional arrangements misses the point, deviating attention from the structural causes of deforestation and from the main flaws in international cooperation, such as trade distortions and the lack of adequate and timely funding. These misgivings notwithstanding, Brazil has participated, and intends to continue to participate, in the revamping process with an open mind. We recognize the keen interest that some developed countries attach to the creation of a consultative group. We are therefore prepared to continue discussions on the possibility of establishing such a mechanism. If such conditions are met we hope it may turn out to provide a useful forum. We also expect our flexibility to be matched by a similar disposition on the part of the developed countries to address what we consider to be the main external cause of deforestation.

With regard to document CL 100/2 the third alternative in para 8 is the only one which we could accept. If the discussions are to continue they should ensure the broadest possible participation as a means of ensuring the legitimacy of any decisions that may be reached. No conclusions should be taken for granted. We recognize the right of those who were not present at the Paris consultation to revisit the functions of the proposed mechanism as they were agreed in that meeting, just as we find it necessary

to discuss in depth each and every one of the other issues listed in para 3 of the appendix, as well as the proposed definition of the TFAP's goals and objectives. We must also ensure that there is no interference whatsoever with the inset process be it on substance or on timing. In any case we think that the proposed ad hoc group could not meet before next year, given the heavy schedule of meetings in the coming weeks.

As a final remark I would like to stress once more that we do not see the creation of a consultative group as the apex of the revamping process which should actually culminate in the achievement by the tropical countries of a higher degree of autonomy in the design of national forest plans that are to be supported by TFAP.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je voudrais vous faire une proposition, qui serait d'entendre sur ce point l'Indonésie, l'Inde et le Japon. Nous arriverons ainsi à la moitié des interventions puisqu'il y a encore onze interventions.

Je proposerais, après le Japon, de suspendre l'examen de ce point, que je voudrais poursuivre de façon complète et approfondie ce soir et éventuellement demain en début de matinée, de façon à reprendre l'examen du point 17.1: Propositions d'amendements à l'Acte constitutif et au Règlement général de l'Organisation, et entendre, ensuite, le Président du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques faire le point de la situation. Je demanderai à son Excellence l'Ambassadeur de Colombie de nous faire la synthèse de tous les travaux et des multiples réunions formelles et informelles qu'il a bien voulu présider avec beaucoup de compétence et nous examinerons ce qui peut être fait dans le cadre de ce point 17.

**Paolo Estivallet DE MESQUITA (Brésil):** Avez-vous l'intention de reprendre le point 17 pour le finir maintenant? Parce que dans ce cas j'aurais peut-être quelques problèmes car des textes viennent d'être distribués et on a du mal à avoir des consultations.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je n'ai pas l'intention de finir d'examiner. Simplement, il s'agit "d'acter" l'existence de ce texte sur lequel la Conférence devra se prononcer. Il s'agit d'une question de procédure, pas d'une question de vote. Si vous permettez, nous suspendrons, après avoir entendu le Japon. Si vous avez des objections nous reporterons ce point, si aucun des membres du Conseil ne soulève la moindre objection, sur la procédure qui sera proposée par le Comité et par le Président du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques. Nous pourrions suivre les suggestions qui seront faites. Sinon, il est évident que l'on reportera ce point à demain. Mais je demanderais de poursuivre encore en écoutant l'Indonésie et le Japon avant de suspendre pour un temps bref la discussion de ce point particulièrement important pour notre ordre du jour.

**Miss Ting WEN LIAN (Malaysia):** Just a point of clarification; are we to understand that after Japan you intend to suspend this afternoon's work?

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je n'ai pas l'intention de suspendre les travaux, mais de les poser quelque peu et de continuer; mais il est vraisemblable que nous ne pourrons pas achever ce point avant demain matin, parce que nous avons de nombreux orateurs inscrits et nous devons terminer à une heure raisonnable pour des raisons que connaissent les représentants du Royaume de Suède. Je voudrais simplement dire que l'on va arriver à la moitié de la liste des orateurs inscrits, et nous écouterons les autres orateurs après la reprise du point 17 qui, je le souhaite, ne prendra pas beaucoup de temps.

**Miss Ting WEN LIAN (Malaysia):** If, as I think, you are suggesting that we just listen to three more speakers on this item and then proceed to start Item 17, my delegation would like to suggest that for the purpose of continuity we should finish the debate on this item before we go on to Item 17.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je vous remercie de votre question. Je crois que le Président du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques voudrait pouvoir intervenir maintenant. Il ne sera pas libre demain. Je crois que par déférence pour notre collègue et ami le Président du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques, il faudrait que nous puissions voir de façon très claire ce que vous souhaitez. Peut-être puis-je demander à l'Ambassadeur Poulidès ses convenances et ses disponibilités. M. Poulides, Président du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques, fait remarquer que nous avons interrompu ce matin l'examen du point 17 de façon à arriver à un consensus. Je crois qu'en ce qui concerne le point qui nous est soumis, c'est-à-dire le point 7, il serait souhaitable que l'on arrive, pour la procédure, à un consensus, après avoir entendu tous les membres du Conseil qui désirent intervenir et si j'ai proposé de m'arrêter après le Japon, c'est pour la simple raison que nous arrivons à la moitié des orateurs inscrits. Nous avons 22 orateurs inscrits, et le Japon est le onzième intervenant.

**Miss Ting WEN LIAN (Malaysia):** My delegation would like to insist that we proceed with this item instead of having it by installments because this is just as important as the other items on the agenda.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je ne conteste pas son importance alors dans ce cas, je demanderais au Président du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques d'être ici demain matin à 9 heures 30 et nous allons poursuivre nos travaux que nous avons interrompus et qui concernent le point 17. Je m'excuse de cette interruption. Je crois qu'elle a été profitable, et nous allons maintenant poursuivre l'examen du point 7 en souhaitant une excellente soirée à l'Ambassadeur Poulidès et nous nous réjouissons de le revoir demain matin.

**Doddy S. SUKADRI (Indonesia):** I would like to join the other delegations in expressing our thanks to the Secretariat and to Mr Walton for the comprehensive and clear explanation of this matter.

My delegation followed with attention the forestry and forestry development as it relates significantly to the national, socio-economic and environmental development of the country. Indonesia has participated actively in the preparation and implementation of the Tropical Forestry Action Plan which later on was known as Tropical Forestry Action Programme. In this connection I would like once again to inform the Council that Indonesia has currently carried out an in-depth review and analysis of forestry sector development. Moreover intensive consultation with the relevant government and independent sectors, including NGOs, have already taken place.

My delegation wishes to inform the Council that the final draft resolution of national forestry action document will be discussed in the consultative meeting on Indonesia Forestry Action Programme to be held in Jakarta on the 11th and 12th of November, next week.

This meeting will be followed up by the Indonesian Tropical Forestry Programme Round Table Type 3, which is scheduled for 24-26 February 1992.

Mr Chairman, my delegation takes note of the outcome of the meeting on revamping the TFAP held in Geneva in March 1991 which was followed by the Paris consultation on TFAP on 13-14 September 1991. We are happy to note that the meetings have come to the consensus that the TFAP should be based on a national policy orientated multi- sectoral, multi-disciplinary approach to forest management, conservation and sustainable development, and involving greater participation of all relevant factors. However, my delegation does not see the need to duplicate the existing mechanism as we feel that the technical competence of FAO should continue to play the coordinating role for the Tropical Forests Action Programme.

To this end, we are open to explore further the subject under consideration, but particularly from the point of view of strengthening FAO's capacity.

Regarding the development of the TFAP, I have read with great attention Report CL 100/2. It is brief but clear. It shows the strong efforts that FAO should put in to follow up on the decision of the last Session of the Council.

Finally, what we need now is how to continue and strengthen our efforts for conservation, development and management of our forests.

With regard to the three options which are considered in document CL 100/2, my delegation has no doubt that there is only one option before us, and that is option C.

**Vishu BHAGWAN (India):** In the last Session of the Council we discussed the developments regarding the revamping of the Tropical Forests Action Plan and welcomed a shift from donor-driven to country-led initiatives. It was also noted that as many as 84 countries had completed the Programme exercises in this regard. However, there has been little progress in the implementation of these plans.

In the last Council we also examined the question of the creation of a Consultative Group on TFAP as if this was the key to speeding up the implementation of this programme. However, at that time, we felt that the idea needed to be further reviewed by a contact group as it was not certain as to what would be the functions of the proposed CG or what would be its constitution and how it would benefit the TFAP. Now the Report of the contact group has become available. Unfortunately, it had a short time at its disposal and the Report is incomplete. The contact group has only been able to identify the functions of the proposed consultative group.

My delegation feels that the Programme as it stands needs to be financially supported for an effective take-off. FAO is in a position to provide the requisite technical support in preparing, helping and implementing the programme, and the proposed CG will only be some kind of an unnecessary duplication.

My delegation appreciates the work of the Forestry Division in producing the very precise and succinct Report indicating possible alternatives. We support alternative (c) in paragraph 8 proposing further discussion to reach a final conclusion on the unresolved questions, and once it is finalized to reach a final decision. In the meanwhile, my delegation hopes that the implementation of the TFAP will be speeded up by the efforts of national governments.

**Kiyoshi SAWADA (Japan):** The issue of environmental development is one of the biggest concerns of my Government now, including a fund contribution. With regard to forestry, we advocate that it is highly important to pursue sustainable development with consideration on a natural ecosystem. Along these lines, we expect TFAP to be reviewed so as to step up its activities to encourage tropical forest countries to tackle conservation and sustainable development of their forests.

Regarding the three options reported by the Secretariat in identifying the new body, my Government would like to select (a) after due consideration. In particular, we hope that the Committee on Forest Development in the Tropics will provide us with a chance to have further consultation to debate this matter.

Choosing (c), it seems difficult to set ad hoc group meetings in the time schedule of the series of meetings to be held next June.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je vous remercie de votre intervention. Le Japon a clairement pris position pour l'option a), option qui ne reçoit ni l'agrément ni le sponsorship, le parrainage, de la Banque mondiale et du PNUD. Avant de poursuivre la liste des orateurs, je voudrais donner lecture des intervenants. Nous sommes à la moitié des interventions. Il me reste sur la liste, Madagascar, Cap-Vert, Mexique, Canada, Congo, Australie, Etats-Unis, Trinité-et-Tobago, Pakistan, Royaume du Maroc, Argentine, Cuba et j'ai également deux observateurs.

Avant de passer à Madagascar, je voudrais, à l'intention du Conseil, vous expliquer pourquoi j'ai fait la proposition de suspendre un moment la discussion de ce point. Je crois que la demande qui a été faite par l'honorable Ambassadeur de la Malaisie provient du fait qu'elle n'était pas là ce matin, et nous avons suspendu la session ce matin en indiquant qu'elle serait reprise dans le courant de l'après-midi après une série de réunions qui ont abouti à un document. De toute façon, le temps dont nous disposerons pour l'examen de ce document sera d'autant plus grand que ce point ne sera pas examiné aujourd'hui mais demain matin. J'émet le vœu que durant la nuit, le document qui fait l'objet du classement, CL 100/2 qui est le texte unique proposé par le Président du Comité d'Etats Membres chargés d'examiner les amendements au texte fondamental de l'Organisation, puisse occuper une part importante de la nuit qui nous sépare de la prochaine séance plénière qui se tiendra demain matin à 9 heures 30. Maintenant, je me permets, compte tenu du nombre d'orateurs, de vous demander avec insistance le plus de concision possible, concision bien sûr alliée à la clarté en ce qui concerne les prises de position et les options choisies. Je voudrais passer la parole à l'honorable représentant de Madagascar.

**Raphaël RABE (Madagascar):** Ma délégation voudrait remercier M. Walton pour la présentation de ce sujet et associer nos remerciements au Département des forêts pour la préparation des documents qui nous sont soumis. Avant de traiter les éléments du document CL 100/2, ma délégation voudrait dire quelques mots à propos du PAFT rénové. Il me semble important de rappeler les dispositions de ce nouveau PAFT. Ce nouveau PAFT devra adopter une orientation basée sur la multi-disciplinarité et regrouper l'ensemble des secteurs considérés par le développement rural. Il devra renforcer les capacités nationales de planification et de développement dans le secteur forestier, promouvoir la coopération régionale et appuyer des mesures favorisant la participation active et effective des communautés rurales à la protection et à l'aménagement des ressources forestières.

Voilà des objectifs qui nous conviennent parfaitement et nous souhaitons vivement que l'on aille franchement de l'avant dans la mise en oeuvre de ce nouveau Programme. Nous sommes heureux de relever que le Programme de travail et budget 1992-93 prévoit d'accorder des ressources supplémentaires au Sous-Programme 2.3.1.5 traitant du PAFT. Malheureusement, le montant est assez faible; aussi faudrait-il d'autres contributions. La question primordiale qui se pose est donc de savoir comment sensibiliser les donateurs, comment mobiliser les fonds nécessaires à la mise en oeuvre de ce Programme. Nous aussi, nous sommes convaincus que ce n'est certainement pas par le canal du groupe consultatif qu'on y arrivera car, semble-t-il, ce groupe s'interdit de discuter de questions financières. Dans sa forme actuelle, en tout cas, le mandat assez flou qui est le sien lui ferait faire double emploi avec les services compétents de la FAO.

Aussi choisissons-nous, nous aussi, l'option c) du paragraphe 8 du document CL 100/2.



Aguinaldo LISBOA RAMOS (Cap-Vert): Je remercie M. Walton et le Secrétariat de l'exposé et des documents soumis à notre appréciation.

Je serai très bref à ce stade de la discussion. La délégation du Cap-Vert estime que le groupe de contact mis en place par le Conseil à sa quatre-vingt-dix-neuvième session a fait un bon travail quoique, par manque de temps, il n'ait pas réussi à analyser toutes les questions qui lui étaient soumises.

Cependant, nous considérons prématurée la création d'un groupe consultatif étant donné que le travail qu'il devrait accomplir pourra très bien être réalisé par l'appareil de coordination de la FAO, qui a l'expérience et la compétence voulues. La création d'un tel groupe entraînerait de doubles emplois, un gaspillage de fonds et l'affectation d'une expertise qui pourrait être utilisée à d'autres fins telles que des activités relatives aux forêts, à l'environnement, à l'agriculture durable, à la pêche, etc.

A notre avis, un groupe ad hoc doit être mis en place le plus tôt possible pour approfondir la réflexion et rendre compte à la réunion du Comité du Programme, en mai 1992. Nous appuyons donc la proposition c) du paragraphe 8 du document CL 100/2.

**Elias REYES BRAVO (México):** Después de varios años de iniciativas en muchos de los países tropicales no se ha logrado detener la deforestación a nivel mundial. En virtud de esta grave situación, mi delegación puntualiza que México ha estado en un proceso de reformulación de su propio Programa de Acción Forestal Tropical, buscando mecanismos más efectivos y una orientación precisa de las estrategias que permitan el alcance de los objetivos a nivel nacional. En ese sentido, el enfoque del PAFT México parte de premisas específicas como las siguientes: ver al plan más que como un programa como un proceso continuo. El aspecto de las selvas no se reduce al forestal; los problemas sociales y económicos deben ser contemplados. Depositar en la gente local el futuro del manejo forestal, hacer que el sector forestal contribuya a satisfacer las necesidades de la población sin que este desarrollo comprometa los recursos para generaciones futuras.

Mi delegación desea expresar el interés, la importancia que ha concedido al PAFT. Estimamos que la FAO es el foro que puede alentar el proceso operativo y formal en torno del PAFT, y que a través de esta Organización debiera y pueden canalizarse mayores recursos para la ejecución del Programa de Acción Forestal. Sin embargo, consideramos que optando por la propuesta c) que nos presenta el documento, y teniendo como factor positivo el alentar un proceso de toma de decisión que nos llevase un poco más de tiempo, optamos por el inciso c) pero no negando la posibilidad de que si se llega a considerar estrictamente necesario reforzar un órgano ejecutivo, estaríamos considerando en ese mediano o largo plazo la posibilidad de un comité consultivo.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** México ha tomado su opción para el punto c) sin excluir el punto b), diciendo que se trata de un organismo ejecutivo que realmente es únicamente consultivo. Hay una pequeña contradicción, pero su opción parece ser la del punto c).

**David DRAKE (Canada):** The Canadian delegation would like to thank Mr Walton for his helpful and clear introduction to this item.

At the last Council session, Canada joined many other nations in emphasizing the importance of renewing the TFAP, the need for transforming it into a country-led process and the requirement for an improved coordination, information and monitoring function. In the interests of brevity, we would like to simply re-affirm our statement to this effect made at the June Council, and concentrate primarily in this session on the issue on which the Council's guidance is being sought, that is the choice of how the FAO should proceed from this point onwards.

As the Secretariat has outlined, since the Council last met there have been important developments relating to the TFAP which issued from the meeting in Paris, this September. If we may characterize the process until now in broad terms, the Geneva meeting established a consensus for the necessity of a consultative mechanism. The meeting in Paris in turn helped define functions for such an entity. A significant proportion of the concerns expressed when this Council last met have therefore been addressed.

While questions of composition and access of such a forum still remain to be ironed out, we believe that these can be fully accommodated within the context of a consultative framework. Canada respects the views of those Member States which may retain concerns over the workings of a consultative mechanism. Our main concern is to see that the momentum of the Geneva and Paris meetings is not lost and that the positive dialogue on tropical forestry is continued, without risking further slippage in resolving critical ongoing problems with the TFAP.

The future of TFAP is currently in the balance. In the view of our delegation therefore, this Council must focus first and foremost on maintaining and building the level of development activities for country-led tropical forest management in the developing nations delivered through the TFAP framework.

Council Members recognize that donor confidence is key to revitalizing the TFAP and needs to be swiftly re-established.

We are confident that the prompt creation of a consultative forum would lead rapidly to increased donor confidence, as emphasized by various Member States at the last Council session.

The choices before us are clear. It is equally apparent to this Council that this Council will be an important turning-point for the TFAP. We submit therefore that it is essential that the TFAP process not falter at this stage. In our view, the most effective and timely way of continuing the dialogue is through a consultative forum.

The Canadian delegation is not overly comfortable with the wording of any of the three options contained in document CL 100/2. Nevertheless, our strong desire for the rapid establishment of a consultative forum generally conforms to option (b). Given the choice before us in this document, we strongly recommend that the Council endorse this option. As one of the foremost bilateral tropical forestry donors, Canada intends to participate fully and actively in a consultative forum. Canada strongly encourages the FAO to do likewise. The inability of the FAO to participate in a consultative forum would diminish the impact of the forum. Conversely, as such a mechanism may well be formed whether or not the FAO participates in it, the absence of the FAO would diminish the role and influence of the FAO in tropical forestry across-the-board. This is not a desirable outcome.

My delegation would like to take this occasion to reiterate our view that if the FAO is to maintain a leadership role in the TFAP, the organization must demonstrate institutional commitment to the TFAP. An important measure of such commitment would be a regularization of the TFAP planning framework as well as coordination and funding mechanisms within the regular FAO structure. The present status of the TFAP as primarily a trust fund-generated exercise needs to be revisited. In our view this means establishing a better balance between extrabudgetary and regular funding. We encourage the Secretariat to consider all ways and means of integrating TFAP more fully within the Organization.

In summary, Mr Chairman, the Canadian delegation would like to reaffirm its commitment to the TFAP process and the FAO's role as a co-sponsor of the TFAP. We strongly support moving promptly toward the formation of a consultative forum in which FAO should play an effective role. FAO's participation in a consultative forum should be seen as a critical step in strengthening both the TFAP process and the activities which take place within the TFAP framework for the conservation and sustainable development of tropical forest resources of developing nations.

**CHAIRMAN:** Thank you very much for your intervention. Your preference goes to option (b).

**Joseph TCHICAYA (Congo):** Je voudrais tout d'abord remercier M. Walton de son exposé introductif fort instructif.

Mon pays, qui est partie prenante du PAFT, suit avec la plus grande attention l'évolution de ce Programme sur lequel nous avons fondé beaucoup d'espoirs. Il faut cependant reconnaître que, jusqu'ici, nos espoirs n'ont pas été comblés. Les engagements de contribution pris n'ont, hélas, pas été tenus. La Consultation de Paris, en raison sans doute de sa brièveté, n'a pas permis aux participants d'examiner toutes les questions en suspens. Il est dommage, par ailleurs, que davantage d'Etats forestiers tropicaux n'aient pas pu prendre part aux travaux de cette Consultation. Aussi sommes-nous en faveur de l'option c), étant entendu que la participation des pays forestiers tropicaux devrait être plus large et que ce groupe devrait se pencher sur toutes les questions relatives au renforcement du PAFT en tenant compte des résultats positifs des réunions précédentes.

Le Congo serait disposé à participer à un tel groupe ad hoc et nous ferons tout pour que la FAO continue à jouer un rôle de tout premier plan dans la mise en oeuvre du PAFT.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Le Congo a pris position en faveur de l'option c), rejoignant la position prise par la Thaïlande, en demandant une représentation élargie.

**Leslie ROSS BROWNHALL (Australia):** With its comparatively small involvement in TFAP, Australia has not been a major participant in the reformulation process. We have, however, followed the debate with great interest as a potential supporter of the Programme and as a country with considerable interest and accumulated expertise in tropical forestry. We have consistently supported the need for an effective TFAP.

The recent review of TFAP has provided the key to re-establishing this programme as a dynamic force for development. The fate of the programme now is fundamentally in the hands of the three remaining sponsors, of whom FAO is an indispensable member, and the participating governments.

Within the last twelve months, the sponsors and governments meeting together with NGOs have proposed the formation of a Consultative Group or Forum, and as recently as September, agreed on the definition of functions for such a Forum.

It would be most unfortunate at this critical stage if the momentum is lost. We fully recognize that there are many important issues that remain to be resolved. However, in our view it is of vital importance to keep the three sponsors working together to provide leadership in the further development of this programme. In this connection, we urge the FAO to spare no efforts in working together with other sponsors towards this end.

Australia believes that on balance sufficient has been agreed between all parties to enable a start to be made with the creation of the new Forum or mechanism, with any unresolved questions to be resolved by consultation as and when they arise. This is clearly not an ideal way in which to proceed but in our view is better than the alternative options put forward in document CL 100/2.

In summary, the Australian delegation: supports the formulation of functions for the proposed "Consultative Forum" as drafted at the Paris Consultation, 13-14 September 1991; hopes that the momentum and focus of current activity can be maintained; and, in order to best achieve this, we support option (b) as outlined in paragraph 8 of Council document CL 100/2. This involves the creation of a new mechanism on the basis of the Paris Consultation and the results of the Geneva Meeting of 6-8 March 1991. This would also ensure the continued involvement of the World Bank and the UNDP. The other options, while possibly more transparent, are less attractive because they are open-ended and inconclusive.

Therefore, we recommend the Council gives its support to option (b) and encourage the Secretariat to participate actively with other sponsors in the creation of the new forum.

**David JOSLYN (United States of America):** To begin with I would like also to join other delegations in thanking Mr Walton for his presentation of this theme, and for the very positive efforts he has made towards bringing this issue to a satisfactory close. I might add that from my point of view, as with the last Council meeting, Mr Walton displays the clearest view in the House. The United States favours a forum using the definition of functions that emerged from the recent meetings in Paris and Geneva hosted by the co-founders of the TFAP. Repeatedly, the United States has urged the co-sponsors - the UNDP, World Bank and FAO - to establish this forum and we again express our conviction that the FAO should participate in such a forum as soon as it is formed. In addition, we would choose to trust those three co-founders to ensure all interests are represented sufficiently in this forum, and if the FAO Secretariat feels it needs further advice on this matter we are ready to participate in any mechanism to provide this advice. It is our opinion that procedural issues affecting the operating methods of the consultative forum should be addressed by the forum itself and should not occupy this Council or Conference.

As we see it, the mission of a broadly representative consultative forum is to increase the level of investment on the ground in countries managing their tropical forests for the benefit of citizens in this and succeeding generations. Increased investment on the ground can occur most rapidly when the TFAP efforts are credible and of high quality. We feel that the consultative forum should help developing countries to achieve this by providing support and acknowledgement of country-led TFAP exercises which are of high quality, innovative and participatory. FAO should be pleased with the overall success of the basic mission of TFAP to raise awareness of the economic and ecological importance of tropical forests. Having successfully completed that phase of the TFAP, FAO should concentrate on assisting countries to build institutional capacity for the better stewardship of forests, more capability in tropical silviculture, regeneration of degraded lands, better analytical skills and other aspects of tropical forest management.

In summary, the United States, therefore, is of the firm opinion that FAO should join with the UNDP and the World Bank in the establishment of the Tropical Forestry Consultative Forum as per option (b), consulting with members from the FAO Governing Bodies again if major issues arise.

We know the participation of tropical countries is essential to the proposed forum. It is our firm hope and belief that by that time the forum actually is convened, most, if not all, tropical countries will see the advantages of participating in this forum.

**Winston RUDDER (Trinidad and Tobago):** Given the lateness of the hour I hope my intervention will be as clear and concise as the document we have before us so that we do not all fall asleep.

The basic concerns we have with respect to the TFAP, whether it is Mark 1 or Mark 2, relate to the interminably long time period and the ever-receding time horizon between diagnosis, analysis, execution and implementation of identified projects. In that regard we regret, notwithstanding Mr Walton's remarks in his introductory statement, the fact that the momentum of the TFAP has been sometimes stymied by an institutional reform process which has itself taken the better part of a

year. Notwithstanding, in anticipation of the possibility and the potential that this new mechanism may provide greater access to increased and unimpeded flows of resources based on the confidence of the donor community and so enable the implementation of the programmes already developed and now lying on shelves in developing countries, we support the call for continuing dialogue. However, there must be consultation amongst the major co-sponsors with in-depth participation by the tropical countries themselves in how that forum should be developed and what are its operational arrangements. In that regard, therefore, we are inclined to support the comments and views shared by others in support of option (c).

In doing so, however, we want to endorse the comments and views which referred to the need for a strengthened and broader role by FAO in the provision of technical support, policy advice and general technical guidance to the activities of the TFAP. We also share the views of those who argue that the tropical countries themselves in any arrangement should have a greater role in respect of the overall governance of the TFAP process.

**S. NAJMUS-SAQIB (Pakistan):** Document CL 100/2 is a concise document and indicates what has been and what could not be achieved at the Paris Consultation on the TFAP. The conclusions are important and objective, but they did not cover all the aspects of the issue. We feel this has to be developed further. The areas that remain uncovered need to be examined. However, my delegation strongly supports option (c) in paragraph 8 of document CL 100/2.

Without going into detail, some points need to be made, however. First, the very composition of any fundamental Consultative Group needs to be approached with a degree of caution. It must always reflect the majority from the beneficiary countries or governments. We feel that this is important, and may tend to solve many of the problems outlined today.

Second, transparency of funds must also be necessary: the sources of fund should be visible and clearly indicated.

Third, duplication of effort between the consultative group and FAO should be avoided. The consultative group should be based in Rome. It should function only in a broad-based advisory capacity and should largely rely on the FAO. When it undertakes this role, FAO should be morally, materially and financially supported.

Notwithstanding the above observations, we concede that these possibilities can be explored within the overall exercise proposed to be carried out under option (c), paragraph 8 of the said document. We conclude by stating that all countries have a right to use their sovereign forest resources as they see fit. However, we also have a duty to our own future generations to manage these forests in a sustainable manner, and I am sure each country is working towards this end.

**Abdesselera ARIFI (Maroc):** Je me réjouis tout d'abord de la présentation qui a été faite de ce point par M. Walton, assez concise et complète.

Je me joins à mon collègue de Madagascar pour exprimer ma satisfaction quant à la place donnée par la FAO aux forêts dans le cadre de ses priorités, même si les montants alloués au titre du prochain biennium sont loin de permettre à l'Organisation de faire face aux besoins sans cesse croissants des pays en voie de développement en la matière.

S'agissant du PAFT, ma délégation estime que la meilleure façon de permettre à celui-ci de rénover, d'aller de l'avant, serait de permettre aux divers coparrains de ce Programme de participer pleinement aux différentes étapes de son processus. Pour cela, ma délégation retient l'option c) qui nous est présentée et espère que la FAO ne ménagera aucun effort pour ce faire.

**Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Maroc):** Je ne pensais pas réellement intervenir et je voudrais juste ajouter un point à la déclaration de mon collègue.

Je voudrais dire que les pays en développement non tropicaux, notamment les pays méditerranéens, d'Afrique du Nord et du Proche-Orient, ont souvent déploré dans cette enceinte qu'un programme semblable au PAFT n'ait pas encore été conçu et mis en oeuvre pour cette région. Les représentants forestiers l'ont aussi fait savoir au sein de la commission forestière du Proche-Orient et de Sylvaméditerranée, les deux organes statutaires de la FAO traitant spécifiquement des questions forestières de cette région.

Une référence à un programme forestier méditerranéen a été faite à l'occasion du dixième Congrès forestier mondial à Paris et figure exclusivement dans la Déclaration de Paris approuvée par le Congrès.

Nous savons que la FAO travaille actuellement à la formulation d'un tel programme et que le document correspondant sera présenté à la prochaine réunion de Sylvaméditerranée en mars 1992 au Portugal. Les pays de la région ne peuvent que s'en réjouir. Ma délégation pense refléter les aspirations de ceux-ci en souhaitant que ce programme forestier méditerranéen soit finalisé au plus vite et puisse servir à renforcer les actions nationales de développement et de conservation des forêts et accroître l'appui de la communauté internationale à ceux-ci.

Ce programme d'action forestier méditerranéen pourrait bénéficier de l'expérience accumulée par les pays tropicaux dans la mise en oeuvre du PAFT et devenir ainsi rapidement opérationnel et efficace.

J'ai eu l'honneur de faire cette déclaration au nom de la délégation de l'Algérie, de la Tunisie ainsi que du Maroc bien entendu.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je remercie M. Sinaceur pour la déclaration faite au nom du Maghreb.

**Jesús SABRA (Argentina):** Es intención de mi país agradecerle, en primer lugar, al Sr. Walton por la introducción que ha hecho al tema y, al mismo tiempo, señalar el apoyo que le asigna nuestro país al Programa de Acción para los Bosques Tropicales. En este orden de ideas, desde la última reunión del Consejo, en nuestro país se ha creado la unidad de seguimiento del PAFT y la designación del coordinador nacional, así como también la

reciente creación de la Dirección de Recursos Forestales. Esto demuestra el interés vivo de nuestro país en todo lo que se refiere a los recursos forestales.

En relación a la consulta, nuestra delegación apoya la opción c), ya que la misma permitirá asegurar la plena participación de los países con bosques tropicales, y a través de esta intervención se logrará un proceso decisorio basado en una mayor participación y en una mayor transparencia en la toma de decisiones.

Quiero ser breve para, atento a lo avanzado de la reunión, aclarar simplemente esta opción.

**Srta. Ana María NAVARRO (Cuba):** Agradecemos la presentación del documento CL 100/2 realizada por el Sr. Walton y que se refiere a las novedades en relación con el PAFT. No sé si recordará, señor Presidente, que mi delegación, en ocasión del 99° Consejo de la FAO, planteó sus preocupaciones ante la creación de este nuevo mecanismo o grupo consultivo, el cual, después de la consulta de París, se denominaría Foro Consultivo. La delegación de Cuba hizo diversas preguntas a la Secretaría sobre la composición, funciones y mandato de este Foro, cuestión que, por lo visto, no pudo ser resuelta en París.

No se trata de que en estos momentos seamos pesimistas u optimistas, como algunos lo han catalogado; se trata de encarar y definir la utilidad y necesaria creación de un nuevo mecanismo; se trata de que son los otros copatrocinadores los más interesados en crearlo. Por otro lado, algunos piensan que están de más las consultas actuales a los países miembros del Consejo de la FAO, pues hay que actuar rápidamente para que los fondos no se diluyan y los donantes no pierdan interés. En este sentido, la delegación de Canadá se refirió a que desde Ginebra se han atendido diversas expectativas.

Es por ello que opinamos que otras consultas formales o informales no está de más realizarlas, en aras de profundizar y estar convencidos de que sus funciones no podrían ser ejecutadas dentro de las estructuras de coordinación existentes en la FAO. Se nos ha insistido mucho en que el PAFT no es propiedad de la FAO, pero opinamos sinceramente que, sin embargo, la FAO ha representado un puntal importante en la aplicación del PAFT en nuestros países y ha garantizado el necesario equilibrio en las preferencias de los donantes y ante las necesidades y solicitudes que nuestros países han realizado a lo largo de estos años; muchas veces, sin esperanzas, por la falta de recursos.

Todos los bosques, en todos los países en desarrollo, necesitan la cooperación internacional para su manejo, conservación y desarrollo sostenible. Por ello, nos preocupa que el debate institucional desvíe la atención de los otros tipos de bosques de los países en desarrollo.

Mi país siempre ha mostrado especial interés en el PAFT y reiteramos nuestra simpatía por su reforzamiento. Si se plantea que este mecanismo se haga y que a la larga será útil a nuestros países, estamos en disposición de analizar las cosas profundizándolas. Por ello, hacemos un llamado a los otros copatrocinadores - a saber, el Banco Mundial y el PNUD - para que



atiendan estas preocupaciones, que estamos seguros de que no estamos haciéndolo en vano.

Por último, para que este mecanismo sea legítimo, debe tener una más amplia participación y debe respetar los objetivos actuales que rigen el PAFT. Mi delegación desea expresar la preocupación que ya ha sido planteada por otras delegaciones. Nos referimos a que los países en desarrollo tienen que asegurar que su soberanía no pueda verse amenazada por esta nueva propuesta, por lo que opinamos que los países en desarrollo deben participar activamente en los debates que afectan al futuro de su soberanía sobre sus recursos forestales.

**José Eduardo MENDES FERRAO (Portugal):** Je voudrais simplement faire une petite réflexion.

Le concept de forêts tropicales comprend un ensemble très vaste de situations diverses de forêts. Il y a non seulement la forêt équatoriale ou forêt des pluies, mais aussi d'autres types de forêt bien différents comme la forêt ouverte ou la forêt xérophytique ou même les régions de forêt où les arbres n'existent plus.

Les problèmes d'aménagement des forêts de différents types sont bien diversifiés.

Pour mieux s'adapter aux différentes situations, nous considérons indispensable de mettre en commun l'expérience et la compétence des techniciens de tous les pays. Les problèmes sont si nombreux, et même ceux d'ordre technique ne sont pas complètement éclaircis.

La coopération internationale est aujourd'hui indispensable, dans le respect total, bien entendu, de la souveraineté des Etats.

La réunion de Paris n'a pas donné la possibilité d'aborder tous les aspects liés aux forêts tropicales et la délégation portugaise exprime l'opinion que des consultations, avec la collaboration de tous les pays, devront continuer, et que la suggestion présentée à l'alinéa c) est une bonne solution.

**Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia):** Estamos de acuerdo, señor Presidente, con algunos aspectos positivos de las declaraciones del Reino Unido y Portugal. Apoyamos plenamente las posiciones de Brasil, Cabo Verde, Congo y Cuba. Opción c). Y, pleno apoyo a la labor excelente del Departamento de Montes.

**Ralph SCHMIDT (UNDP):** Mr Chairman, Mr Walton's very precise and brilliant introduction reminds me of something I heard a couple of weeks ago about optimists and pessimists. The optimist says this is the best of all possible worlds and the pessimist said yes, I am afraid you are right.

Perhaps we can bring the pessimist and the optimist together here, but I must confess that after listening to the debate I am not sure how useful my intervention can be at this point. It is clear that there are various priorities represented in this room. They include national sovereignty, quality of programmes, funding, sustainability. But it would seem to me that all delegates could support all of these priorities.

Perhaps we should look for some common ground. The co-sponsors have worked intensively for more than a year to develop clear recommendations on the future management of the TFAP. There have been wide and continuous consultations in March, April, June and September. Now the co-sponsors have been and are in basic agreement on their recommendations.

However, distinguished delegates, we have not been able to achieve a consensus here. After more than a year of discussing principle and process it is urgent that we move ahead to specific substantial matters. There is a critical need to review the framework within which funds can flow to deserving national forest programmes.

UNDP is on record, as are the other co-sponsors, as favouring the creation of the consultative forum. However, it does not seem to me that the UNDP can go ahead with any kind of formation of a consultative forum with the lack of support that we have heard today, which I believe is all of the tropical and developing countries who have spoken. The forum being envisaged was completely flexible and informal. It in no way pre-empts the UNCED process which could change or modify our working arrangements.

Obviously, UNDP is closely associated with and fully supports UNCED. Obviously, we all need to continue to work to facilitate funding and the effectiveness of forest programmes for the complex and comprehensive discussions of UNCED progress.

I would ask the delegates to consider very carefully where this will leave us if we cannot come to an agreement here this week. It is not the desire of UNDP that funding support for TFAP programmes diminish, but it is my personal view that that is what will happen. Also, I think it is unlikely that an ad hoc group created by the FAO Council will be able to integrate and fully assure the participation of all of the various UN bodies and agencies, not just the co-sponsors who have an interest in TFAP. These organizations, I would respectfully remind you, are waiting, and our view is that they are ready to join in a cooperative effort.

**N'Dinga ASSITAU (Observateur de l'Alliance mondiale pour la nature):** Nous vous remercions de nous avoir permis de nous exprimer ici et maintenant. Nos remerciements vont également à l'endroit de M. Walton pour son exposé introductif. L'Alliance mondiale pour la nature est impliquée dans le PAFT depuis que cette idée a été conçue. Elle considère le PAFT comme instrument international pertinent de coordination des actions en faveur de la gestion rationnelle des forêts tropicales. Cependant, comme nombre d'organisations non gouvernementales, nous avons critiqué le PAFT mais, en vue, essentiellement, d'améliorer ses performances. Et les nouvelles lignes directrices élaborées actuellement dans ce sens répondent à nos préoccupations. Tout en souhaitant la constitution d'un groupe ou d'une structure où toutes les parties pourraient discuter avec efficacité de la mise en oeuvre du PAFT, nous pensons aussi qu'il serait dommageable pour des pays qui participent actuellement au PAFT que les débats actuels achoppent sur la constitution du groupe consultatif. Nous voudrions rappeler à cet égard que le PAFT semble, ou paraît à certains d'entre nous, comme un mirage. Pour nous permettre d'avancer, nous souhaiterions que les débats sur la constitution d'une structure où toutes les parties pourraient discuter de la mise en oeuvre du PAFT, se tiennent dans le cadre d'un Comité ad hoc qui pourrait être mis en place dans les meilleurs délais et

lequel pourrait, dans la mesure du possible, commencer à travailler d'ores et déjà à la définition et à l'attribution dudit groupe.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Merci de votre intervention. Je crois que nous arrivons au terme du débat général, tant des membres du Conseil que des observateurs, et je voudrais immédiatement passer la parole à M. Walton pour répondre aux questions posées et tenter de dégager une synthèse.

Declan WALTON (Special Assistant to the Director-General): If there were to be a vote now I am sure that Option (c) would carry the day. However, I am afraid that if we were to follow that course we would risk losing certain very important factors. The TFAP is a very strange piece of international machinery and in part it is held together with that mysterious element that I can only call confidence. We have heard expressions of lack of confidence in one aspect another today. I think this creates a difficult and dangerous situation for the future of the TFAP and for the role of FAO in it.

It seems to me that creating an ad hoc group to simply go on grinding out these endless discussions on institutional arrangements is going to be an essentially arid procedure whereas what the world is really concerned about is substance. The developing countries are concerned because the TFAP has so far not really delivered the goods. The TFAP has been enormously influenced by the forestry advisories group which consists essentially of the advisors of the donor programmes but even this has not resulted in a flow of resources to the tropical forest countries that could be considered satisfactory by anybody. This has been disclosed in all the reviews that have been made of the TFAP by any source. I seem to remember from much younger days that a London bank had a procedure for marking checks that were not properly drawn up, they wrote on the top "Words and figures do not agree" and I am afraid this has sometimes been the case in the TFAP. The NGOs for their part have many valid points to make about the TFAP starting with the fact the problems of the forest cannot be tackled just by foresters but do need to be looked at in a much broader economic and social context and this has been emphasized by many people on many occasions, including, for example, the remark by the representative for Brazil who drew attention to the much broader aspects that affect this.

Conclusion: can we not create at this session of the Council an ad hoc group on the TFAP with several responsibilities to thrash out the institutional issues that we have been debating and carry it forward but also with the license from the Council to take up and discuss certain matters of substance that could be proposed either by developing countries or by developed countries or perhaps by NGOs and that need to be debated if the TFAP is to be carried forward more effectively in the future than it has been in the past. The ad hoc group could also look at the implications for FAO and the TFAP of the conclusions of the evaluation that has just been started of the multi-donor trust fund on the TFAP. It could look at the possible implications for the TFAP of what is shaping up in the UNCED process. There are a lot of things going on right now that need to be taken into account and for which FAO does not have a piece of machinery and the international community does not have a piece of machinery that really can bring all this together and look at it in a sensible way.

The representative of Malaysia, if I understood her correctly, supported Option (c) provided that it was in the broader context of looking at what she called the governance of the TFAP. I hope I understood her correctly on that. Perhaps that could be understood, but the ad hoc group would be looking at this broader context also on the future of the TFAP.

If this course of action were acceptable to the Council it would be vitally important to try to attract the support and adhesion of the other co-sponsors of the other UN agencies interested in this and of the nongovernmental organizations, otherwise we shall continue endlessly turning in a vacuum. We shall be creating in the universe yet another black hole from which no light escapes. This then would be my suggestion, which I confess I have not had any chance to discuss with anybody, including of course my colleagues on the podium here but which does seem to me to be a valid way forward for FAO to pursue in the present situation. The Council would need to decide on the membership of the ad hoc group, which I think everybody would wish to be broad and not restricted in nature. There would need to be a decision-making process so that the agenda of the ad hoc group could be worked out, and not just imposed by either FAO or the other co-sponsors or anybody else and we would need to look at the logistic and physical arrangements for carrying such an exercise forward expeditiously and I must emphasize if we are not to lose more confidence than we have already lost this has to be done with a real feeling of urgency even if we know that the conclusions are not going to be reached immediately. This is going to be a process extending over several months but it should be started as soon as possible so that we could show the world that we mean business and that FAO is not dragging its feet on TFAP or the tropical forests.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je crois également qu'il résulte du débat que la plupart des intervenants, et en tout cas une grande majorité de ceux-ci, se sont prononcés pour l'option c) Création d'un groupe ad hoc. Il n'y a pas de contradiction totale, que certains ont exprimé leur préférence pour le groupe c) tout en n'excluant pas totalement la solution b).

De toutes façons celle-ci est extrêmement vague: forum consultatif, groupe consultatif... Je crois que l'on peut créer des groupes consultatifs à l'infini. Ce qu'il faut, c'est un groupe. La formule présentée par la Thaïlande et rejointe par le Brésil d'élargir la participation à ce groupe permettrait non pas de se réfugier dans des éléments de procédure, ce qui me paraît extrêmement dangereux pour un groupe, mais de définir le mandat de sa mission, c'est-à-dire ce que doit faire le Plan d'action forestier tropical. Ce groupe doit également, dès le départ, se fixer des délais. Lorsqu'on est tenu par certains délais, on arrive plus facilement à un accord, on finit par trouver un dénominateur commun.

Sans être un spécialiste en la matière, je propose donc, comme vient de le faire M. Walton, de retenir la création de ce groupe ad hoc en l'élargissant, en essayant de définir son mandat et en essayant de se mettre rapidement d'accord sur les délais à respecter pour les différentes étapes, de façon à se hâter - se hâter lentement, mais de manière raisonnable.

Ce groupe ad hoc ne doit pas être essentiellement un groupe de procédure. Il doit au contraire avoir comme seule ambition de renforcer le Plan d'action forestier tropical qui est en cours d'exécution et qui ne dispose certainement pas des moyens financiers nécessaires. Il faut étudier les différentes approches possibles pour le renforcer et ce groupe ad hoc pourrait, en suivant l'option c), effectuer ce renforcement.

Il est important de savoir ce que nous proposons à la Conférence. Nous avons examiné ce point avec une attention particulière et je remercie tous les membres du Conseil d'avoir bien voulu étudier ce document, qui est heureusement un document très court mais substantiel, et d'avoir eu le courage de choisir une option claire, ce qui permettra d'aller de l'avant en créant ce groupe ad hoc, lequel devra veiller à ne pas se cantonner dans des questions de procédure. En effet, lorsqu'on ne veut pas aborder un certain nombre de problèmes, on se réfugie dans la procédure et, une fois que l'on entame des réunions de procédure, on ne les termine jamais.

Ce qu'il faut, c'est définir le mandat de ce groupe, ses objectifs et, en fonction de ces objectifs, fixer un certain nombre de délais.

**David JOSLYN (United States of America):** My desire is to ask a couple of questions of Mr Walton. The description that you laid out for the ad hoc group which you are proposing frankly sounds very much like Option (c) to me. I see no differences unless, of course, there are some aspects of it that would make it different from Option (c).

I have a couple of questions in that regard. In your mind, would the ad hoc group include representatives of Non-Governmental Organizations? That is one question.

The second question is: in your proposal, are you proposing that this ad hoc group be a jointly co-sponsored ad hoc group of UNDP, the World Bank and FAO? Or was your proposal to invite the other co-chairmen to join and leave the participation up to them? Could you be more clear on that?

Then, Mr Chairman, maybe you could tell us how you want to proceed. I would hate to see this essentially closed off at this point. Maybe you would give us some time to think about it over the evening, just some suggestion as to how you think we should proceed, after Mr Walton has answered those questions.

**Declan WALTON (Special Assistant to the Director-General):** The principal difference, as I see it, from Option (c), is that in our wording in the document we have simply proposed a group to handle institutional issues. What I am suggesting is that this group extends its scope to look at substantive issues that are currently of concern within the TFAP. The group would be given a rather wide mandate, in my view, to look at such issues - not just institutional questions but questions of substance relating to the TFAP as a whole.

As an example, I would mention perhaps methodologies. It seems to me that while at one level there may be concern about a too intimate discussion of national plans, that nations will welcome a discussion through such a forum of the methodologies that they might be able to apply in certain areas of

designing their own national plans. I am not suggesting that as an item; I am just giving it as the sort of thing that could be discussed. So therefore beyond institutions.

As far as NGOs are concerned, the Council cannot legislate the participation of NGOs in a body. It can only invite them to come in. I believe that it would be extremely useful to have a number of NGOs participating in such a group, but it might have to be left to the group itself to issue the invitations.

Again, as far as the co-sponsorship by the UNDP and the World Bank is concerned, as the representative of the UNDP said, we have toiled together for just about a year now, and although outside parties have detected divisions amongst us, these divisions have been far more visible to the outside world than they were to me. I thought we got on extremely well and that we managed to solve all our problems and to work in complete harmony.

I would hope that this could be continued and that UNDP and the World Bank would, as an optimal scenario, co-sponsor such a group, if that is constitutionally feasible, or at the very least participate fully in the work of the group which I would see as central to the evolution of the TFAP.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je répondrai, bien sûr, à l'ancien président du CPA, qui a posé une question extrêmement pertinente concernant le but de ce groupe ad hoc: définir un groupe ad hoc par rapport à un comité informel. Nous avons quand même une vaste expérience des comités informels. Il y en a certains qui, magnifiquement dirigés, aboutissent à des solutions qui rencontrent un très large agrément. Que l'on baptise ce groupe "groupe ad hoc" ou "comité informel", cela n'a pas d'importance. Ce qui me semble important, c'est que l'on ne confie pas uniquement à ce groupe ad hoc ou ce groupe informel des tâches de procédure mais un certain nombre de tâches de fond.

Il ne nous appartient pas de préjuger de la poursuite des travaux de ce groupe ad hoc. C'est lui-même qui devra établir son mandat, se fixer des délais et décider qui il devra inviter. C'est au sein du groupe ad hoc qu'il faudra trouver, dans une compréhension mutuelle, les formules les plus opérationnelles et les plus aptes à permettre de répondre aux questions qui se posent. Ces questions sont en partie d'ordre technique; elles sont également d'ordre financier. Comment, compte tenu de l'expérience acquise jusqu'à présent dans le cadre du Plan d'action forestier tropical, tracer la voie future?

J'ai dit que l'on en parlerait au cours de la Conférence, mais il est clair que, dans le cadre de la discussion sur le Programme de travail et budget, un certain nombre de délégués aborderont ce problème. Il appartient maintenant au Conseil de savoir quel mandat il doit donner à la FAO, qui doit jouer un rôle extrêmement important au sein de ce groupe ad hoc ou comité informel, en espérant que le PNUD et la Banque mondiale continueront de participer à ce groupe. Ils y participeront d'autant plus facilement, j'en suis convaincu, que l'on pourra se mettre d'accord au sein de ce groupe sur son mandat et ses objectifs - et si possible, sur des lignes qui ne soient pas contraignantes. Il faut faire preuve d'énormément de souplesse. La procédure selon laquelle le groupe pourrait faire rapport au Comité du programme en mai 1992 laisserait largement le temps au groupe

ad hoc de se structurer, de faire un certain nombre d'expériences, de lancer peut-être un certain nombre d'invitations et d'envisager le type de dialogue à entamer.

De nombreux pays ont exprimé leur souci de voir respecter leur souveraineté. Il est important que ce principe soit sauvegardé au sein de ce groupe mais il est fort possible que le dialogue qui se nouera soit un dialogue constructif, dans l'intérêt de tous.

Avant d'achever le débat, je voudrais donner la parole au représentant du Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement de façon à ce qu'il nous fasse connaître sa réaction.

**Ralph SCHMIDT (UNDP):** In September a year ago, Hollis Murray very ably headed up the Secretariat to the Committee on Forestry which made this exact same recommendation as far as I can hear. We had an ad hoc group to look at a number of institutional and substantive issues. That was the group that reported from Geneva in March and the Report and Recommendations of that group are being largely rejected here. If we are to maintain any credibility that we are moving forward to the outside world, we will need to differentiate very carefully now what we are doing now that is different from what we did fifteen months ago.

**John MACHIN (United Kingdom):** The questions posed by my American colleague were probably in the minds of everyone in the room, not least those of us who put forward their preference for option (c). I must admit that as you yourself, Mr Chairman, began to describe the kind of option you foresaw, I became more confused in trying to differentiate it from what Mr Walton had said, and wondered why perhaps the more substantive issues - which I thoroughly agree with him should be addressed - were perhaps not reflected in that option. Nevertheless, that is water under the bridge.

There are a number of important principles in the establishment of the ad hoc group. First, it must have a wider membership. Second, this Council set its agenda and especially timetable. It cannot be an open-ended process - we should set a number of signposts. The first is the meeting in December of the Committee on Forest Development in the Tropics; the second is the UNCED PrepCom IV in March; and the third is the Programme Committee meeting in May. It is also important in our view that the new group works closely with the UNCED process and possibly reports to UNCED. We must be clear, Mr Chairman, on to whom the group will be responsible and to whom it should report.

I very much agree with what the representative of the UNDP has just said. I would like to make the suggestion, which my delegation would certainly find very helpful in order to reflect on your helpful suggestions, and particularly the crucial points of the UNDP representative, that perhaps the Secretariat could put together a brief piece of paper that we could look at tomorrow, on the basis of which the Council could take a decision, because certainly we need, as my American colleague suggested, to reflect overnight.

**Declan WALTON (Special Assistant to the Director-General):** I do not think it is at all correct that the findings in March have been rejected here. On the contrary, the most significant findings in the most extensive part of the March Report have been accepted and adopted and passed into the general consensus on the future of the TFAP. It is only on certain aspects of institutional issue, which was only one paragraph in the Geneva March Report, that these problems and doubts have arisen.

Furthermore, I would point out that the March meeting was a group of individual experts, it was not a group of governments, whereas now we are at the stage where we have to have governments expressing their views, not individuals.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Il y a une chose importante, c'est que le groupe ad hoc sera composé de membres responsables de la FAO et définira lui-même les termes de sa mission. Je n'écarte pas la possibilité de tirer la synthèse demain en début de session à 9 heures 30, mais je crois qu'il ne faut pas s'enfermer dans un cadre ni dans un texte rigide qui serait fatalement quelque peu contraignant. Si nous tirons des conclusions rigides pour l'établissement de ce groupe ad hoc et pour la définition des termes de référence de sa mission avec une indication de délai de travail, nous sommes en contradiction avec nous-mêmes puisque l'option c) est une option par excellence souple et qui laisse à ce groupe ad hoc le soin de régler son autodiscipline et de fixer ses propres règles du jeu en invitant éventuellement, soit des organisations gouvernementales, soit d'autres organisations en fonction de ce qu'il est utile de faire. Donc, il appartiendra au groupe ou au comité ad hoc de fixer ses règles du jeu. Je ne crois pas qu'il soit bon qu'on établisse un texte de base. Ce texte serait insuffisant. Ce qui compte davantage, c'est une ouverture, un esprit et que les membres de ce groupe ad hoc, dont la composition devrait être élargie sur le plan de la représentation des pays bénéficiaires du programme d'action forestier tropical, assume ses responsabilités pour la définition de sa tâche.

**David DRAKE (Canada):** Please excuse me for intervening, but I would like to support the point of view just put forward by the delegate for the United Kingdom. I think it is a very constructive suggestion. I believe that we would not necessarily hold the Secretariat responsible for everything that is in there - it is just simply a paper which would help orient us and allow us to reflect overnight until we take the debate up again. Therefore, I would like to strongly support the suggestion made by the delegate from the United Kingdom.

**Miss Ting WEN LIAN (Malaysia):** I would like to take up the point that Mr Walton has just made - that it is now for governments to give their views. I made it very clear in our statement that tropical forest countries should give their views on the revamped TFAP, because we are talking about our sovereign forest resources. It is the views of governments that will now be needed, and the ad hoc group should be open to the participation of all tropical forest countries, because we are the owners of the sovereign forest resources.



**LE PRESIDENT:** Je remercie Mme. l'Ambassadeur de Malaisie. Je proposerai que le Secrétariat prépare un très court document qui serait un document informel, parce que je ne crois pas qu'il soit bon d'avoir un document qui constitue un cadre rigide. Ce document informel peut tenter de refléter la sensibilité et l'opinion du Conseil qui s'est clairement exprimé et permettra au groupe ou au comité ad hoc sur la base d'une documentation informelle, d'essayer de déterminer les termes de référence de ce qu'il entend faire sous sa responsabilité en définissant, non pas les procédures qu'il compte suivre, mais les objectifs qu'il estime devoir remplir.

Si vous êtes d'accord sur cette proposition, je proposerai de ne pas clôturer ce point de l'ordre du jour, de le reprendre demain à 9 heures 30 précises, en étant le plus bref possible. Il est relativement tard, je ne crois pas qu'il soit possible de poursuivre plus avant nos travaux.

**Miss Ting WEN LIAN (Malaysia):** I would just like to have your assurance now that whatever paper the Secretariat is going to put up, Council Members will have an opportunity to comment on it.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Il va de soi qu'à partir du moment où le document est absolument informel il peut faire l'objet de toutes les modifications voulues après la séance du Conseil, avant la réunion du groupe ad hoc et pendant la première réunion de ce groupe ad hoc.

Je vais vous proposer maintenant le programme de travail de la journée de demain qui sera très substantiel.

Nous avons interrompu nos travaux sur le point 17 et si vous le permettez, nous commencerons à 9 heures 30 par le point 17.1 en souhaitant qu'en moins d'une demi-heure nous arriverons à un large accord sur la procédure à suivre.

Nous reviendrons ensuite au point 7. Le document sera distribué en début de séance, de sorte que vous aurez l'occasion d'étudier ce document dès demain matin, parce qu'il est important que vous en preniez connaissance, étant entendu qu'il s'agira d'un document informel qui ne reflète pas une proposition tranchée, fixe, rigide et définitive.

Ensuite, nous passerons à l'examen des programmes de terrain 1990-91. Comme on a déjà longuement discuté de ces questions au Comité du Programme, on pourra l'examiner rapidement. Je vous demanderai un effort de concision et de brièveté sur le point 12.

Ensuite, on examinera le point 13 concernant la mise en oeuvre des conclusions de l'Examen de certains aspects des buts et opérations de la FAO. C'est un examen qui ne prendra pas beaucoup de temps. Nous avons également pour information un rapport sur la préparation de la Conférence de Rio. Nous avons un très bref rapport sur les sessions qui n'ont pas pu se tenir et quelques points mineurs qui pourront être parcourus rapidement.

Il reste une tâche importante pour le Comité de rédaction qui va se tenir sous la présidence de M. Sinaceur du Royaume du Maroc. Sa première séance aura lieu ce soir après le Conseil. Le Comité de rédaction se réunira à la salle du Mexique et poursuivra ses travaux demain dans l'après-midi

Notre séance de demain matin sera une séance au "finish". Nous continuerons de façon à épuiser l'ordre du jour qui nous est soumis, et nous fixerons avec votre accord bien sûr, la date précise et l'heure d'adoption du rapport de notre Conseil.

Je vous remercie de votre patience. Il est tard, nous avons fait du bon travail aujourd'hui grâce à vous tous.

Avant de lever la séance, je donne la parole à M. Sinaceur.

**Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Maroc):** Je vois que les amateurs de sport se sont déjà levés, parce que nous avons une très bonne soirée de football en perspective, mais les membres du Comité de rédaction auront autre chose à faire.

Au niveau de l'adoption du calendrier, vous aviez dit, M. le Président, que les points 12 et 14 seraient abordés en même temps. Or, j'ai entendu: les points 12, 13 et 14.

**LE PRÉSIDENT:** Je crois que vous avez mal entendu, parce que je n'ai pas parlé du point 14. Le point 14 est fusionné dans le point 12.

The meeting rose at 20.00 hours.

La séance est levée à 20 heures.

Se levanta la sesión a las 20.00 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 100/PV/5

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**Hundredth Session**

**Centième session**

**100° período de sesiones**

FIFTH PLENARY MEETING  
CINQUIEME SEANCE PLENIERE  
QUINTA SESIÓN PLENARIA  
(7 November 1991)

The Fifth Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.30 hours

Mr Antoine Saintraint, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La cinquième séance planiere est ouverte à 9 h 30

sous la présidence de M. Antoine Saintraint. Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la quinta sesión plenaria a las 9.30 horas

bajo la presidencia del Sr. Antoine Saintraint. Presidente Independiente del Consejo

**LE PRESIDENT:** Nous avons travaillé vite et bien lors de notre dernière séance plénière. Je suis convaincu que nous allons procéder de la même façon au cours de la cinquième et dernière séance plénière de notre Conseil et nous allons examiner un certain nombre de points, dont deux ont déjà fait l'objet d'un débat. Nous examinerons d'abord le point 17 concernant les propositions d'amendements à l'Acte constitutif. Nous examinerons ensuite les faits nouveaux concernant le programme d'action pour les forêts tropicales et un document vous a été distribué qui est le résultat de la discussion d'hier. Il s'agit du document CL 100/INF/14, qui est à votre disposition. Nous passerons ensuite à l'examen des programmes de terrain, à la mise en oeuvre de conclusions de l'examen de certains aspects des buts et opérations de la FAO pour information. On fera l'état de la situation et des préparatifs de la prochaine Conférence des Nations Unies sur l'environnement et le développement. Un bref rapport sera fait sur les réunions hors programme et les réunions annulées et on examinera d'autres questions constitutionnelles et juridiques concernant l'invitation d'organisations non gouvernementales et un changement de nom de la Commission des forêts pour l'Amérique latine. Si vous donnez votre accord, j'ai l'intention d'essayer, dans la mesure du possible, de terminer nos travaux ce matin, quitte à prolonger quelque peu la séance à 13 h-13 h 30. Je vous remercie de toutes les interventions qui ont eu lieu jusqu'à présent. Je crois que les travaux d'hier nous ont permis d'avancer considérablement. Si nous avançons au même rythme ce matin, on peut prévoir de terminer notre séance plénière vers 13 heures, ou peut-être même quelques minutes après.

Je déclare donc ouverte la cinquième séance plénière de notre Conseil. Je salue la présence du Président du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques, et je lui passe la parole.

IV. CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS (continued)

IV. QUESTIONS CONSTITUTIONNELLES ET JURIDIQUES (suite)

IV. ASUNTOS CONSTITUCIONALES Y JURIDICOS (continuación)

17. Report of the 57th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (Rome, 21-23 October 1991) including: (continued)

17. Rapport de la cinquante-septième session du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques (Rome, 21-23 octobre 1991). notamment: (suite)

17. Informe del 57º período de sesiones del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos (Roma. 21-23 de octubre de 1991). En particular:(continuación)

- 17.1 Proposed Amendments to the Constitution and the General Rules of the Organization to Allow for a Form of Membership for Regional Economic Integration Organizations in FAO, including the Reports of the Committee Established Pursuant to the Decision of the 99th Session of the Council
- 17.1 Propositions d'amendements à l'Acte constitutif et au Règlement général de l'Organisation visant à permettre l'adhésion à la FAO des organisations d'intégration économique régionale, notamment Rapports du Comité établi conformément à la décision prise par le Conseil à sa quatre-vingt-dix-neuvième session
- 17.1 Enmiendas propuestas a la Constitución y al Reglamento General de la Organización para permitir una forma de admisión, como miembros de la FAO, de las organizaciones regionales de integración económica, e inclusive el informe del Comité establecido conforme a la decisión adoptada por el Consejo en su 99º periodo de sesiones

**Fotis POULIDES (Président du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques):** Merci de me donner la parole et de continuer l'odyssée du rapport du Comité juridique. Je crois qu'il serait préférable de recommencer au point où nous nous sommes interrompus hier en donnant la parole à l'Ambassadeur Bula Hoyos, Président du Comité ad hoc REIO afin qu'il donne son rapport au Conseil concernant les décisions du Comité REIO, et ensuite je vous prierais de donner la parole à M. Moore afin que le Conseil puisse faire ses commentaires.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Ahora quisiera entregar inmediatamente la palabra al distinguido Presidente del Comité de Estados Miembros. Quisiera agradecer al Embajador Gonzalo Bula Hoyos por su trabajo tan pesado que ha desarrollado durante las reuniones de ese Comité y quisiera también agradecer a todos los representantes de los países que participaron en ese Comité, que hicieron un trabajo estupendo con la Presidencia del Embajador Bula Hoyos, a quien entrego inmediatamente la palabra.

**Gonzalo BUIA HOYOS (Colombia):** Señor Presidente, señores miembros del Consejo, el documento CL 100/9 contiene los informes de las dos reuniones que celebró el Comité, Comité que estuvo integrado por veinte Estados Miembros seleccionados por el Director General, basado en consultas regionales y con la participación de representantes de la Comunidad Económica Europea, de acuerdo con la decisión de este Consejo. Usted también, señor Presidente, Embajador Saintraint, nos honró con su presencia, siempre bien recibida.

Celebramos dos reuniones, ambas muy difíciles. De todos modos, desde la primera reunión logramos algunos progresos. Con el fin de seguir avanzando, me permití consultar a los miembros del Comité, así como a los representantes de la CEE, todos ellos, afortunadamente, mis amigos, y decidimos tener una segunda reunión, a la cual presenté, bajo mi propia y exclusiva responsabilidad, un "Texto conciliatorio del Presidente", que contenía algunas propuestas alternativas que podrían ser bases del consenso que todos deseamos y buscamos. En todo ese proceso estuve muy válida y eficazmente asistido por nuestro competente Consejero Legal, Gerald Moore. Quiero reconocer al Consejero Legal, mi amigo Gerald, los grandes esfuerzos que ha hecho, la constante actitud de consulta y la permanente consagración

con que se ha dedicado a este asunto. Ha cumplido sus funciones de manera realmente excepcional, con una gran capacidad de trabajo y un honesto y convencido profesionalismo.

Aunque el documento CL 100/9 contiene los informes de las dos reuniones, creo que la atención de ustedes podría concentrarse en el Anexo B de ese documento, que contiene el informe de la segunda reunión, cuyo contenido supera el resultado de la primera.

En el informe de la segunda reunión sólo habían quedado pendientes tres asuntos; como le dije, logramos avanzar bastante.

Primero, en la Constitución, Artículo II.2(bis), aparece entre corchetes la expresión "Organización Miembro". Segundo, en el Artículo II.3, también de la Constitución, aparecían dos textos alternativos sobre la definición de las condiciones de elegibilidad de las organizaciones económicas de integración regional que pudieren entrar a ser miembros de la FAO. Y, tercero, en el Reglamento General, Artículo XLIV, párrafo 3, sobre las competencias, como podrán ver en el epígrafe "Comentario", había quedado la reserva de la CEE sobre una palabra y algunas observaciones de dos miembros del Comité.

La segunda reunión de nuestro Comité concluyó el 4 de octubre. Posteriormente, del 21 al 23 de octubre, el Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos celebró su 57º período de sesiones, ante el cual se presentaron los informes de nuestras dos reuniones. Ese informe ya fue presentado, en parte, ayer, por el distinguido Presidente del CACJ, mi querido y distinguido amigo, Embajador Fotis Poulides, que siempre actúa con competencia, habilidad e inteligencia bien conocidas.

En la última reunión de nuestro Comité se había aceptado la oferta del Director General de intensificar contactos entre los miembros del Comité y los representantes de la CEE, siempre en busca de consenso. Fue así como, con alto sentido de su responsabilidad en esta materia, el Director General convocó a consultas informales, que tuvieron lugar el pasado 30 de octubre, con resultados que encontrarán ustedes en el documento CL 100/9 - Sup.1, el alcance de cuyo contenido explicará el Consejero Legal, Dr. Moore. Naturalmente, todos ustedes saben también que ya el Suplemento 1 ha sido superado por otro documento, el CL 100/LIM/2, que fue distribuido ayer y cuyo título dice "Texto único preparado por el Presidente del Comité". El solo texto podría indicar, señor Presidente, que si usted, el Presidente del CACJ y los miembros del Consejo estuvieran de acuerdo, después de que el Dr. Moore se refiera sobre todo al documento CL 100/9 - Sup.1, yo podría importunar de nuevo a los miembros del Consejo con una nueva intervención.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Nunca usted va a importunar; al contrario.

**LEGAL COUNSEL:** First of all I would like to thank Ambassador Bula Hoyos for his kind words which are much appreciated.

I would like to add a few words to those of Ambassador Bula Hoyos in his introduction to document CL 100/9-Sup.1.

This document reports on the results of the Director-General's informal consultations with concerned Member Nations on the text of Articles II.2 and II. 3, and Rule XLIV of the proposed amendments to the Basic Texts of the Organization, and on the results of further discussions which I have held with the Legal Offices of UNIDO and the United Nations.

You will recall that the Committee established by the Council was unable to reach agreement on a single text for these provisions, and the Director-General had expressed some concern regarding the implications of one of the alternative drafts being considered for Article II.3. As Ambassador Bula Hoyos mentioned, during the course of the Second Session of the Committee, the Director-General offered to hold these consultations and his offer was accepted by the Committee. As you will see from the document before you, informal consultations with various Member Nations and the ECC took place on 30 October, and resulted in a tentative proposal ad referendum on a single text for each of these provisions.

This text is reflected in the document CL 100/9-Sup.1 before you. I should repeat that the tentative proposal was ad referendum and that further discussions have revealed continuing difficulties of the wording of Articles II.2 and II.3 and Rule XLIV, paragraph 3. The particular problems relate to the use of the term "Member Organizations" in Article II.2, the eligibility criteria in Article II.3, and the implications of the wording of Rule XLIV, paragraph 3 with respect to the preparation of meeting reports.

As you know, all of these matters have been under further informal discussion, and in fact meetings were held yesterday and the day before yesterday on it. As Ambassador Bula Hoyos mentioned, I believe that he has a proposal to make on this matter which is contained in document CL/100/LIM/2.

I shall now turn to the report of my discussions with the Legal Offices of UNIDO and the United Nations, which should be read in conjunction with my report on the discussions with the Legal Offices of the other specialized agencies as reflected in the report of the Fifty-seventh Session of the CCLM. Basically, the Legal Office of UNIDO expressed general positive reaction to the proposed scheme of membership, and made some particular comments about various provisions, including Rule XLV regarding the issue of credentials. The UN Legal Office expressed its opinions about the eligibility criteria, that the proposed scheme for membership of regional economic integration organizations and its fundamental notion of the alternative exercise on membership rights might well be appropriate for FAO given its specialized character and the fact that FAO deals with matters in respect of which competence has to a considerable extent been transferred by the Member States of at least one regional economic integration organization to that organization - namely, the EEC.

The UN Legal Office however expressed some concern that the adoption of amendments to the Basic Texts of the FAO should not be viewed as a precedent for the UN itself, or as encroaching on the notion of "one state, one vote" in that Organization, given its wider political mandate.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** El señor Representante de Colombia tiene la palabra para presentar el documento CL 100/LIM/2.

Gonzalo BUIA **HOYOS (Colombia)**: Señor Presidente, como los miembros del Consejo habrán observado este documento CL 100/LIM/2 tiene por título: "Texto único preparado por el Presidente del Comité". No voy a leer en detalle su contenido porque todos tienen este documento desde ayer. Sólo les ruego observar que los tres puntos que estaban pendientes tienden a obtener posibles soluciones.

En el Artículo II.2(bis) han desaparecido los corchetes y la palabra "Organización" y se habla de decidir la admisión en calidad de miembro. En el Artículo II.3 el comentario que en el Suplemento 1 estaba dirigido a que apareciera en el Informe, se incorpora ahora al final de este Artículo II.3, y finalmente, en el Artículo XLIV del Reglamento General de la Organización, en el texto del Informe, se agregarán algunas consideraciones adicionales, como podrán ver en el comentario sobre la manera como se ejercerán las competencias, los derechos de voto y de intervención.

Espero que todos hayan entendido claramente el contenido de este documento.

Señor Presidente, usted generosamente me pidió interviniera desde el podium como suelen hacerlo los presidentes de Comités u Organismos. Yo le pedí que me permitiera intervenir desde aquí porque, a lo mejor, en esta parte de mi intervención, ciertos aspectos podré expresarlos también en mi condición de delegado de Colombia.

Empiezo a decir, señor Presidente, que ayer al mediodía al concluir las últimas consultas informales en la Sala donde éstas se celebraron, ninguno de los miembros del Comité me pidió que yo asumiera la responsabilidad de preparar este tema como Texto único preparado por el Presidente. Al contrario, algunos colegas y amigos, en forma cordial, como suelen dirigirse a mí, expresaron ciertas inquietudes acerca de la manera como yo iría a presentar al Consejo este Texto, Espero cumplir con mi deber y tranquilizar a esos colegas al decir, señor Presidente, con absoluta franqueza, que este texto lo presento bajo mi propia y exclusiva responsabilidad. Que su contenido no compromete a ninguno de los miembros del Comité.

He procedido así, señor Presidente, porque creo que hemos avanzado hacia una posible solución de consenso sobre cuya aplicación me permitiré hacer propuestas al final de esta declaración; pero, permítame, señor Presidente, que explique al Consejo por qué he decidido asumir esta actitud. Le ruego creerme, señor Presidente, que ya a estas alturas de mi vida, cuando mi retrato se ha incorporado a la historia de esta Sala Roja, no me anima ni siquiera el más mínimo afán de protagonismo; pero tampoco tengo vocación de mártir. He decidido asumir esta nueva responsabilidad basado, sobre todo, en cuatro consideraciones fundamentales.

Primero, señor Presidente, he participado en este largo proceso durante tres años y ahora cuando, espero, estemos llegando a un final afortunado, puedo por ello ser testigo, señor Presidente, de que todas aquellas inquietudes, dudas, preguntas y observaciones que en este largo recorrido han venido planteando numerosos representantes de Gobierno, todo eso ha sido absuelto casi en su totalidad de manera favorable. Se ha logrado crear así un marco dentro del cual los representantes de los Estados Miembros han tratado en justo y adecuado cumplimiento sus responsabilidades. Han tratado, repito de salvaguardar casi, casi, repito, porque esta palabra



tiene una explicación que la haré al final, casi, todas las posibilidades que podrán surgir del posible cumplimiento de este nuevo hecho innovador. El proceso ha sido casi exhaustivo. Hemos logrado consolidar unas bases muy serias y respetables, señor Presidente, que creo que vale la pena que el Consejo las utilice en la mejor forma posible.

Dejado así a salvo la responsabilidad y las funciones de los representantes de los Gobiernos, quiero referirme ahora, como segunda consideración, a la actitud de la Comunidad Económica Europea. Sin vacilar, señor Presidente, pienso que nadie en esta Sala como los representantes de Colombia en el pasado, han criticado lo que llamamos la funesta paz política agrícola común. Con esa misma entereza y decisión con que actuamos en el pasado, con críticas acerbas y duras, señor Presidente, hoy tenemos que reconocer que esa política agrícola común ha venido evolucionando progresivamente. Seguramente, no en la medida que todos deseamos, pero sí con signos de buenas esperanzas para el futuro. Y, en este caso concreto, por mi función de Presidente particularmente, soy testigo de que los representantes de la CEE han venido haciendo grandes esfuerzos para responder, para atender con la mayor amplitud posible los miles de preguntas, interrogantes y observaciones que se han venido planteando. Particularmente la definición de las competencias entre la Comunidad y sus Estados, era uno de los asuntos más difíciles de decidir. Ante el Comité se presentó ya un primer texto que mereció toda la atención por parte de ese Comité.

Yo puedo afirmar, señor Presidente, que los representantes de la CEE en este proceso han participado con alto sentido de responsabilidad, con gran seriedad y con una voluntad firme y decidida de adecuarse a la adopción de soluciones. Creo que esto merece nuestro reconocimiento, ya que todos conocemos como en una Comunidad tan importante como la CEE podrán existir quienes conocen los mecanismos internos, limitaciones y problemas estatutarios que a veces pudieran ser difíciles de superar.

La tercera consideración, señor Presidente, se refiere al hecho de que todavía podrá resonar en esta Sala Roja la respuesta que obtuvo la pregunta que en junio pasado en este Consejo, y bajo su digna Presidencia, hizo la delegación de Colombia. ¿Por qué la CEE desea entrar en la FAO como Miembro? La CEE es la fuerza económica más poderosa del mundo y si quiere ser Miembro de la FAO es porque busca caminos más propicios, porque desea que se establezca un mecanismo más adecuado que le permita estrechar sus vínculos con la FAO y ofrecer así una serie de oportunidades de manera más directa para ofrecer las experiencias, los recursos y los conocimientos. Todo ese gran potencial de la CEE en favor del fortalecimiento de las actividades de la FAO. Fortalecer la FAO significa que nuestra Organización estará en mejores condiciones para asistir a todos los Estados Miembros, particularmente a los países en desarrollo.

El Acuerdo Marco de Cooperación que ya se ha suscrito entre la FAO y la CEE, podrá ser la primera indicación de que a través de fondos o de cualquier otra forma la CEE ofrecerá su asistencia a todos los Estados Miembros de la FAO en el seno de esta Organización, que es universal y que tiene carácter multilateral.

Sería triste, señor Presidente, y decepcionante que la CEE interpretara su paso de observador a Miembro de la FAO como un hecho ordinario, simplemente formal, prosaico, intrascendente, como un acto de ordinaria administración.

Yo creo, en cambio, que la CEE es consciente de que si su propósito se logra, eso será un paso verdaderamente importante, realmente innovador, que ofrecerá a la CEE la ocasión de confirmar y ampliar con hechos, con hechos, repito, su propósito de seguir contribuyendo en forma cada vez más constante, significativa y válida a la cooperación internacional en su condición de Miembro de la FAO.

Yo creo, señor Presidente, que los representantes de los Gobiernos, no sólo de los países en desarrollo, de todos los Gobiernos, no debemos tener ningún temor por el ingreso de la CEE como Miembro de la FAO. Creo que lejos de todo temor debemos recibir este hecho, si se llega a producir, con serena y confiada expectativa, porque tendremos así la ocasión de sentarnos con los representantes de la CEE en su condición de representantes directos de esa Comunidad, sentarnos en esta Sala o en otro lugar para discutir con ellos, para criticar su política, si fuere necesario y, en todo caso, para entablar un diálogo, que es muy importante y que, seguramente, nos conducirá a conocer mejor y más directamente la política agrícola de esa importante Comunidad.

Por último, señor Presidente, la última y cuarta reflexión. Por haber participado en todo este ejercicio, yo estoy seguro de que no obstante haber hecho esfuerzos en todos los sentidos, ha sido imposible prever todas las situaciones que podrán presentarse, pero estoy convencido, señor Presidente, de que es necesario que, con valor y decisión, demos el primer paso. Seguirá luego la decantación de las experiencias que ese hecho vaya produciendo, evaluaremos progresivamente los resultados, corregiremos las deficiencias que todo esto pueda ir produciendo y así consolidaremos la huella, el camino, la senda por la cual más adelante - ojalá no a muy largo plazo - otras organizaciones económicas regionales, particularmente de países en desarrollo, puedan igualmente entrar a ser miembros de la FAO.

Lamento haber tomado demasiado tiempo, pero quiero concluir, señor Presidente, con un ruego muy encarecido a todos mis amigos, los miembros del Consejo: que nos permitan transmitir, señor Presidente - no quiero ni siquiera proponer que el Consejo recomiende ni para la adopción ni para la aprobación - transmitir este texto integrado con el resultado de la segunda reunión del Comité, para que así podamos presentar a la Conferencia un paquete global de propuestas de enmiendas a los textos de la Constitución y del Reglamento General, y ofrecer así a la Conferencia una oportunidad para que dentro de un ambiente sereno y de consenso pueda tomar su decisión final.

Quiero concluir agradeciendo a todos los miembros del Comité y a los representantes de la CEE, todos, unos y otros, quienes en todo momento aceptaron seguir el diálogo con el Dr. Moore y conmigo, a veces en forma hasta obstinada, cuando parecía que nada podría lograrse, que todo estaba perdido. Sin excepción, todos estuvimos animados por el deseo de lograr el consenso.

Estoy igualmente reconocido al Director General de la FAO quien, especialmente, por medio del Dr. Moore y de sus representantes, siguió continuamente con toda atención este proceso que está destinado a causar impacto significativo en la vida de esta Organización.

Confío plenamente en que este Consejo apoyará todos estos esfuerzos

inmensos, que son el resultado de días, y hasta noches, de consultas, de viajes y de diálogo permanente que merecen la consideración de todos los representantes de los Gobiernos.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Le Conseil remercie très chaleureusement pour le travail effectué depuis plus de deux ans. Je voudrais également remercier M. Moore de l'activité inlassable qu'il a déployée.

Vous me permettrez peut-être, puisque j'ai suivi les travaux et que le hasard a fait que je suis ressortissant d'un pays membre de la CEE - ce qui n'empêche absolument pas que je me sente totalement, en qualité de votre président, indépendant des liens de naissance et de nationalité - de vous donner mon avis.

Je voudrais dire que le problème a été scrupuleusement examiné. Il a nécessité beaucoup de voyages, beaucoup de contacts, il a été examiné sous tous ses aspects juridiques. Je crois que l'on a poussé l'examen juridique au maximum de ce qui était possible.

On est arrivé maintenant à un document présenté par le Président du Comité des Etats Membres, qui a été chargé d'examiner les amendements aux Textes fondamentaux de l'Organisation. Ce texte est bien sûr un texte politique, car il nécessite l'agrément de tous les Etats Membres de la FAO qui auront à se prononcer lors de la Conférence, mais il nécessite également - cela est particulièrement difficile dans une communauté qui se construit - l'accord et l'assentiment, aux termes de procédure parfois lourdes et parfois longues, des membres de la Communauté.

Je vous avouerai que j'ai eu parfois peur. Je continue à me rendre compte qu'il s'agit d'un pari, et quand on pose la question de savoir pourquoi la Communauté désire devenir membre de la FAO, je dis et je réponds: de quelle communauté s'agit-il? De quelle Europe s'agira-t-il demain, d'une Europe fermée, fermée sur elle-même, défendant ses intérêts, ou d'une Europe ouverte sur le monde, et pas seulement sur ses anciens territoires, mais sur l'ensemble des problèmes où la Communauté a un rôle à jouer, parce qu'elle représente une puissance économique?

Si je me suis intéressé à ce dossier, parfois avec une certaine passion - bien que je croie être resté toujours dans mon rôle de Président indépendant du Conseil - c'est parce que je crois profondément que l'adhésion, en qualité de membre, de la Communauté à la FAO peut contribuer à renforcer fortement l'Organisation; que le dialogue se fera plus facilement au sein de la FAO qu'avec des observateurs presque impalpables, sans les contacts voulus, sans les présences voulues. Ce dialogue est important, je le répète. Je souhaite profondément que l'Europe de l'ouverture l'emporte sur l'Europe de la fermeture.

Nous nous trouvons pour le moment à une époque difficile où le monde des divisions essaye de se construire dans de nouvelles solidarités, malgré des déchirements qui ne sont pas bien loin, à peine quelques centaines de kilomètres sur l'autre rive de l'Adriatique.

L'Europe a essayé de se construire. Elle n'est pas arrivée au terme de sa construction, mais il est clair qu'elle a fait une série de pas en avant,

dans le sens de l'abandon par ses Etats Membres d'un certain nombre de prérogatives relevant des domaines de la compétence propre de la FAO. Le secteur de la commercialisation des produits agricoles est

incontestablement pour la Communauté un des grands secteurs qui l'occupent. Le tiers monde a été présent de par les accords de Lomé; je crois que ces accords demain devraient donner lieu à une ouverture plus grande vers l'ensemble des continents, qu'il s'agisse du continent africain avec les problèmes que ce continent assume pour le moment, du continent asiatique, de l'Asie du Pacifique Est, du continent latino-américain. Je crois que, dans ces domaines, la Communauté peut apporter des éléments très positifs et peut renforcer la FAO.

C'est le formidable enjeu qui se présente. Certains pays ont constitué des Etats unis. Peut-être demain aurons-nous une union européenne significative qui pourra parler d'une seule voix. C'est un pari, mais c'est un pari que nous pouvons réussir si nous sommes conscients de l'importance des enjeux et si nous aidons la Communauté qui se construit à s'orienter dans le sens que je vous ai indiqué, le sens de l'ouverture au monde. C'est mon vœu le plus sincère.

Déclarons-le franchement, ce document CL 100/LIM/2 est un document essentiellement politique puisqu'il conditionne l'adhésion de la Communauté à la demande d'adhésion qui n'est pas encore introduite et qui ne peut être introduite qu'après l'adoption par la Conférence du texte longuement mis au point sous la présidence de l'Ambassadeur de Colombie.

Ce texte peut être bien sûr examiné par les capitales, puisqu'il n'a été distribué qu'hier. Il fera l'objet de délibérations en Commission III, mais nous devons savoir clairement de quoi il s'agit.

Il ne s'agit pas uniquement d'une discussion juridique. D'excellents juristes se sont penchés sur les textes. Le Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques, sous la présidence compétente de notre ami l'Ambassadeur Poulides, s'en est occupé également. Nous avons fait le tour de la question, et la décision qui doit être prise, je préfère être franc, est une décision politique.

Veut-on oui ou non, dans le cadre du mandat et des statuts de la FAO, permettre à une entité qui a des compétences propres et qui peut assumer des responsabilités en tant que telle, l'admettre au sein de notre Organisation pour qu'elle la renforce de manière significative dans un dialogue permanent? Et le dialogue sera permanent dans la mesure où la présence sera assurée.

Je ne voudrais pas en dire plus pour le moment sur la procédure. Nous tirerons des conclusions, et nous demanderons si l'un ou l'autre membre du Conseil, bien qu'il n'y ait pas de décision à prendre au fond puisque le document qui nous est présenté sera renvoyé à la Commission III de la Conférence, a des commentaires à faire. Nous comptons sur la présidence de cette Commission III, non pas pour entamer de longues discussions juridiques mais pour poser le problème comme il doit l'être. Je demanderai donc aux membres du Conseil d'être brefs, puisque nous n'avons pas à nous prononcer sur le texte mais uniquement sur la procédure.

**Frank BUCHHOLZ (United States of America):** I would like to preface my remarks by mentioning that I was able to send the Chairman's text to my

Capital last night. Therefore, my remarks do reflect the viewpoint of my Government. I received these instructions about thirty minutes ago. I apologize perhaps for not discussing them further with some of the members of the group that has been considering the proposed changes to the text of the FAO Constitution.

In reviewing this issue the United States has been mindful of the fact that we are amending the FAO Constitution. We must, therefore, be careful not to introduce language which may be unintentionally ambiguous or confusing. The United States takes these issues very seriously, in large part because of the precedential effect that allowing REIOs to join FAO will have both for other organizations in the UN system and for the admission of REIOs to the FAO in general.

We are also mindful of the comments of the Director-General's representative presented at the last meeting of the Committee established to review the Basic Texts to admit REIOs, and the views of the various legal experts of the United Nations system. In particular, we would like to draw the attention of delegates to the viewpoint of the Legal Office of the United Nations as reproduced in document CL 100/9-Sup.1, Paragraph 3(ii) 1, which in part states: "What is needed is to incorporate elements currently found in alternative 2, namely a reference to transference - full transference - of competence in a given field from the members of the organization to the organization itself and the competence of the organization to make decisions in that field which are binding on the members of the organization. The rationale behind allowing an organization to cast the votes of its Member States is based upon the fact that those Member States no longer have any role to play in the matter being discussed."

This is a complex issue that has profound implications not only for the FAO but for every organization within the UN system. The letter of the United Nations Legal Adviser regarding the proposed amendments emphasizes the complexity and importance of this fundamental issue. What we do must be done correctly. Even if it requires more time and thought it would not be prudent for us to rush into an ill-advised text on this important matter simply to have something to adopt at the Conference.

As to substance, the proposed Chairman's text would not in the view of the United States constitute an acceptable basis for adoption of an amendment on this issue.

With respect to membership criteria, we still have serious concern regarding two critical points. First, we believe it is critical to make clear that the transfer of competence to a REIO in matters within FAO's purview means that the Member States can no longer exercise competence with respect to those matters. We could not agree to any text if this concept were not made clear in the text or, at least, in the commentary.

Second, it must be clear in the text that it is a requirement of membership that a REIO's competence includes the competence to enter into treaties as well as to take other decisions binding on its Member States with respect to matters within the purview of FAO.

On the basis of the membership criteria contained in the proposed Chairman's text we would have to reconsider our position on the amendments

generally. At the very least the United States could not support the view that a REIO join FAO as a "member" as opposed to a "member organization".

**Dato WAN JAAFAR ABDULLAH (Malaysia):** My delegation has considered this important issue very carefully, and is still of the view that, while we are not against any REIO becoming a member of FAO, every effort should be made to avoid exclusivity in the criteria for membership so that other REIOs can also apply for membership if they so wish. /

Malaysia appreciates the work of the Committee of Member Nations and notes the compromise text resulting from these informal consultations held by the Director-General on 30 October 1991, and the latest efforts to arrive at a single text as reflected in document CL 100/LIM/2.

The FAO Council at its Ninety-eighth and Ninety-ninth Sessions agreed that any form of membership for REIOs should be sui generis. Therefore, Malaysia insists that the term "Member of the Organization" in line 2, Article II.2(bis) in document CL 100/LIM/2 should be "Member Organization" since it reflects more accurately this sui generis nature of membership for REIOs. We reiterate that the term should be "Member Organization". However, Malaysia is of the view that this REIO issue is of significant political importance to FAO and the entire United Nations system, as well as to the developing countries, because the admission of a REIO into FAO sets a precedent for the other organizations in the UN system.

In this respect we continue to maintain that this subject of the EEC application should be considered first by the United Nations General Assembly because of the political nature of the EEC request.

**Ricardo VELAZQUEZ HERTA (México):** El ingreso de organizaciones regionales de integración económica en el seno de la FAO es un tema al que México le da una enorme importancia. La solicitud presentada por la Comunidad Económica Europea nos ha dado la oportunidad de un ejercicio de análisis jurídico-político que puede llevar a la modificación de los Textos Fundamentales de la Organización y de su comportamiento parlamentario, lo cual implica la modificación de su fisonomía. Ello nos preocupa y nos impele a adoptar una posición muy seria y cautelosa.

La delegación de México desea expresar que no se opone, de ninguna manera, a la solicitud de la Comunidad Económica Europea ni al ingreso de ningún otro organismo de integración económica cuyo propósito sea el de sumarse a los esfuerzos internacionales en favor de la alimentación. No se trata, pues, de un simple "sí" o "no", sino de un "cómo". Pensamos que es necesario seguir analizando detalladamente la manera como este ingreso debe realizarse. Tratándose de sociedades colectivas, es imprescindible precisar su derecho al voto y dejar claramente sentado que de ninguna manera podrían ejercer más votos que los que corresponden a sus representados. Esto es, no se podrían duplicar o acumular votos o derechos de voto. Y de aquí surge la necesidad de precisar también con toda nitidez, de manera detallada y concreta, cuáles son las competencias de una organización regional de integración económica y de sus Estados miembros y cuáles deberán ser las competencias que los Estados que las integran le transfieren para que actúen dentro de la Organización. Tanto la definición de competencias como la precisión de sus derechos de voto nos llevarían,

consecuentemente, a precisar la naturaleza con que la Comunidad Económica Europea debe ser admitida como parte de la FAO. Por otra parte, la propia naturaleza jurídico-política de la Comunidad Económica Europea no la define como un Estado, sino como una comunidad de Estados. Este tema que nos ocupa se refiere a la admisión de organizaciones regionales de integración económica, y, en este contexto, así se ha considerado en la solicitud de la Comunidad Económica Europea, definiéndola precisamente como organización y no como Estado. Los Textos Fundamentales de la FAO hablan solamente de "Miembros Fundadores" y "Miembros Asociados" refiriéndose en todo caso a países o territorios. Una organización regional de integración económica no cae dentro de ninguno de estos conceptos, y, por ende, la modificación de textos debe descubrir o precisar otros estatus.

Todo esto nos lleva a la necesidad de establecer con certidumbre y claridad el estatus de la Comunidad para ingresar en la FAO. Sólo entonces, cuando exista certidumbre y claridad sobre estos elementos, estaremos en condiciones de hablar de reformas a los Textos Fundamentales y no antes. Por la importancia del asunto, es menester que la claridad política y jurídica impere en el proceso de admisión y que los Estados Miembros de la FAO valoren con exactitud las modificaciones consecuentes a su estructura jurídica y a su manera de actuación parlamentaria.

**Frederik Ch. PRILLEVITZ (Netherlands):** I will deliver my intervention on behalf of the European Community and its Member States.

Under this agenda item we have before us the report of the CCLM as well as the report of the Committee of Member Nations established during the last Council and the informal consultations held on the 30th of October to review the proposed amendments to the Basic Texts of FAO and we have also document CL 100/9-Sup-. 1, although in principle the issue of amending the Basic Texts of FAO has to be seen apart from the aspiration of the EEC to become a member of FAO. It will be clear that in view of the fact this process was initiated by the EEC a few years ago the EEC has a key interest in this topic. The underlying reasons have been explained on various occasions, lately in our statement at the last Council meeting. Therefore I will not repeat those reasons but just recall that the essence of the interest of the EEC lies in the fact that in their present form FAO's Basic Texts do not allow the Communities full and complete participation in the work of the Organization in areas in which Member States have transferred competence to the European Community.

In this connection I would like to recall the letter sent Mr De Michelis on 22 October 1990 in the name of the Community and its Member States. This letter expressed the Community's intention to consider applying for membership of the Organization once the appropriate amendments have been adopted to the Basic Texts that would allow for such membership, provided always that the final form of the amendments as adopted would be acceptable to the EEC and its Member States. The EEC recognized that under the Basic Texts as they stand at the present an application for membership by the EEC could not be accepted and it would therefore not be legally possible at this Conference to meet the normal deadline of 30 days as specified for Member Nations under Rule XIX of the General Rules of the Organization.

The Netherlands in its capacity as President of the EEC has therefore on 7 October 1991 given notice to the Director-General of FAO that it would under those circumstances be seeking a suspension of Rule XIX, as provided under Rule XLVII.1, in order to allow for its application for membership to be considered and dealt with by the Conference at its Twenty-sixth Session. Further, the Director-General has been requested to put an item "Examination of a possible application by the European Community for FAO membership" on the agenda of this Conference and to have the further request for a suspension of Rule XIX to be reflected by appropriate agenda item.

I now come to the report of the Committee established by the last Council, that reviewed the draft amendment to the Basic Texts. The Commission of the EEC, as well as the Presidency, have had the privilege to participate in the work of this Committee so ably led by the Ambassador of Colombia. In the view of the EEC this Committee has made considerable progress. Agreement was reached on a great number of proposed amendments, a number of outstanding questions have been answered and the various underlying concepts have been clarified. The contributions of other participants in this Committee are greatly appreciated. I would like to mention especially the efforts of the Legal Counsel of FAO in furthering the process.

The EEC and its Member States are extremely grateful for the work done in this Committee which paved the way for further consensus. Since the Committee has completed its work further consultations have taken place which have resulted in the drafting of the single text proposed by the Chairman and now in front of us. The EEC and its Member States are broadly satisfied with the content of this document and consider it as a good basis for the work of the Conference. In order to show its deep commitment to the objective of an accession based on the appropriate terms the Community will further intervene and participate actively in the Conference.

In conclusion let me reiterate the desire of the Community that this unique process in the United Nations family will lead to a situation which allow eligible regional economic integration organizations to fully participate in the work of this important Organization, thus enhancing its role in the international community in the field of food and agriculture.

**Kiichi NARITA (Japan):** Thank you for giving me the floor on one of the most important agenda items at this Council Session. I would also like to commend the FAO's Secretariat's efforts in the preparation of several documents for this agenda item.

First of all, as my delegation has been repeatedly saying Japan can support in principle the participation of the EEC activities in the area where the EEC has the competence which has been delegated from the Member States to the EEC. However, a number of countries, including Japan have pointed out since the Ninety-eighth Session of the FAO Council that sufficient elaboration to study the issues, such as the clarification of the specific details of the area of competence of the EEC and also the ramifications of having the EEC as a Member in FAO to the other UN organizations are necessary. Japan had a great opportunity to participate in the two committees concerning the Regional Economic Integration Organization which was held in September and October at the beginning of the first session of this committee and also during the last session of the FAO Council. My



delegation clearly expressed its views that sufficient consideration for the areas of competence based on the detailed explanatory paper which should be submitted by the EEC has to be done before we go into the complete discussion for the amendment of Constitution Articles. However, we regret to say that so far we did not get any satisfactory paper concerning the area of competence from the EEC. In fact the EEC distributed some papers but what we really need are the papers which explain the areas of competence as detailed as possible, listing the areas in which full competence has been transferred and the areas in which competence was shared.

Besides this point my delegation expressed its views of REIO during the Councils and the Committees, especially as regarded each Article which could be amended in the Constitution and the General Rules. However, some of our views could not be reflected properly in the reports. Therefore on this occasion my delegation would like to make its views clear concerning the important points on which we have not yet agreed. However, my delegation would like to make sure that our comments on each Article come simply from the legal aspects. As my delegation just said before we are never opposed to accepting EEC or other REIO as a member of FAO.

First, with regard to the assimilation clause, namely Article II.2 of the FAO Constitution my delegation believes we should clearly stipulate the idea that reference to Member Nations under this Constitution shall include member organizations within the limits of their respective competence and also since we have already agreed at the last session of the FAO Council in June that we might accept REIO as a semi-general status, it being some kind of special status. My delegation is of the view that the difference between Member Nations and member organizations should be clearly stipulated in the Articles by using the term "Member Organizations". Secondly, with regard to the definition of the requirement for membership, namely Article II.3, my delegation is of the opinion that the stipulation concerning the competence of REIO to enter into treaties and to make decisions binding on its Member States are necessary. That is in addition to the stipulation concerning the sovereign States and the transference of competence. Moreover, my delegation believes that all members of REIO should be members of FAO.

Thirdly, with regard to the speaking rights which have a relationship to Article II.4 of the Constitution and General Rule XLIV, we agreed at the last Session of the FAO Council that alternative exercise principles have to be applied and there should be no increase in right. Furthermore, the stipulation in Article II.4, namely "A member organization shall exercise membership rights on an alternative basis with its Member States" should be applied not only to reporting rights but also to speaking rights.

Therefore, my delegation is of the view that only one party, either REIO or its Member States, can participate in meetings and speak and vote as a member of FAO. In this regard, we believe that General Rule XLIV, which was proposed by the Chairman of the REIO Committee, does not reflect the alternative exercise principle properly. My delegation hopes that our views will be reflected in the Report of this Council Session.

**Konan Daniel YOMAN (Côte d'Ivoire):** A l'occasion de l'examen de ce point important et tout à fait particulier de notre ordre du jour, je voudrais, au nom de ma délégation, attirer l'attention des honorables délégués et des

membres du Conseil, ainsi que l'attention de tous les observateurs ici présents, sur les conséquences dommageables que pourrait constituer une attitude passionnée ou sectaire quant à l'examen de l'admission de la CEE au sein de la FAO. En effet, aujourd'hui il s'agit de la CEE mais demain, un demain que nous espérons très proche, il y aura certainement d'autres demandes d'adhésion à la FAO en provenance d'organismes d'intégration économique dont nos pays, je veux parler des pays africains, latino-américains et asiatiques, sont membres. Nous avons eu l'impression au cours de ces discussions qui ont été assez longues que souvent on voyait cette question sous le prisme unique de la CEE, prisme qui pourrait être déformant. Je crois qu'il convient plutôt d'élargir le débat et accepter ce texte unique, à notre avis bien élaboré, bien présenté que nous propose l'Ambassadeur Bula Hoyos. Nous avons examiné attentivement cette question qui nous intéresse à plus d'un titre. Le document qui est sous nos yeux représente un compromis encore perfectible, mais un compromis au-delà duquel il ne sera pas facile d'aller. Nous pensons que tous les Etats Membres devraient se prononcer lors de la Conférence positivement sur ce texte en lui gardant de toutes les façons ses vertus de texte d'ouverture et les qualités de souplesse que nous voulons lui reconnaître.

Les arrières-pensées ne sont pas de mise dans l'étude de cette question; notamment, le principe sacro-saint des Nations Unies d'un pays, une voix doit toujours être préservé. En tout état de cause, nous considérons l'entrée éventuelle de la CEE à la FAO comme un précédent qui ne sera pas historiquement isolé mais, au contraire, sera suivi d'autres admissions.

La CEE doit s'employer à nous apporter ses compétences - compétences reconnues dans des domaines nombreux et divers - ainsi que les effets de son poids économique et financier en vue d'aider davantage au développement global de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation dans nos pays, grâce à l'appui des projets que nous élaborons ici, à la FAO, et dans nos pays respectifs.

Le problème, comme vous l'avez si bien dit, M. le Président, n'est pas seulement juridique - il est également politique - et c'est pourquoi je voudrais m'arrêter pour l'instant, dans l'attente de la décision officielle et définitive de mon gouvernement en temps et lieu opportuns.

**Tadeusz STROJWAS (Poland):** On behalf of the delegation of Poland, I wish to congratulate most sincerely Ambassador Bula Hoyos for an excellent job, the result of which is now the single text contained in document CL 100/LIM/2. The single text in this context refers to the amendments of the FAO Constitution, amendments which will have far-reaching consequences. We state with frankness and gratitude that the ad hoc group under the leadership of Ambassador Bula Hoyos has indeed produced an excellent piece of work, hence our sincere congratulations.

As you may be aware, the Government of Poland have been supporting, without reservations, from the beginning of the process, the questions of the membership of the European Economic Communities of the FAO. The Polish delegation will vote for approval of the elaborated amendments to the Constitution, and the General Rules of the Organization if needed. However, for the greater clarity of my delegation may I ask Ambassador Bula Hoyos through you, Mr Chairman, and our legal experts, the following questions. I understand from the words "Member Organizations" in the Article II.2(bis) which reads "Subject to Article II.4, references to Member Nations under

this Constitution shall include Member Organizations except as otherwise expressly provided" that these words mean any regional economic integration organization meeting the criteria, and so on, as is expressly said in the first phrase of Article II.2 (bis).

Jurists and lawyers know better than myself that in juridical texts, or in this political document - as you have yourself rightly pointed out, Mr Chairman - the beauty of the phrase must give way to the precision and the exactness of the same phrase.

Hence my question: is my understanding correct? If not, what is the meaning of the words "Member Organizations" in the second phrase of Article II.2(bis) in the single text? The same may refer to these two words in other articles in the single text.

**Rachmat RANUDIWIJAYA (Indonesia):** Mr Chairman, let me at the outset place on record my delegation's appreciation to the Secretariat of FAO and the Committee of Member Nations chaired by H.E. Ambassador Bula Hoyos, for their untiring efforts in reviewing the proposed amendments to the Basic Texts of the Organization to allow for membership of the Regional Economic Integration Organizations in FAO.

During the last Council Session, the issue of the membership of the REIOs in FAO, in particular the wish of the EEC to become a member of FAO, overshadowed the other important issues before the Council.

Mr Chairman, my delegation is happy to have before us the document CL 100/9-Sup.1 on the Proposed Amendment to the Basic Texts of the Organization. We find the document is a very constructive one. My delegation feels that the compromise text in document CL 100/9 - Sup.1 has more or less accommodated and facilitated the concerns of Member Nations of the Council as well as of the EEC. At this juncture my delegation has no strong objection to accepting these compromise formulations.

My delegation is still awaiting further instructions on this new development on this issue, but with those general observations at this stage my delegation stands ready to cooperate with other delegations with a view to reaching consensus on the final decision that we all - Member Nations, EEC and the Director-General of FAO - would like to see.

**Joseph TCHICAYA (Congo):** M. le Président, comme vous l'avez dit, le problème qui se pose à nous est un problème politique. L'entrée d'une organisation d'intégration économique régionale à la FAO, a priori, ne nous pose pas de problème majeur pourvu que les conditions d'admission soient clairement définies afin que toute OIER puisse y accéder. Voilà pourquoi ma délégation félicite le Comité d'Etats Membres, qui a travaillé sous la direction de l'Ambassadeur Bula Hoyos, des efforts qu'il a déployés pour aboutir à l'élaboration du texte qui nous est présenté sous la cote CL 100/LIM/2. Le Congo accueille ce texte avec intérêt.

Cependant, j'aimerais savoir comment s'effectuera le calcul de la contribution de l'OIER au budget de l'Organisation. Pour cela, je propose que l'OIER qui souhaite adhérer à l'Organisation apporte la moyenne du total des contributions payées par ses Etats membres.

Certes, d'autres aspects peuvent encore être examinés dans le document présenté par l'Ambassadeur Bula Hoyos mais, à notre avis, ce travail devra se faire au sein de la Commission III. Ma délégation est donc favorable à ce que ce texte soit transmis à la Conférence. Nous sommes bien entendu favorables à un texte clair, sans aucune ambiguïté, et nous sommes a priori ouverts à la demande d'adhésion de la CEE au cours de la Conférence. Avec un peu de bonne volonté, nous pourrions y parvenir. Ma délégation est prête à collaborer pour qu'il en soit ainsi.

**Milan BERANEK (Czechoslovakia):** My delegation appreciates all the tremendous work that has been done by all the bodies involved in this task. We should be aware of the fact that it has been a long road, and not at all a direct one, which had to be travelled to reach this stage. Despite the comments which have been made today it seems to us that we are very close to a desirable compromise proposal to present to Conference, which represents a single text. It is of course difficult to satisfy everybody, but it would be a pity to lose this opportunity.

My delegation could however have some reservations to the various texts and could perhaps suggest some improvements to the proposals which would be more or less in accordance with the opinions expressed by the UN Legal Office. In the spirit of compromise however we are ready to give our full support to the single text which is before us, and to recommend it to Council for adoption and putting forward to the Conference.

**Aguinaldo LISBOA RAMOS (Cap-Vert):** Nous remercions tout d'abord M. Moore et les représentants de la CEE de leur disponibilité et des éclaircissements qu'ils ont donnés pour répondre à nos doutes et à notre inquiétude. Nous tenons aussi à rendre hommage au Comité chargé d'examiner les amendements, Comité qui, sous la présidence de l'Ambassadeur Bula Hoyos, a effectué un remarquable et difficile travail et a produit un document de haute qualité. A l'Ambassadeur Bula Hoyos, encore nos félicitations pour sa brillante introduction.

A sa dernière session, le Conseil s'inquiétait de l'approche adoptée par la FAO quant à l'adhésion des organisations d'intégration économique régionale à l'Organisation, du fait du précédent qui s'établirait. Les entretiens ultérieurs du Conseiller juridique de l'Organisation avec le Bureau juridique des Nations Unies ainsi que les différents documents produits ont démontré que ce précédent, s'il était constitué, ne poserait pas de problème.

Nous sommes convaincus que l'adhésion de la CEE à la FAO, à la veille d'une Europe unie et du vingt et unième siècle, sera un pas de plus sur la voie d'un nouvel ordre économique international plus solidaire.

Pour être brefs, nous faisons part de notre satisfaction du contenu du texte unique proposé sous la cote CL 100/LIM/2, qui traduit un important compromis auquel nous apportons notre soutien. Nous demandons que ce texte soit soumis à la Conférence.

**DONG QING-SONG (China) (Original language Chinese):** Like other speakers before me, I think this is an important issue. As we know, FAO has studied this at various meetings for the past three years, and it is now very close to coming to a conclusion. I would therefore like to express my thanks to FAO and to the people concerned for the great efforts which they have made. For example, the distinguished Ambassador of Colombia, Mr Bula Hoyos, has done tremendous work which has proved to be very fruitful. We now have this compromise text, contained in CL 100/LIM/2, which is conducive to a final solution.

My delegation believes that in the present circumstances, especially when the EEC as a Regional Economic Integration Organization has undertaken certain economic tasks, the admission of this body into FAO is an issue which we must inevitably face.

Our Government believes it will have no objection to the admission of the EEC to FAO, but we consider that before admission the various parties should make further efforts in an effort to resolve legal matters and some of the technical matters concerned.

The Chinese delegation therefore agrees that we should submit this issue and this text to Conference for further consideration. The Chinese delegation will make positive efforts toward reaching a final solution.

**Adel EL-SARKI (Egypt) (Original language Arabic):** My delegation would like first of all to express its appreciation for the positive efforts made by the Committee presided over by Ambassador Bula Hoyos, which were quite successful, although the task was very difficult. We congratulate Ambassador Bula Hoyos for his constructive and fruitful efforts in this respect.

My delegation has no objection to the admission of the EEC to membership of the Organization. We support submission of CL 100/LIM/2 to the general Conference for consideration and decision.

**Raphael RABE (Madagascar):** Ma délégation est très reconnaissante à Son Excellence M. Bula Hoyos de la présentation rapide et très pragmatique du sujet.

La délégation de Madagascar a travaillé au sein du Comité des Etats sous la présidence compétente de l'Ambassadeur de la Colombie et de ce fait a apporté sa modeste contribution aux travaux dudit Comité.

Je peux me permettre d'être bref, car ma délégation appuie les déclarations des délégations de Côte d'Ivoire, du Congo et du Cap-Vert. Nous n'éprouvons aucune difficulté nous aussi pour l'envoi de tous les documents, soumis actuellement à notre examen, à la Conférence, afin que cette dernière dispose de tous les textes pertinents et puisse décider en connaissance de cause.

Nous sommes absolument d'accord avec vous, M. le Président, pour reconnaître que le document unique est un texte éminemment politique et devra par conséquent être traité comme tel.

Les délégations à la Conférence soupèseront bien entendu les avantages et les inconvénients de l'adoption de telle ou telle position. Nous leur faisons confiance.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Il y a encore trois orateurs inscrits: l'Arabie **Saoudite**, les Philippines **et** Cuba. Je vois également l'Argentine et le Maroc. Je déclare la liste close.

**Waleed A. ELKHEREIJI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (Original language Arabic):**

First of all I should like to thank Ambassador Bula Hoyos, who has made tremendous efforts and assumed huge responsibilities.

The admission of the EEC to FAO will be a positive factor that would support the activity of the Organization. It is my personal belief that the single text proposed by the Chairman provides a compromise solution. Nevertheless, we reserve our final comments on this matter, as we will need to receive instructions from our Capital. We therefore hope that the matter will be referred to Conference for decision.

Following the great efforts made by the Committee, especially by way of discussions on this matter with the EEC and with the FAO Secretariat, we hope that these efforts will bring about a satisfactory solution.

**Ms Maria Luisa GAVINO (Philippines):** The Philippines was honoured to participate in the small group selected by the Director-General to recommend to the CCLM amendments to the Basic Texts relating to Regional Economic Integration Organizations. We confirm and support what our Chairman, the distinguished Delegate of Colombia, has said. We profoundly thank him for all the efforts he has made in coming up with a single text, which we recognize was a very hard task.

Since my delegation finds it a balanced proposal, we are referring it to our Capital with a favourable recommendation - subject of course to approval of a final text which could hopefully meet with consensus in Conference.

**Juan NUIRY SANCHEZ (Cuba):** Nuestras vías de comunicación no son tan rápidas; por lo tanto, no sólo no tengo respuesta de mi país sino que aún no conocen el texto de este CL 100/LIM/2 que tuvimos la oportunidad de leer en la tarde de ayer. No obstante esto, creemos necesario pronunciarnos, aunque muy brevemente por cierto.

El Embajador Bula Hoyos ha sido analítico y elocuente como siempre en su documentada intervención realizada a principio de esta mañana, refiriéndose directamente a los tres asuntos pendientes luego de una larga y difícil negociación. Pero entendemos necesario, después de oír con toda la atención que requieren los planteamientos de todos los oradores que han hecho uso de la palabra, referirnos a su planteamiento, señor Presidente. No es necesario en este momento tomar decisiones; tan sólo elevar y dejar la discusión a la Conferencia y, como tal, mi delegación se pronuncia sobre el procedimiento - no sobre el texto -, independientemente de la opinión que tenemos como delegación.

Después de los esfuerzos desplegados y el trabajo que ha sido reflejado hoy aquí por el Embajador de Colombia, que ha puesto sobre la mesa todos los elementos jurídicos sin omitir los políticos, trabajo que nuestra delegación agradece en toda su valía, es por lo que señor Presidente reiteramos la posición, que no es otra que la indicada por Ud., de elevar estas consideraciones a la Conferencia.

**LE PRESIDENT:** J'avais clôturé la liste, mais la Thaïlande a demandé à intervenir ainsi que l'Angola.

**Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Maroc):** Vous m'excusez de m'être inscrit aussi tard, mais vous avez dû remarquer que les pays du Maghreb étaient en consultation.

J'ai l'honneur de faire cette intervention au nom de l'Union du Maghreb arabe: l'Algérie, le Maroc, la Tunisie, la Mauritanie et la Libye.

L'Union du Maghreb arabe a toujours accueilli favorablement la demande d'adhésion de la Communauté économique européenne au sein de la FAO. Nos pays voient notamment une possibilité certaine d'enrichissement pour notre Organisation, et le gage de la participation plus active de la Communauté permettra de trouver plus facilement des solutions satisfaisantes aux questions relatives aux domaines agricole et commercial entre la Communauté et les pays en développement, et plus particulièrement ceux de l'Union du Maghreb arabe.

Par conséquent, nos pays estiment que le second rapport du Président du Comité d'Etats Membres et le document CL 100/LIM/2 sont des textes positifs et équilibrés et nos pays se prononcent en faveur de leur transmission à la Conférence.

Permettez-moi également - la coutume veut que cela se fasse au début de l'intervention, je le ferai maintenant - de remercier

M. l'Ambassadeur Poulides pour les efforts qu'il a développés à la tête du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques. Et j'aimerais m'associer aux paroles très aimables qui lui ont été adressées hier par l'Ambassadeur de Cuba.

Nos remerciements vont également à l'Ambassadeur Bula Hoyos qui a, de manière si éloquente, présidé au destin de ce Comité d'Etats Membres de la FAO.

Et nous ne voudrions pas oublier le rôle considérable qui a été celui de M. Moore, Conseiller de notre Organisation, qui n'a ménagé aucun effort pour permettre à nos travaux d'arriver à la décision qui va être la nôtre.

En tant que délégué du Maroc, j'aimerais faire une petite remarque. C'est une remarque mineure, mais comme vous l'avez si bien dit M. le Président, tous les aspects juridiques ont été considérés et nous savons tous qu'en matière juridique aucune remarque n'est mineure.

J'aimerais sur le document CL 100/LIM/2 apporter une petite modification à l'article II.2(bis). A la fin de cet article, lorsque l'on dit: "S'applique

également à toute Organisation Membre, sauf disposition contraire", j'aimerais que l'on dise: "Disposition(s) contraire(s)".

**LE PRESIDENT:** Dans le texte anglais et dans le texte espagnol, le pluriel est déjà indiqué, mais pas dans le texte français.

**Jesús SABRA (Argentina):** Mi delegación desea, al igual que otras delegaciones, agradecer al Consejero Legal de la Organización, Sr. Moore, como al Embajador de Colombia Bula Hoyos, los esfuerzos realizados y las responsabilidades que asumieron en estos textos que han generado la posibilidad de considerar la solicitud de admisión de la CEE en la FAO. Nosotros pensamos como Gobierno que la participación de la Comunidad va a ser muy útil para nuestra Organización en las áreas de su competencia, y además tenemos conciencia de que este esfuerzo que realiza la Comunidad puede servir de punto de referencia para que otras organizaciones regionales de integración económica puedan, en el futuro, ser parte de esta Organización. En este sentido, entendemos que debería continuarse la negociación jurídica y política, que ya está en marcha, y por ello apoyamos la transmisión a la Conferencia de estos documentos, incluyendo el texto único preparado por el Presidente del Comité para la consideración por los Estados Miembros en esa oportunidad.

**Vanrob ISARANKURA (Thailand):** I need some clarification. My understanding is that this text should include the Article, and I think that the fact of a consensus in the Committee should go in, otherwise it is not complete. Is my understanding correct?

**Kiala KIA MATEVA (Angola):** Ma délégation félicite M. l'Ambassadeur de Colombie, j'ai cité M. Bula Hoyos et le Comité qu'il a présidé pour le travail de titan qu'ils ont présenté.

Bien que nous attendions des orientations de notre Capitale, l'Angola ne voit pas d'objections au transfert du document CL 100/LIM/2 à la Conférence pour décision. Ma délégation appuie les déclarations du Congo, de la Côte d'Ivoire et du Cap-Vert.

**LEGAL COUNSEL:** First of all I would like to thank you very much for your kind words to the Director-General and his Secretariat, and to say how much we enjoyed working with you on this very important issue, and how much of a privilege it has been to work with you under the distinguished chairmanship of both Ambassador Poulides and Ambassador Bula Hoyos.

I will try and answer the questions that have been put; first of all that of the delegate of Thailand. Yes, the Single Text is merely meant to deal with the three points that were still open and the remainder of the points will be found in the Report of the Second Session of the REIO Committee, as representing as close as we can get to an agreed text.

Secondly, to take up the point from the delegate of Poland, the meaning of the phrase "Member Organization" in the last sentence of Article II.2, I



should say that "member organization" does not refer to all regional economic integration organizations, only to those regional economic integration organizations which have been admitted as member organizations. This is the meaning of the phrase, and I hope that is clear.

I would like now to comment briefly on the three main points raised, the one regarding the eligibility criteria set out in Article II.3, and to report that the United Nations and all the specialized agencies have been unanimous, let us say, in their advice to me when I have consulted with them. They are all convinced that it is wiser to see the transfer of competence in the eligibility criteria and the notion of the transfer of the authority to take binding decisions. They felt this was really essential because we are dealing with participation in a decision-making process. Therefore, it was necessary to see this transfer of competence specified, and also the power to take binding decisions if one is to participate in a decision-making process.

As a matter of interest, I should add they all felt unanimously that the concept of treaty-making powers was not crucial in this particular situation although, of course, it is reflected in the amendments to Article XIV where regional economic integration organizations require the capacity to enter into treaties. It was always felt this capacity to enter into treaties was subsumed under the concept of transfer of competence and would be demonstrated by the mere fact that the member organizations would in fact join FAO.

Secondly, looking at the other point which caused difficulty, Article II.2, member organizations - yes, I think many people have indicated that this form of membership for member organizations and for regional economic integration organizations meeting certain criteria, is sui generis and throughout the Texts the notion of the sui generis character has always been stressed without necessarily needing to use the phrase "member organizations" in this one point in Article II. Throughout it is stressed that this is a different form, if you like, of membership. It is different from that of membership for Member Nations.

The third point was the speaking rights and whether the kind of formula adopted in Article XLIV.3 does in fact correspond to the basic principle we have of the alternative exercise of membership rights. The intention was that it should correspond to that, and by noting that only one of the parties would speak authoritatively when items were on the agenda covering matters both within the competence of a member organization and matters within the competence of the Member States, only one of them would be speaking authoritatively. That fact would be recorded within the report. This was trying to follow faithfully the principle of the alternative exercise of membership rights.

Finally, I would say that all of the United Nations organizations and the United Nations itself when I spoke to them have complimented FAO on its pioneering role in this sphere.

The message from the specialized agencies in Europe that I have talked to is that they are very happy to see FAO playing this pioneering role. They quite understand the special position of FAO in that food and agriculture is the focus of interest of FAO. It is also the focus of interest of the EEC and of a number of regional economic integration organizations. Therefore, it is

felt quite appropriate that FAO should be taking this leading role in this matter.

We have taken note of the point made by the delegate of Morocco with respect to the French version of the text.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Entrego ahora rápidamente la palabra al distinguido Embajador de Colombia, antes de sacar las conclusiones.

**Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia):** Parece que pudiera ser superfluo el que yo dijera que estoy muy satisfecho con el debate que se ha realizado. Mi percepción como modesto pero antiguo delegado me permitía esperar lo que ha sucedido esta mañana. Fue un texto acordado apenas ayer, en las horas del mediodía, distribuido al Consejo en las horas de la tarde, y era natural que todos los representantes de Gobiernos necesitaran tiempo para reflexionar y consultar a sus Gobiernos. Pero creo que el Consejo ha cumplido adecuadamente su deber y ha facilitado la tarea de la Conferencia.

Por respeto a la situación en que se encontraban los representantes de todos los Gobiernos, mi propuesta se limitó simplemente, y creo que ha sido generalmente acogida, a transmitir este texto a la Conferencia. No voy a anticipar su resumen, señor Presidente; sé que usted lo hace siempre muy bien. Pero creo que todos ofrecemos la mejor atención y todo respeto a los comentarios que se han expresado, que aparecen en las actas del Consejo y que trataremos de reflejar en el proyecto de Informe.

Permítame concluir con una brevísima consideración personal. Al margen del apoyo político y jurídico que este texto ha recibido, lo cual me complace, este debate me ha permitido confirmar una vez más que tengo muchos amigos en este Consejo. Esto me honra, me llena de sincera alegría y me permite, con el afecto del amigo, del colega y del compañero de siempre, reiterar a todos ustedes mi profunda gratitud y mi sincero reconocimiento.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Usted sacó las conclusiones mejor que yo podría hacerlo. Usted sabe muy bien que tiene un montón de amigos aquí, en este Consejo.

**Josias P. LUNGU (Zambia):** My delegation did not take the floor to discuss this issue because we are quite convinced that we are getting very close to agreement, and we have no difficulty in accepting it.

We want to thank the Chairman of this Group for producing a paper that seems to be a compromise.

What I want to raise is a question of clarification from the Legal Counsel with regard to Article II.3(bis). I would like to know if I correctly understood whether the question of submission of a declaration of competence, as specified in the last part of this Article, and as pointed out by Japan, has been answered, and whether the document will be available during the Conference.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je voudrais rapidement tirer les conclusions de cet intéressant débat. Tout le monde est intervenu, on a soulevé un certain

nombre de points juridiques qui déjà ont été soulevés très longuement au cours des deux dernières années. On a parlé du transfert de compétences, on a parlé du droit de parole, de tous les problèmes dont j'ai entendu débattre depuis deux ans. Le Groupe est arrivé non pas à un consensus, non pas à un accord sur un texte, mais à se mettre d'accord sur la présentation d'un document que je demande au Conseil de pouvoir envoyer à la Conférence. Ce document sera examiné par la Commission III et sera soumis à la séance plénière de la Conférence. Le texte qui est transmis, et en cela il faut être très clair, est un texte fatalement de compromis, fatalement insatisfaisant pour un certain nombre de pays, mais il est un texte politique qui conditionne la demande d'adhésion de la CEE. Je crois qu'il faut être très clair, rejeter ce texte c'est rejeter une demande d'adhésion. Il appartiendra, et ce n'est pas dans ce cadre mais dans celui du Conseil que nous devons en débattre, à la Commission III et à la Conférence de prendre leurs responsabilités. Je crois que tout les membres du Conseil et les observateurs auront l'occasion de transmettre un document clair à leurs capitales. Et c'est sur ce document clé que, de façon claire, on devra se prononcer par un vote lors de la Conférence. Alors, je pose la seule question, pour le moment, est-ce que l'un ou l'autre pays a des observations à formuler pour que le document soit transmis à la Conférence pour être soumis à l'examen de la Commission III? Je pose la question et j'aimerais savoir si un pays s'oppose à la transmission du document? Je ne vois pas d'oppositions. Je crois que nous pouvons conclure avec ce point de l'ordre du jour, et passer au point de l'ordre du jour suivant, étant entendu que nous avons encore pas mal de points à examiner lors de notre séance de ce matin qui risque d'être prolongée. Je vous remercie de ce débat particulièrement intéressant et utile et nous passons au point suivant.

II. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP (continued)

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

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

7. Developments Regarding the TFAP (continued)

7. Faits nouveaux concernant le Programme d'action pour les forêts tropicales (PAFT)  
(suite)

7. Novedades en relación con el PAFT (continuación)

**LE PRESIDENT:** Nous passons au point suivant de notre ordre du jour qui a été longuement examiné hier. Vous vous souviendrez qu'après le débat, le vœu a été émis d'obtenir un document de travail... Puis-je demander un peu de silence? Il a été demandé de présenter un document de travail, c'est-à-dire un "non paper". Je voudrais, avant de passer la parole aux délégations qui désirent la prendre, demander la permission de passer la parole à M. Walton pour, au moins, présenter ce "non document", ce "non paper".

**Declan WALTON (Special Assistant to the Director-General):** Perhaps I could make a few introductory remarks on the form and the context of the very short paper that has been circulated.

On the form, it is written in the shape of a few paragraphs that could be included in the draft report of the Council. I presume that the Council

will not wish to look at any of the drafting now. What we are discussing is the concept and the approach. The drafting will be looked at by the Drafting Committee in the usual way.

On the content, a number of questions have been put to me by delegations. Perhaps I can give clarification on some points.

The approach that is advocated here combines, in effect, elements of all three options in the document that we circulated to the Council. What we are proposing is a body with the institutional status of option (c). However, we would have the sense of urgency implicit in option (a). Furthermore, the ad hoc group would have the ability implicit in option (b) to tackle substantive issues relating to the TFAP. Obviously, under option (b) if the new formal consultative group were to meet, it would not just meet on institutional issues but on matters of substance.

I have been asked about the authority for the creation of such a body. Mr Moore will be able to respond to any detailed questions on legal matters, but it is clear to me that this is not a major issue so far as action by the Council is concerned. It does, however, create a very serious and delicate issue so far as the status of this body is concerned in the broader framework of the TFAP.

I hope that the Report of the Council, if it does go in this direction, would make quite clear that this is not an attempt by FAO to get hold of, to appropriate, the TFAP. The validity, the acceptability, of anything that may come out of this ad hoc group and even the readiness of other organizations, including NGOs, to participate in it, in my opinion will depend on this being made absolutely clear. Therefore, I believe it would be essential for the Council to make quite clear the way in which it would expect such an ad hoc group to function. At the same time, there are practical issues relating to such matters as invitations to other bodies to participate in the work of the ad hoc committee. Obviously, these cannot be decided in any degree of detail by the Council. These would have to be left to the ad hoc group itself.

On time horizon, I would point out that the Committee on Forest Development in the Tropics is meeting in the second week of December here in Rome. It will be preceded in the first week of December by a meeting of the Forestry Advisory Group of the TFAP, which usually includes in its deliberations a small number of international NGOs, so presumably we will have NGO representatives involved in the TFAP process here in Rome early in December.

In order to take advantage of this we should envisage a substantive meeting of the ad hoc group at that time and this could be prepared by a very simple meeting of the group itself because the group, whether we call it the core group or the actual group itself as established by the Council, is an FAO group, to prepare for substantive sessions and to get things done can be handled here in Rome.

The advantage that I see in following this approach is to get moving on the substantive issues without waiting for a resolution of the institutional issues. In order to help the ad hoc group to tackle such substantive issues the Director-General has authorized me to say that he will set up a support group consisting of people from the Forestry Department, Agriculture

Department, Economic and Social Policy Department and Development Department.

I would like to end only by an appeal for the support of all parties to this formula because it will only work, it will only be of value if everybody supports it and adheres to it. I hope it will become a transitional measure, a stage on the way towards whatever form of consultative mechanism, consultative forum is officially established to guide the TFAP. This is a step towards that and not a step backwards. And hopefully all parties will work out a satisfactory method, not just of living together but of working constructively and creatively together in the overall aim of revitalizing TFAP and making it a real success for the tropical forest countries.

**Miss Ting WEN LIAN (Malaysia):** I would like to thank Mr Walton for his efforts in putting together this paper CL 100/INF/14. My delegation would like to draw the attention of Mr Walton and our fellow Council members to para 2. We would like to have the first sentence of para 2 remain there and the rest of the paragraph to be deleted, that is "Membership will be open to any tropical or donor country participating in the TFAP process." and the rest of the paragraph to be deleted. The ad hoc group will be a group of sovereign countries, that is tropical forest countries and donor countries participating in the TFAP process. This ad hoc group has not even been established. My delegation feels it is inappropriate for the Council to tell this ad hoc group which has not been established how it should carry out its work and who it should invite. The ad hoc group should be established and as is suggested in para 3 it could be done during the Committee on Forest Development in the Tropics in the second week of December and after the ad hoc group has been established the ad hoc group will decide on how it should proceed with its work. We could accept (a) and (b) and who it should invite and what status the participation would be. It is a matter of logic. The Council cannot do the work of the ad hoc group which has not even been established. It is for the ad hoc group to decide how to go about its work. It is sufficient just to say that the membership will be open to any tropical or donor country participating in the TFAP process and no further than that.

I also notice that it has been banded around this room as to who owns the TFAP and some delegations or one or two delegations pointed out that FAO does not own the TFAP. Of course, the FAO knows that it does not own the TFAP. The FAO provides the important technical service to coordinate the programme. Well, who owns the TFAP? The tropical forest countries own the TFAP. It is only with our participation that this programme will exist and it depends on the kind of assistance and cooperation that will be offered by the donor countries. The TFAP belongs to the tropical forest countries because we are the owners of those forest resources.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je vais encore donner la parole à quelques orateurs. Après quoi je vais essayer de conclure parce qu'il ne faut pas rouvrir le débat. Je voudrais simplement connaître vos sentiments.

**David JOSLYN (United States of America):** Yesterday I explained our disappointment with the continuing slow process of TFAP reform, an issue

that has been before this Council for over two years and which has involved the time, energies and best thinking of many, including the TFAP forestry advisors and the participants of the Geneva and Paris meetings, and I explained why we continued to favour rapid formation of a consultative forum with broad participation and expertise, including NGOs. The current proposal for an ad hoc group does not appear to be responsive to the basic institutional recommendation of the independent review. TFAP needs to be raised above and beyond any single institution. In fact, the FAO itself already has two committees and you have mentioned them, the Committee on Forestry and the Committee on Forestry Development in the Tropics, charged with deliberation of issues which have now been delineated for this ad hoc group it seems. If FAO needs internal discussion to determine its position on its forestry programmes, then these committees should in normal circumstances suffice. We are not confident the current proposal will be useful or will generate investments in the tropical forestry sector, which by the way is our ultimate objective. On the other hand, if the Secretariat and members feel an ad hoc group can produce progress towards the implementation of the recommendations of the independent review, the United States will not oppose such action and will follow the creation of this ad hoc group with interest.

Finally I would be remiss if I did not express our opinion that it may very well be left to the UNCED process and programmes that evolve from that process to deal with crucial global forestry issues.

**Juan NUIRY SANCHEZ (Cuba):** Tan sólo una breve aclaración, señor Presidente, que deseábamos expresar antes de la importante declaración del Sr. Walton. Aunque en todas las intervenciones de nuestra delegación sobre este tema estuvo reflejada y recogida, creo que no se expresó literalmente; por lo tanto, preciso que la delegación de Cuba apoya y se pronuncia por la opción c), y como tal queremos que quede recogido.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je crois qu'aucun problème ne se pose en ce qui concerne les options, qui ont été clairement exprimées par les pays.

**John MACHIN (United Kingdom):** Could I start by thanking Mr Walton for both the paper and his helpful introduction which clarified a number of points that my delegation had. In general can I start by saying that we agree with this approach to the establishment of an ad hoc group. There are some basic principles to which we would all want to adhere; one of them is that it must represent that widest membership possible in this process and that covers governments, other sponsor organizations and agencies, and of course non-governmental organizations.

The second important principle for us and I am sure all my colleagues will share this, that this must not be an open-ended process, we must come to a resolution as quickly as possible. That may mean a very tight timetable but that should be our ultimate objective.

Thirdly and to reiterate a point that my United States colleague made, it will be inconceivable to see this group, its work and the whole process divorced from UNCED. It must be part and parcel and leading up to the crucial Conference next year.

Against that background I have a number of points. The first one I think Mr Walton has already answered and it was clearly an important point for him and for us; basically who owns this group, to whom will it be responsible and I think he has made it absolutely clear that this is not to be, putting it crudely, a hijacked FAO group but I do have a point on that and I would be grateful for clarification. To whom does the group report? In our case I think we should like to see it reporting, if reporting is the right word, to the UNCED process and perhaps more particularly to the next UNCED, if that is possible, PrepCom which I think is in March.

Secondly, whilst I agree very much with the time-tabling comments Mr Walton had and I think the concurrence of the meetings in December is a very useful basis on which to start, our preference would be to see a particular timetable as far as one can establish in order to meet our objective of not having an open-ended process and rather than the ad hoc group establishing its own calendar I think this Council at least ought to try to identify some signposts along the way. One signpost would be the start of the Committee on Forest Development in the Tropics, etc. in December. The next signpost could be the UNCED PrepCom IV in March. Perhaps also we could have a report on FAO's own Programme Committee in May, but here I would like some guidance. For the time being those are most of the views from London.

**Frederik Ch. PRILLEVITZ (Netherlands):** I would like to thank Mr Walton for this introduction and for what he has said about this being just a combination of the three options. He is right in saying that because I see several elements of the three options which were put forward for our consideration in that document.

My delegation can go along with this proposal. I would underline what has just been said by my British colleague, that we must have some signposts. The first one is that of the Committee on Forest Development in the Tropics. We also recognize the UNCED PrepCom in March as one of those signposts because the role of FAO in the process of UNCED is to make a contribution to the preparations for that important Conference. In the field of forestry we can now channel our FAO contributions, with the help of this group.

I am anxious to know what the reaction of the Secretariat is to the proposal from Malaysia. I only want to indicate at this moment that it is necessary that we keep the other sentences in this paragraph. Of course, the group can invite everybody, but we must have an indication in the text of in what way the group will work, and at least the second and third sentences are essential so that we know how this group will work. I also want to keep the other sentences in paragraph 2 which are of interest to us.

**Raphaél RABE (Madagascar):** Ma délégation voudrait également féliciter le Secrétariat de la production du document et M. Walton de sa présentation.

J'ai quelques questions seulement à poser. Peut-être cela va-t-il de soi mais j'aimerais savoir si le secrétariat du groupe sera assuré par le Département des forêts. Je voudrais quand même qu'on le précise.

Ensuite, je voudrais appuyer la proposition de l'Ambassadeur de Malaisie en ajoutant peut-être un phrase après "PAFT". On pourrait effectivement ajouter que le groupe peut inviter à ses réunions toute organisation ou institution dont la participation lui semble opportune.

Enfin, au cours de la discussion sur cette question, certaines délégations ont demandé que l'on précise que, si l'on maintient un mécanisme pour examiner cette question, ses réunions devraient se tenir à Rome.

**Winston RUDDER (Trinidad and Tobago):** First of all, let me congratulate the Secretariat for coming up with the document before us. I would like to express my gratitude to the Director-General for the support he wishes to provide to get this show on the road.

When we intervened yesterday, our major concern was to add transparency to the process and also to allow greater involvement of the countries themselves. In that regard, we supported option (c). It would appear to our delegation that the proposal we have before us does no violence to the concern that we have. It would be extremely important, whatever else we consider, that the partners in the TFAP process be fully involved in the continuing activity. In this regard, it would seem necessary and appropriate to have the entirety of paragraph 2, the sentiments reflected in the entirety of paragraph 2, of the long paper to be put before us and followed since, in fact, there are other cooperators besides FAO who are important to the full expression of our desires and wishes in terms of TFAP's full elaboration.

We too, like the United Kingdom delegation, were a little concerned about to whom would this mechanism really report. We would require some other clarification in this regard. We believe that whatever we do, whatever decision comes out here, we should not lose the momentum that seems to be so near at hand.

**Alberto MURILLO MORANTES (Venezuela):** Venezuela defiende el derecho de todos los países a un desarrollo socioeconómico sostenible, así como el derecho soberano de los países en desarrollo sobre el uso de sus recursos naturales de manera cónsona con sus propias prioridades y sus objetivos de desarrollo. Pero nos preguntamos ¿cómo es posible que los indicadores biológicos sean tan desastrosos y al mismo tiempo los económicos sean tan risueños en algunas partes del mundo?

Los indicadores económicos están afectados de un vicio de fondo. No hacen la distinción entre el uso de recursos que sostienen el progreso y el uso de otros que lo comprometen. Una economía que está cambiando el clima, del cual depende su sostenimiento, no es sostenible. No lo es, igualmente, si destruye los bosques que le suministran combustible y madera. Las insuficiencias respiratorias, alergias, disturbios del sistema nervioso, malformaciones genéticas son solamente algunas enfermedades de origen ambiental.

La falta de capital probablemente ha hecho imposible que países en vías de desarrollo tengan inversiones adecuadas para la protección de sus bosques, la conservación del suelo, etc. Lo peor es que, presionados por sus deudas



que aumentan, están liquidando los recursos naturales, frecuentemente su única fuente de ingreso de divisas. Los países en desarrollo están saqueando sus bosques, estropeando las reservas de pesca, mermando las fuentes de agua sin tener en cuenta las consecuencias a un largo plazo. Creo que debemos hacer algo.

**Michel MOMBOULI (Congo):** Nous voulons faire entendre notre voix pour donner notre position sur la question à l'examen. Nous sommes pour la variante C et nous pensons qu'effectivement, pour résoudre les questions qui restent encore en suspens, il va bien falloir désigner des personnes pour s'**en** occuper. Nous pensons que c'est dans cet esprit qu'il faut enregistrer la proposition concernant la création d'un groupe ad hoc.

En effet, nous pensons que si ce Groupe peut aider à résoudre les questions qui restent encore à résoudre, ce ne sera pas peine perdue.

Nous avons bonne conscience, du fait que déjà certains comités s'occupent de questions de forêt, et nous pensons que tout en acceptant le principe d'avoir un groupe ad hoc, nous souhaitons que ce groupe ait un caractère temporaire. Cela ne devrait pas être un organe permanent. Il devra s'efforcer de trouver, dans un temps que nous espérons court, des solutions aux questions qui restent encore en suspens.

Nous pensons nous aussi qu'il faudrait que l'on dise exactement à qui cet organe devra rendre compte. Pour ce faire, il faudra qu'il fasse un rapport pour que l'on puisse suivre de façon uniforme les progrès qui pourront être accomplis.

En ce qui concerne la proposition de l'Ambassadeur de Thaïlande, nous voudrions nous exprimer.

Nous voudrions dire tout d'abord que ce n'est pas la première fois que nous sommes amenés à créer des groupes ad hoc sur d'autres matières, et je me souviens que pour éviter toute confusion, nous avons toujours essayé d'être précis dans le mandat à confier au groupe ad hoc. C'est dans cet ordre d'idée que nous pensons que les détails qui figurent dans le paragraphe 2 de la proposition qui nous est faite sont bien à leur place. Il faudra en effet que l'on sache comment sera constitué ce groupe, comment il devra fonctionner. A la limite, ce que l'on peut peut-être supprimer, c'est la deuxième phrase du paragraphe 2, où il est dit "Ces pays devraient sélectionner leurs propres participants". Or, si un pays décide de participer aux travaux, il est souverain pour désigner ces participants. Il n'y a pas besoin de le dire.

Le reste est tout-à-fait valable. Il faudra que l'on sache comment devront être menés les travaux de ce groupe. J'insiste pour dire que je ne souhaite pas que ce groupe demeure permanent et dure indéfiniment. Il doit siéger, faire un rapport, rendre compte. On peut apprécier ce rapport, décider de dissoudre le groupe, si l'on pense que le problème est résolu, on peut aussi lui donner la possibilité d'avoir une deuxième session si on estime que le travail a des chances d'aboutir. Il faut bien penser que c'est un groupe ad hoc et non pas un organe de plus qui doit demeurer indéfiniment.

**LE PRESIDENT:** La réflexion que vous faites est juste. Il va de soi que c'est aux pays de sélectionner leurs participants. Il n'est peut-être pas besoin de le dire.

**Sture THEOLIN (Sweden):** In our intervention yesterday, we expressed the fear that choosing option (c) would mean that we would run the risk of leading to further expensive losses in time or tempo, that it would lead to prolonged uncertainty, and in fact might undermine FAO's possibility and ability effectively to support multilateral efforts in the tropical forestry field.

Against this background, I would like to make one or two comments on this particular text. As the representative from the Congo said, this is not the first time we have set up an ad hoc working group. We have frequently run into legal problems about it. This Council, of course, can only act within the framework of its Rules of Procedure and the Basic Texts of this Organization. Is this ad hoc group to be set up under Article IV.2 of the Constitution which would allow for the approximate membership and composition as it is? Since it speaks of an ad hoc group, this comes under General Rule XXV, paragraph 10. However, ad hoc groups in this Organization are limited to members of the Council only. What Mr Walton called for yesterday was a decision by this body on what next step this particular Organization and its Secretariat should take.

If we assume that an ad hoc Group on TFAP is set up and its composition and mandate is agreed, it will start its work in December. We do agree with the concern voiced by Trinidad and Tobago and the United Kingdom: to whom should it report? What would the Secretariat do in the meantime? In all of these cases, according to Article IV.2, the group will report back to the Director-General. According to General Rule XXV, the group will report back to the Council itself - and the Council will not meet until November 1992.

In our view this does not correspond to the strong wish expressed by the donors and by quite a number of the 85 or so tropical countries who wanted to see a speedy progress in this field.

As we see it, the Council does not actually need to take a decision to allow the Secretariat, in the same way as the Secretariat, the World Bank, and the UNDP, to come forward and come to inter-agency agreements on how to practically cooperate. The purpose and scope of the proposal therefore are ambiguous. If the Members of Council wish to go this way, so be it. We are distressed that this seems to lead to further delay and to further inactivity by the FAO Secretariat because even if the ad hoc group comes to conclusions, the Secretariat would then ask again for guidance from this Council.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Avant de donner la parole aux autres membres du Conseil, je voudrais à ce stade demander à M. Walton de répondre à certaines questions précises qui ont été posées, cela facilitera la poursuite de nos débats.

**Declan WALTON (Special Assistant to the Director-General):** Since there seems to be some doubt about the legal basis on which such a group could be constituted, and as this is a very simple matter, perhaps I could trespass

on Mr Moore's territory for a moment and say that Article VI of the Constitution, paragraph 5, provides the necessary authority. I would like to quote that paragraph in part, slightly violating the exact text.

Under this Article of the Constitution, the Council has authority to set up "workings parties or consultations of Members Nations... laying down their terms of reference and reporting procedures..." So it is the Council that decides what are the reporting procedures.

The Council may also "provide for participation in such... working parties and consultations, in such manner as they may determine, of national and international bodies concerned with nutrition, food and agriculture."

So the Council, under this provision, has full authority to decide on the composition, procedure and working methods of any such bodies.

**LI ZHEN DONG (China) (Original language Chinese):** We have carefully scrutinized CL 100/LIM/2, and we have studied the three options.

In order to completely carry out the functions of FAO in the field of forestry, to bring fully into place the priorities, and to guarantee the full participation of tropical countries in this field, we think it appropriate to choose option (c). We therefore support the decision in document CL 100/INF/14.

As for the way in which this group will carry out its work, we hope that the parties concerned will resolve its problems through further consultation, and try to find an appropriate approach and formalize a practical agenda.

**Leslie Ross BROWNHALL (Australia):** Australia's preference remains, as stated yesterday, for option (b); but if this is unacceptable to Council we are prepared to lend our support to the proposal in document CL 100/INF/14. However, we see this as a second-best approach as it does not respond to the various concerns heard here yesterday for rapid progress in taking up the recommendations of the TFAP review. We understand that the ad hoc group text of the FAO Council and its outcomes will bear on FAO's future participation as a sponsor, and that of the governments participating in the group. It also follows that the FAO Council should set the terms of reference as in the document, and the time-frame for discussions and reporting.

In this latter regard, we would associate ourselves with the timetable proposals put by the delegations of the United Kingdom and of the Netherlands. In addition, we believe that the Council should specify to whom the group should report on the text of the documents in hand. We would prefer to see paragraph 2 retained in its entirety but in paragraph 3 we do not prefer that the group should set its own calendar and we urge Council to set the timetable for the group.

**Paulo Estivallet DE MESQUITA (Brazil):** I would like to start by thanking Mr Walton and his colleagues in the Secretariat for their efforts to find some middle ground in this very complicated matter.

Let me start somewhat at the end, by referring to what the representatives of Congo and you Mr Chairman, said about the second sentence of paragraph 2. You said that it goes without saying that tropical and donor countries should select their own participants. Perhaps it goes without saying but it is better to say it because one of the problems we have had in the past is that in previous meetings the co-sponsors selected the participants, not only which organizations or countries should participate. So it is better to state very clearly that countries should be able to select their own participants.

A number of delegates here expressed their disappointment at the lack of progress and of rapid advance. The problem is that the way the process evolved was unsatisfactory. We expressed it very clearly at the last Council in June, that we were far from satisfied with the very novel suggestions which had been put forward by that Geneva meeting. We cannot just be told "Well, take it or leave it, join it and then let us see because it will be better for us". We must discuss these things. As we said, in a constructive spirit we are willing to discuss the possibility of establishing a consultative group or forum or whatever but we cannot be press-ganged into something of that sort.

In particular, we could not agree with the tight schedule - we need to take the time that is necessary to discuss these things. It is clear from the different statements that there are many different opinions. Some delegates see it as a matter of implementing the conclusions of the independent review. We have serious reservations about the conclusions of the independent review. Therefore we could perhaps go along with what was suggested by the Secretariat in CL 100/INF/14, but I would like to point out one thing.

On this idea of meetings before the Committee on Forestry Development in the Tropics, because there will be representatives of NGOs here in that week: much as I find it important to engage all interested parties in the work of this ad hoc group, the fact is that one of the main problems has been lack of participation from developing countries, not from interested parties. In addition, the developing countries have in the preceding week, I think, the meeting of the CFA, so I do hope that this will not prevent developing countries which have problems from attending this sort of meeting or from participating fully.

One last point regarding reporting procedures: If this is part of UNCED, then it is best left to UNCED, and should be discussed in the UNCED PrepCom. Some of the decisions of the first PrepCom were on how many meetings there would be. If we are going to arrange additional meetings in between so that we can report to the Fourth PrepCom, then I am afraid we could not go along with that. It is, as my colleague to my left said, a FAO ad hoc group, and we believe that it should report to FAO. I think that what was suggested in the first document was rather reasonable, that we could set our sights on the meeting of the Programme Committee.

In no way are we trying to delay or to block progress on this, but we cannot minimize the problem. It is a major effort at conciliation which we make in agreeing to discuss the matter of the consultative group in the first place, and we cannot accept that, in addition to that, we be faced with a schedule which we could not meet.

**David DRAKE (Canada):** The Canadian delegation associates itself fully with the statements of the United Kingdom, Trinidad and Tobago, Australia and the Netherlands.

Like the Netherlands, we strongly prefer to include the perspective of non-governmental organizations at all stages of the process.

As the delegate of Australia pointed out, this ad hoc group would essentially be a sub-body of this Council which itself is made up of government representatives. This Council has the perspective of nongovernmental organizations which it admits as Observers. It would be reasonable and logical to accord at least the same privileges to NGOs in this ad hoc group. The membership of an ad hoc group should in no way be seen to prejudice the composition of any eventual consultative forum.

Once again we, remain firmly committed to the renaissance of the TFAP. We attach importance to a continuing dialogue leading to effective action to assist developing nations in the sustainable management of their sovereign forestry resource. We would like to remain part of any continuing dialogue on the TFAP.

**Miss Ting WEN LIAN (Malaysia):** I was rather disturbed to hear from the intervention of my colleague from the Netherlands that in fact what Mr Walton was trying to do was to marry the three options (a), (b) and (c), although it was very clear to us from the debate yesterday that the majority of countries - and in fact all developing countries - favoured option (c). That is my first point.

My second point is to support what the delegate of Brazil has just said, that it is important to have the second sentence, contrary to what the delegate of the Congo said in his earlier statement. This is very important because as he pointed out, it was the sponsors who decided which developing country was to be present at these consultations. I think it is important to say that the tropical and donor countries should select their own participants, or all their participants.

My third point is to maintain what I have said earlier, that we should delete the rest of the paragraph, "the group will choose...", etcetera, because that will be the decision of the ad hoc group that will be established.

I would like to inform my fellow delegates from developing countries why my delegation is placing such emphasis on this point of the participation of NGOs. Malaysia has nothing against the NGOs. In fact, we find many of the responsible ones have been participating very usefully in all the discussions on tropical forests. But it has been a point of concern to the Group of 77 countries participating in the UNCED process that the developed countries have unleashed their NGOs onto the developing countries in our discussions. This is merely to play to the NGO gallery in their own countries. I want to make it clear that we will not be party to this. That is why my delegation has been very firm that the participation of NGOs should be the sovereign decision of sovereign delegations, and should not be imposed by the developed countries just because they want to please their NGOs.

We have our own NGOs. They are affiliates of the international NGOs, and we have had good relations with them. This is a question of principle, that the developed countries cannot impose their NGOs on us. By no stretch of the imagination can we equate NGOs with sovereign countries, and it is a decision for the sovereign countries whether they should be invited, and what is the status of their participation.

**Declan WALTON (Special Assistant to the Director-General):** Perhaps it may help if I go back once again to our Constitution, Article VI, paragraph 5. This provides - and here I go a little bit more into detail - that the Council may provide for participation in such a working group of national and international bodies concerned with nutrition, food and agriculture. Therefore I believe it is consistent with this article that the Council should indicate the desirability of participation in working groups of inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations. However, the article also provides that this participation will be in such manner as they may determine. Who are "they"? They are the working groups, etcetera. Therefore, the working group decides on the manner of the participation, but the Council needs to give a general orientation that it wishes to see NGOs and IGOs participating in the group.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Le texte du point 5 de l'Article VI de l'Acte constitutif est très clair. Il stipule en effet "selon des modalités déterminées par eux". Maintenant, je passe la parole au Congo.

**Michel MOMBOULI (Congo):** M. le Président, je suis quelque peu troublé par certaines affirmations qui ont été versées à notre débat, notamment en apprenant que d'autres personnes se seraient permises, se seraient donné la liberté de désigner leurs représentants dans des pays souverains. C'est une question qui me perturbe parce que, en effet, tel que cela ressort du paragraphe 2 de la proposition qui nous est faite, il est bien dit que pour faire partie du groupe "tout pays tropical"... ce qui voudrait dire que le pays souverain décide de participer. Et je ne vois pas dans quelle mesure quiconque pourrait se donner la liberté de dire: "Tu veux participer, à condition que ce soit Paul plutôt qu'André". Cela franchement est une question qui touche à la souveraineté des Etats. Je ne sais pas si dans le passé cela s'est passé, mais s'il y a eu des précédents, je le déplore et je le dénonce, et dans ce cas effectivement, il faudrait mieux le mentionner, mais il faut dire que franchement c'est déplorable. S'il y a eu des cas où déjà un Etat qui décide de participer à une réunion quelconque n'a pas eu la possibilité de désigner son participant, c'est regrettable. On dit "tout pays peut"... et il n'a pas la liberté de choisir? Ça franchement, c'est très grave. Mais enfin, si cela a eu lieu je suis d'accord pour que l'on maintienne cette phrase pour éviter toute ambiguïté et éviter que les gens marchent sur la souveraineté des Etats.

**LEGAL COUNSEL:** I would just like to clarify one point. It is true that we would be operating under Article VI.5 and that article empowers the Council in this case to determine all the relevant terms of reference and modes of participation for working groups set up under this article. I should point out that when it says the Conference or Council may provide for participation in such working parties and consultations, in such manner as

"they" may determine, of national and international bodies concerned with nutrition, food and agriculture, in this case the word "they" does refer to the Conference and the Council and in this particular case to the Council.

**Frederik Ch. PRILLEVITZ (Netherlands):** On a very small point, Mr Chairman, I want only to tell you that I do not accept the expression in the last statement of the delegate of Malaysia where she said that the developed countries only want to see the representatives of NGOs at meetings because we want to please them. I ask for an apology for that because we think that the NGOs can make a very important contribution to all kinds of work. We work together with them in our own country, and we also work together in international fora because they have certain knowledge and experience, and we want to know their views on certain things. I do not say that Malaysia and Brazil are tropical countries which are not active in the process of TFAP. I do not say that, but these two countries do not use the possibilities of TFAP. I think we must be polite to each other.

**Miss Ting WEN LIAN (Malaysia):** With all due respect to my colleague from the Netherlands, I maintain what I said. We have been very polite to each other and in fact, what he said about the NGOs I have also said - that the responsible ones play a very useful role. They play a useful role in my own country because we have affiliates and national chapters of the international NGOs. They play a most useful role in the UNCED process. The important point was that it was a question of principle that the sovereign country should decide whether or not they should be invited, at what stage, and at what status their participation would be.

Secondly, it is not a question of Article VI.2 or VI.3. This is a political decision. It is the decision of sovereign countries as to who they want to involve in this process, in this *ad hoc* group. My delegation maintains that the rest of the paragraph after the second sentence should be deleted.

**Ralph SCHMIDT (UNDP):** I will just emphasize that I am here not to play any role in the decision-making process, but simply as a counsel.

If I understand the concerns of developing country delegates expressed yesterday, there is general apprehension that a consultative group would be used as a platform to criticize the actions of governments and to impinge on national sovereignty. Let me assure delegates that the UNDP, covered by your representatives, would never ever participate in such a process. I believe we are dealing with some misapprehensions.

One constituent of the consultative group is that it would critically and constructively examine the actions of international organizations, especially including UNDP programmes, to make sure that they effectively address the priorities and concerns where we operate, the developing countries.

Sovereign states own forests. They also own multilateral organizations. We learned long ago that the problems we face with regard to forests are bigger than any one organization. The TFAP must be a multi-institutional programme drawing on all the operative strengths of its organizations, as was eloquently stated yesterday by the delegate of Sweden.

The decision before us gives the impression of reinforcing the overriding authority of the Governing Bodies of FAO over TFAP. I would advise that at this time this is the wrong message to send. The critics of the TFAP will be emboldened and reinforced by this decision. The cooperative spirit which the co-sponsors have carefully nurtured with the able leadership of Mr Walton will be weakened. One of the rules of UNDP is to mobilize increased concessionary resources to address developing country priorities. I feel that this proposed group, which begins to look very similar to the CFDT itself, will not produce much value added on this key issue. I express my very serious concern at the repercussions of this decision. One suggestion would be that the august body consider a statement that it recognizes that the eventual governance of TFAP may involve more than the FAO governing bodies.

**Declan WALTON (Special Assistant to the Director-General):** I would first of all like to emphasize that the Council does not right now have to definitively agree to a text. As I said at the beginning, this will be a part of the Report of the Council. It will go through the Drafting Committee and will come back again for adoption in Plenary. Therefore, a number of details can be fixed up en route.

However, there is one issue that cannot be resolved in a drafting manner. That is the question of whether the Council does or does not wish to make a specific reference to participation of intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations in the group. As I said before, I would suggest that, in accordance with the relevant article of the Constitution, there should be a definite reference to participation of IGOs and NGOs. However, the Council can delegate to the Working Group the decision on which organizations to invite and the manner in which they can take part in the work of the body.

Therefore, I am not suggesting that we pursue that now, but we will try to develop a form of words I think which will make that point.

The point just made by the representative of the UNDP is a very important one of which I am extremely conscious, and which I attempted to cover in my introduction of this, that is to say, to avoid creating the impression anywhere in any quarter that this decision represents a kind of takeover by the Council of the governance of the TFAP. I would suggest that this be covered by an explicit paragraph in the Draft Report that we will be submitting to you.

I think the only other question I need to respond to is the UNCED one. Here I feel very uneasy because I have not been involved in the UNCED process in any way. I think the representative of Brazil, which is the host of UNCED, made a rather trenchant reference to this matter. My own suggestion would be that there certainly be no reference in the Council Report to submitting the findings of the ad hoc group to UNCED, but that, if during its work on the way, the governments in the working group felt that they had certain messages that should be transmitted to UNCED, and they so decide, this can be done without the need for any specific reference in the Council Report.

Mr Chairman, I think we have enough guidance from the Council to try our hand at a complete report for the Drafting Committee and the Plenary.



**LE PRESIDENT:** Je crois également qu'après ce large débat, les choix ont été clairement déterminés pour l'option c). Le document qui propose la création d'un groupe ad hoc laisse toute liberté à ce groupe d'établir son règlement et d'inviter qui il entendra selon les modalités qu'il déterminera.

Il reste un point qui me semble important: le calendrier des travaux. Une première réunion a été proposée pour le mois de décembre. Cette suggestion pourrait être retenue. Le calendrier ultérieur doit être fonction de l'accord qui interviendra en ne se limitant pas à des questions de procédure mais en traitant de questions de fond.

L'ensemble du débat sera reflété dans le rapport qui nous sera présenté demain. Là, je crois qu'il faut être bien clair: ce groupe ad hoc ou ce comité sera créé sur la base du paragraphe 5 de l'Article VI de l'Acte constitutif de la FAO.

Le document CL 100/INF/14 est un document de travail qui trace un certain nombre de lignes, compte tenu de tous les éléments qui ont été fournis. Il appartient dès maintenant au Comité de rédaction d'essayer de faire une synthèse des opinions de façon à rencontrer les vœux de l'ensemble des membres du Conseil et à aboutir rapidement à un accord sur le fonctionnement de ce groupe ad hoc et sur son calendrier des prochains mois, une première réunion étant prévue pour le mois de décembre.

Je n'ai pas entendu de réserve en qui concerne la nécessité pour ce groupe de travailler. Tout ce que nous pouvons souhaiter c'est qu'il travaille vite et bien. Il est inutile d'en dire davantage. Je remercie tous les membres du Conseil de leurs interventions puisque nous avons débattu longuement de cette question hier et ce matin. Nous achevons ainsi l'examen du point 7 de l'ordre du jour.

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

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

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

12. Review of Field Programmes 1990-91

12. Examen des programmes de terrain 1990-91

12. Examen de los Programas de Campo. 1990-91

**LE PRESIDENT:** Vous avez eu l'occasion d'examiner le rapport de la réunion conjointe des comités ainsi que le rapport très fouillé du Comité du Programme relatifs aux programmes de terrain. Dans ces rapports, la question des dépenses d'appui du PNUD a été examinée. Je crois qu'il n'y a pas d'élément nouveau depuis la dernière réunion des comités.

Je vais demander à M. Rinville, Sous-Directeur général, de faire un exposé introductif sur les programmes de terrain, en lui demandant d'être aussi bref et synthétique que possible.

Il s'agit de documents très bien rédigés et qui ont certainement retenu votre attention.

**F. RINVILLE (Sous-Directeur général, Département du Développement):** M. le Président, j'essaierai d'être aussi bref que le Conseil l'a souhaité et que vous venez de le demander. Comme vous l'avez dit, les documents C 91/4 et C 91/4-Sup.1 - ce dernier s'intitulant "Suite donnée à la décision du Conseil d'administration du PNUD sur les arrangements futurs concernant les dépenses d'appui" - ont fait l'objet d'un long travail par le Comité du programme et le Comité financier. Les conclusions de ces comités figurent dans le document CL 100/4. Le corrigendum ne touche pas à ces conclusions.

Ces conclusions sont très explicites. Le Directeur général avait demandé, dans le document C 91/4-Sup.1, qu'une certaine latitude lui soit accordée pour faire face aux conséquences de l'introduction des nouvelles dispositions de remboursement des dépenses d'appui du PNUD car celles-ci auront des implications budgétaires. Le document dont vous venez d'être saisi au titre de ce point de l'ordre du jour, et qui porte la cote C 91/4-Sup.2, est un premier document, conséquence de l'accueil favorable donné au Directeur général lors de la discussion au sein du comité et reflété, d'ailleurs, dans les conclusions de la réunion conjointe du Comité du programme et du Comité financier, puisque les comités ont été assurés par le Directeur général qu'il ferait usage de la marge de souplesse qu'il était prêt à conseiller dans le respect du règlement financier. Cela fait partie de ces premières mesures. Le document qui vient de vous être remis sera incorporé dans le document qui fera l'objet d'une discussion à la Conférence.

Je pense que la présentation des documents et les conclusions des comités se tiennent et je ne vois pas de raison d'ajouter quoi que ce soit à ce niveau.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je remercie M. Rinvillle de cet exposé introductif très complet. Je vais demander aux membres du Conseil s'ils désirent intervenir. L'excellent document relatif aux programmes de terrain a fait l'objet d'un examen approfondi du Comité du programme et vous trouverez, dans le rapport de ce comité, toutes les réponses aux nombreuses questions qui ont été posées. J'ai eu l'occasion et le bonheur de suivre les activités du Comité du programme et je puis dire que son examen de cette question a été particulièrement fouillé, minutieux, précis et opérationnel pour l'avenir.

**C.B. HOUTMAN (Netherlands):** Mr Chairman, may I just say that we had intended to speak because, as you know, the field programme is close to our hearts. We do have some remarks to make, but because of time constraints we will reserve our comments for the Conference.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Vous le direz très bien et de manière très approfondie lorsque les programmes de terrain seront examinés par la Conférence.

**John Bruce SHARPE (Australia):** We commend the Secretariat for producing this very useful document. It is clearly the result of the evaluation process that has taken place within FAO. The field programmes of FAO are an integral part of FAO's work and it is important that they continue to be effective and relevant. The evaluation process is important in ensuring

this and it is hoped that the FAO will continue to strengthen the process and maintain efforts to improve project performance.

Australia is pleased to see that FAO has increased the focus on environment and sustainable development aspects of field projects and the emphasis now being given to policy advisory work and women in development. We are particularly interested in the outcome of the review of the Technical Cooperation Programme carried out by FAO's evaluation service and the conclusions on page 106. They contain suggestions for the improvement of the Technical Cooperation Programme and nominate specific areas which require further strengthening. They are follow-up to project results, systematic monitoring and assessment of the quality of the projected results, wider dissemination of information on TCP project results, improved project working for programme implementation, clarifying project categories in relation to TCP criteria and functions. Australia supports the suggestions for improvement and would wish to see them implemented.

On the question of the successor arrangements FAO and other agencies should be commended for the constructive nature of the support cost implementation negotiations, the setting up of collaborative training arrangements between the five agencies and the UNDP is to be commended.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Nous avons déjà eu l'occasion de faire connaître nos sentiments en ce qui concerne le problème des dépenses d'appui du PNUD. Je vois que les négociations se poursuivent. De toute façon, si les décisions prises se révèlent difficiles à appliquer ou peu opérationnelles, il est souhaitable que les contacts soient maintenus de façon à trouver des formules qui permettent de les appliquer, dans l'intérêt des programmes de terrain et des projets qui sont assumés par notre Organisation. C'est, à l'heure actuelle, l'une des grandes préoccupations du Secrétariat. Donc, les contacts sont maintenus; ils doivent être poursuivis et si, éventuellement, des décisions s'avèrent préjudiciables au but poursuivi à la fois par le PNUD et par la FAO, à savoir rendre les projets plus efficaces et plus opérationnels dans l'intérêt des pays bénéficiaires, il est clair que le Conseil d'administration du PNUD pourra se pencher à nouveau sur le problème, sur la base des expériences qui auront été faites.

Si aucun autre pays ne désire intervenir, je déclarerai clos l'examen du point 12 de l'ordre du jour.

13. Implementation of the Review of Certain Aspects of FAO's Goals and Operations
13. Mise en oeuvre des conclusions de l'Examen de certains aspects des buts et opérations de la FAO
13. Aplicación del Examen de algunos aspectos de los objetivos y las operaciones de la FAO

**V.J. SHAH (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation):** The report which is before you is going to the Conference and in accordance with Conference Resolution 10/89 it has been submitted through the Programme and Finance Committees. The views of the Programme and Finance Committees are also before you and I draw your attention to them.

The points covered in this report are certainly not new in any way to the Council because at your session in November 1990 you had considered a preliminary report of the Director-General on the measures already introduced and contemplated for the following year in response to the Conference Resolution 10/89. At that time the Council had expressed satisfaction at the report that he had submitted. With regard to the present report the Programme and Finance Committees are particularly satisfied to note the progress in the implementation of the recommendations of the Conference linked to the FAO Review. The two committees recognized the action on a phased basis, and within the limits of the resources available. The two committees have stressed that this gave evidence of the commitment of the Director-General in putting the Conference recommendations into full effect. The implementation, as is well known, has taken place during a period of exceptional financial difficulties for FAO and the two committees regretted that these financial difficulties had constituted a constraint on the efforts of the Director-General.

The two committees recognized that the Review and its follow-up constitute a well-timed investment with the ultimate aim of strengthening FAO. The committees have stressed, however, as you the Council have also done, that putting the Organization back on an assured and stable financial basis would give a further impetus to the follow-up of the Review. Beyond this the positive results of the FAO Review would enhance the Organization's capacity to mobilize additional resources.

In conclusion the committees have reiterated their general satisfaction at the progress achieved despite the overall resources constraints. They have appreciated the wish of the Director-General to pursue further actions with the same determination. The committees recognized the requirement for Member Nations to meet their financial obligations in order to permit FAO's strengthening and they underline the significance of pursuing the search for consensus as the basis for the renewed financial stability of the Organization.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Nous disposons d'un excellent document qui est le rapport du Directeur général à la Conférence. Je crois que ce rapport est une belle synthèse de la suite donnée à l'Examen de certains aspects des buts et opérations de la FAO. Beaucoup se souviendront des longues discussions à propos de la réforme, qui était en réalité une radioscopie de la situation de la FAO. Il avait été constaté, lors de la dernière Conférence, qu'un certain nombre de recommandations nécessitaient des moyens financiers additionnels complémentaires indispensables, mais malgré les difficultés financières, malgré le fait que l'Organisation a dû vivre à découvert en devant emprunter parce qu'il n'y avait pas d'autres formules, un nombre important de recommandations ont été suivies par le Directeur général, et la lecture du rapport vous donne l'état précis de ce qui a pu être fait, compte tenu des moyens financiers disponibles. Ce qui a été fait me paraît - en tout cas, en tant que Président qui a suivi les travaux du Comité du Programme et de la session conjointe du Comité financier et du Comité du Programme - particulièrement satisfaisant. Le Directeur général a déployé un maximum d'efforts pour donner une suite aux recommandations qui avaient été faites dans le cadre de la Résolution 10/89.

De toute façon, ce document est transmis à la Conférence. Si l'un ou l'autre désire faire des commentaires au sujet de ce document, je lui donnerai la parole.

**John Bruce SHARPE (Australia):** Australia is generally pleased with the early efforts being made to implement the review of certain aspects of FAO's goals and operations and would wish to see the full implementation of the review's recommendations occur as quickly as possible. The review has obviously had a very positive result and it would benefit in keeping this review process going into the future.

We note the progress that has been made in a number of the priority areas, including sustainable development and environment and policy advice, support to agricultural trade organizations, Codex and the planned role of the International Plant Protection Convention Secretariat.

On the question of the use of additional resources to meet emerging needs and to carry out other recommendations of the review Australia would be pleased to see this eventuate if they are available from the finance agencies and institutions referred to in Resolution 10/89, or if there were countries who had surplus resources and were prepared to make them available on a voluntary basis for this purpose. However consistent with the approach which we have adopted on increased country contributions in other agenda items and will continue to adopt, we would not wish to see the provision of additional resources become a monetary obligation on Member Nations. If funds from the resources mentioned are not forthcoming we consider it important for FAO to place an even greater emphasis on priorities to evaluate its existing activities and where possible discard those that may no longer be relevant in order to release resources.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Merci pour votre intervention. Il est clair que lorsqu'on parle de supprimer certaines actions, il faut les indiquer de manière à donner des précisions à la FAO. Mais quand vous parlez de priorités et de non-priorités, il est indispensable pour le Secrétariat de savoir quelles sont ces priorités et ces non-priorités.

Le rapport sur la Résolution 10/89 sera soumis à la Conférence avec les remarques qui viennent d'être faites.

Le délégué du Pakistan nous demande d'insérer au procès-verbal de cette séance son intervention sur le point 13.

**S. NAJMUS-SAQIB (Pakistan):** Our delegation appreciates the efforts of the FAO Secretariat and its Director-General in preparing such a valuable report, reviewing the action taken on most urgent issues which will go a long way in overcoming the environmental sustainable development and other problems and achievement of sustainable growth for all nations. Pakistan is faced with many environmental problems particularly degradation of forests, health hazards, etc. and is taking measures to overcome these problems. Measures are under way to conserve the country's natural resource base particularly land and water to lead towards a sustainable growth. FAO's involvement in country policy work will lead to identification of specific policy actions and a multidisciplinary approach having a strong comparative

advantage. Review of various programmes like WCARRD, WAICENT, Reinforcing field operations and technical back-stopping and relations with the known funding agencies gives an opportunity to evaluate the issues involved and their likely remedial measures at national and global level. Pakistan fully endorses the deliberations of the review that the execution of the programmes, ongoing and forthcoming is not possible without a sound financial position of the Organization in order to provide better services by the Organization to its Member Nations. We reiterate support to the Organization's efforts and on our part have met and would meet our obligations in this respect.<sup>1</sup>

II. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP (continued)

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

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

8. Progress Report on FAO's Contribution to the Preparations for UNCED

8. Rapport intérimaire sur la contribution de la FAO aux préparatifs de la Conférence des Nations Unies sur l'environnement et le développement (CUNED)

8. Informe parcial sobre la contribución de la FAO a los preparativos para la CNUMAD

**LE PRESIDENT:** Nous allons passer au point 8, qui est un point important, mais pour information. Il s'agit du rapport intérimaire sur la contribution de la FAO aux préparatifs de la Conférence des Nations Unies sur l'environnement et le développement.

Il était utile de faire le point de la situation de ce que la FAO a fait jusqu'à présent. Je remercie M. Mahler, Conseiller spécial du Directeur général, d'être présent parmi nous et je lui donne la parole.

**P.J. MAHLER (Conseiller spécial du Directeur général/Sous-Directeur général pour l'environnement et le développement durable):** Le document CL 100/7 est un compte-rendu d'activités de l'Organisation concernant essentiellement la contribution de la FAO aux préparatifs de la Conférence des Nations Unies sur l'environnement et le développement.

Sous le point 7 de l'ordre du jour, la Conférence examinera un rapport plus complet sur les activités de la FAO dans ce domaine et ce rapport traitera des aspects substantifs des stratégies et des programmes de l'Organisation, C 91/30.

Le document qui vous est présenté est donc essentiellement pour information du Conseil. Il répond au mandat qui nous avait été donné par la Conférence par la Résolution 89/3 de participer activement aux préparatifs de la CNUED et je me bornerai simplement à faire une mise à jour de ce document qui a été rédigé au mois de septembre et de souligner quelques points.

Je suis heureux de pouvoir confirmer au Conseil que, grâce à l'excellente coopération établie entre le Secrétariat de la CNUED et celui de la FAO, l'Organisation a joué et continue de jouer un rôle primordial dans la

<sup>1</sup> Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

préparation des propositions soumises à l'examen des gouvernements dans les domaines de compétence de la FAO.

C'est notamment grâce à l'appui du Gouvernement des Pays-Bas et à l'accord général donné par le Conseil aux résultats de la Conférence de Bois-Le-Duc sur l'agriculture et l'environnement que le sujet du développement de l'agriculture durable a été inscrit à l'ordre du jour, ou du moins aux propositions du Programme d'action 21 de la Conférence de la CNUED. Il s'agit là d'un résultat important dans la mesure où initialement il n'était question que de discuter de la désertification, des pertes en sol et du déboisement. Je pense que c'est un résultat important que les gouvernements puissent, à la Conférence de Rio notamment, en plus des questions concernant les pêches et les forêts, discuter des aspects d'environnement et de développement qui concernent le secteur agricole.

Je ne m'étendrai pas sur les contributions que nous avons faites. Elles sont détaillées dans le rapport.

Je voudrais à titre d'information complémentaire dire que nous avons reçu le mois dernier à Rome successivement la visite de quatre fonctionnaires du programme du Secrétariat de la CNUED. Cela illustre cette coopération active entre les deux secrétariats, notamment pour la préparation des documents qui seront soumis ensuite à l'examen et à la négociation de gouvernements des pays souverains.

Les documents concernent non seulement l'agriculture et le développement rural durable, mais aussi les forêts, les ressources vivantes de la mer et les eaux continentales pour le Comité préparatoire 4. Nous avons également participé à plusieurs réunions de travail à Genève. Nous serons encore amenés à d'autres réunions intersecrétariats dans le courant du mois de novembre.

Les gouvernements devraient pouvoir ainsi tenir compte du rôle final que jouent l'agriculture, les forêts et les pêches en matière de développement durable et de protection de l'environnement dans les décisions qu'ils prendront à la Conférence de Rio.

Nous espérons que de cette manière les retombées de la CNUED en matière de programmes, et nous l'espérons aussi de ressources financières, ne bénéficieront pas seulement aux institutions nationales et internationales s'occupant des questions générales de l'environnement et du développement mais aussi aux Ministères de l'agriculture, des forêts et des pêches et aux institutions internationales concernées.

Pour ce faire, comme cela avait été dit au Conseil en juin, le Directeur général souhaite vivement que ces Ministères soient représentés de manière adéquate dans les délégations nationales à la Conférence de Rio. A cette fin, nous cherchons à sensibiliser tout particulièrement les pays en développement, à l'occasion des réunions régionales ou interrégionales sur l'importance du Programme d'action 21 dans ces secteurs. Le conseil souhaitera peut-être attirer l'attention de la Conférence de la FAO sur ce rapport avec ses observations pertinentes et renouveler le souhait exprimé à la 99ème session de voir le secteur agricole, forestier et halieutique recevoir l'attention qu'ils méritent de la CNUED et à cette fin inviter les institutions nationales et internationales concernées à y participer effectivement.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je salue la présence de M. Zehni qui a contribué à ses travaux et je remercie M. Mahler de son exposé. Avez-vous des commentaires à faire sur ce point?... Le délégué du Pakistan nous demande d'insérer au procès verbal de cette séance son intervention sur ce point 8.

**S. NAJMUS-SAQIB (Pakistan):** Regarding "Preparations for UNCED", we would like to indicate that Pakistan remains deeply committed to arresting environmental degradation. After three years of continuous efforts, we have been able to evolve a National Conservation Strategy: 14 core areas have been identified in all aspects of environmental degradation, these work both at the federal and provincial levels.

We would further like to state that as a part of Pakistan's preparations to actively participate in the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Environment and Development at Rio in June 1992, we have prepared a "Country Report" which is in the process of being submitted to the UNCED Secretariat at Geneva - and are looking forward to attending it at an appropriate level.1

**LE PRESIDENT:** La question est de savoir si le Conseil souhaite ou ne souhaite pas que le rapport ainsi que les éléments additionnels fournis par M. Mahler soient soumis à l'attention de la Conférence, de façon à être examinés au point 7 de la Conférence consacré aux activités en faveur de l'environnement et du développement durable. Il est important que dans le cadre de cette discussion le présent document et les commentaires faits par le Secrétariat puissent être examinés attentivement par la Conférence, lors de sa session qui débutera après demain.

Si tout le monde est d'accord, il en est ainsi décidé.

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

III. QUESTIONS CONCERNANT LE PROGRAMME. LE BUDGET. LES FINANCES ETmn L'ADMINISTRATION (suite) III. ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS. FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS (continuación)

16. Second Report on Unscheduled and Cancelled Sessions in the 1990-91 Biennium

16. Deuxième rapport sur les réunions hors programme et les réunions annulées pendant l'exercice 1990-91 16. Segundo informe sobre las reuniones no previstas y las reuniones canceladas en el bienio 1990-91

**V.J. SHAH (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation):** As this is an item only for information, and as your practice in the Council is to have the Report attached as an Annex to the Council's Report, I can be very brief.



We report to the Council once a year on those sessions which were unscheduled - unscheduled because they were not included in the Programme of Work. The list which is submitted to you gives the information which you have always asked for, and in particular the nature of the Session. However, for the first time, we have included also information on the location, as this was requested at your last session.

The list goes up to the date of 16 September 1991. Since that time one other unscheduled session was approved. Therefore, the total number of unscheduled sessions for the biennium comes to 43 and not 42.

As regards cancelled sessions, since the document was produced four additional sessions were cancelled, so the total number of cancelled sessions is now 84.

I have other information, but since all this will be included in the Report of the Council, I can stop there if you wish.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Est-ce que quelqu'un désire prendre la parole sur ce point d'information qui figurera, comme vient de le signaler M. Shah, dans le rapport?...

Puisque personne ne demande la parole, je déclare ce point clos.

IV. CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS (continued)

IV. QUESTIONS CONSTITUTIONNELLES ET JURIDIQUES (suite)

IV. ASUNTOS CONSTITUCIONALES Y JURIDICOS (continuación)

18. Other Constitutional and Legal Matters, including:

18. Autres questions constitutionnelles et juridiques, notamment:

18. Otros asuntos constitucionales y jurídicos, en particular:

18.2 Invitations to International Non-Governmental Organizations which do not have Status with FAO

18.2 Invitation d'organisations internationales non gouvernementales n'ayant pas de statut officiel auprès de la FAO Invitaciones a organizaciones internacionales no gubernamentales que no mantienen relaciones oficiales con la FAO Latin American Forestry Commission: Change of Title

18.3 Changement du titre de la Commission des forêts pour l'Amérique latine

18.3 Comisión Forestal Latinoamericana: cambio de nombre

Je passe au point 18: Autres questions constitutionnelles et juridiques. Ce point se divise en deux sous-points: 18.2: Invitation d'organisations internationales non gouvernementales n'ayant pas de statut officiel auprès de la FAO, CL 100/INF/5. Ce document vous est soumis pour information. Aucune action particulière ne doit être prise à ce sujet. Le texte de ce document contient toutes les explications voulues et une introduction ne me paraît dès lors pas souhaitable ni essentielle.

S'il n'y a pas de question à propos de ce document, je passerai au point suivant pour lequel nous devons prendre une décision: 18.3 Changement du titre de la Commission des forêts pour l'Amérique latine.

Est-ce qu'il y a des commentaires sur le point 18.2?... S'il n'y a pas de commentaires, le document CL 100/INF/5 est adopté.

En ce qui concerne le changement de titre de la Commission des forêts pour l'Amérique latine, nous avons un projet de résolution qui nous est soumis et qui prévoit le changement du nom de la Commission des forêts pour l'Amérique latine, qui devient la Commission des forêts pour l'Amérique latine et les Caraïbes. La modification est une modification qui est admise pour toutes les commissions. On ne parle plus uniquement de l'Amérique latine et on n'oublie pas les importants Etats des Caraïbes que l'on associe étroitement au continent latino-américain. La proposition de modification est uniquement un changement de nom pour adapter la situation aux réalités d'aujourd'hui.

La Commission des forêts pour l'Amérique latine deviendra, si vous le décidez, la Commission des forêts pour l'Amérique latine et les Caraïbes.

Est-ce qu'il y a une objection sur ce changement de dénomination?... Dans le document CL 100/8, vous avez le texte de la résolution soumise au Conseil.

S'il n'y a pas d'objection, il en est ainsi décidé.

Je félicite particulièrement le représentant de Trinidad-et-Tobago, qui représente les pays des Caraïbes, pour cette modification d'intitulé de la Commission.

V. OTHER MATTERS

V. AUTRES QUESTIONS

V. OTROS ASUNTOS

19. Any Other Business

19. Autres questions

19. Otros asuntos

**LE PRESIDENT:** Est-ce que les membres du Conseil ont une remarque à faire qui n'aurait pas été examinée dans le cadre des travaux du Conseil, étant entendu qu'il sera possible d'examiner tous les points lors de la Conférence?...

Puisqu'il n'y a pas de demande d'intervention, je déclare ce point clos.

20. Date and Place of the 101st Session of the Council

20. Date et lieu de la cent unième session du Conseil

20. Fecha y lugar de celebración del 101º período de sesiones del Consejo

La Centième session du Conseil se clôturera demain et suivant la tradition, la prochaine session, c'est-à-dire la cent unième session du Conseil se tiendra immédiatement après la Conférence, c'est-à-dire le vendredi 29 novembre.

La cent unième session du Conseil devra se pencher sur toute une série de questions de nominations dans les différentes commissions. Cette session traditionnellement se tient toujours après la clôture de la Conférence.

S'il n'y a pas d'objection, nous pouvons considérer que la décision est prise de fixer la date de cette session à Rome le 29 novembre.

S'il n'y a pas de commentaire, il en est ainsi décidé.

Il nous reste à vous remercier, en nous excusant d'avoir été peut-être un peu rapide, mais je crois qu'il était nécessaire de l'être de façon à clôturer dans les meilleures conditions les travaux de notre Conseil.

Une tâche importante reste à assumer, c'est l'approbation du rapport. Le Comité de rédaction a déjà travaillé hier jusqu'à une heure avancée. Il travaillera encore aujourd'hui, il travaillera demain matin.

Je propose de nous réunir demain vendredi à une heure qui ne soit pas trop tardive. Le Président du Comité de rédaction souhaiterait une certaine flexibilité de façon à ce que tous les membres du Conseil soient assurés de pouvoir disposer de tous les documents dans les diverses langues officielles de la FAO.

Je propose donc de nous réunir à 15 h 45 de façon à pouvoir commencer à 16 h 00, en espérant pouvoir clôturer nos travaux à 18 heures.

Compte tenu de la qualité de la représentation des Etats Membres au sein du Comité de rédaction, je crois que le Comité pourra nous fournir un excellent travail avant de clôturer la présente session du Conseil.

Je remercie tous les membres du Conseil de leur collaboration. S'il a été possible en très peu de temps de voir tant de matières diverses et tant de matières importantes, c'est grâce à votre collaboration. Au nom du Secrétariat et en mon nom personnel, je vous remercie très vivement du travail accompli.

The meeting rose at 13.30 hours.

La séance est levée à 13 h 30.

Se levanta la sesión a las 13.30 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 100/PV/6

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**Hundredth Session**

**Centième session**

**100° período de sesiones**

SIXTH PLENARY MEETING  
SIXIEME SEANCE PLENIERE  
SEXTA SESION PLENARIA  
(8 November 1991)

The Sixth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.30 hours

Mr Antoine Saintraint. Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La sixième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 30

sous la présidence de M. Antoine Saintraint. Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la sexta sesión plenaria a las 14.30

horas bajo la presidencia del Sr. Antoine Saintraint. Presidente Independiente del Consejo

## **ADOPTION OF REPORT**

## **ADOPTION DU RAPPORT**

## **APROBACION DEL INFORME**

**LE PRESIDENT:** Après un long travail, le Comité de rédaction a abouti à la présentation de son rapport. Donc, si vous voulez, nous débutons notre sixième séance plénière, la sixième et dernière séance de notre session du Conseil. Je déclare la séance ouverte.

Je salue la présence du Président du Comité de rédaction, l'honorable représentant du Royaume du Maroc, M. Sinaceur. Nous aurons l'occasion de dire ultérieurement tout le bien que nous pensons du travail qui a été déployé et, comme il est tard et qu'une importante tâche nous attend, je me permettrai d'être bref. Je vais passer immédiatement la parole au Président du Comité de rédaction.

Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Président, Comité de rédaction): C'est pour moi un privilège de présider le Comité de rédaction à la centième session de notre Conseil. Le Comité de rédaction s'est réuni à trois reprises. Ses travaux ont duré une dizaine d'heures et le résultat de ses délibérations est devant les membres du Conseil.

Je voudrais ajouter que sans l'esprit de coopération, l'esprit de conciliation, et je pourrais dire l'esprit de franche camaraderie dont ont fait preuve tous les membres du Comité, je n'aurais pas été en mesure de proposer à notre Conseil un rapport concis et que nous espérons équilibré.

Nous nous sommes en permanence attachés, non seulement à reproduire les opinions des uns et des autres, mais aussi et surtout à refléter le plus exactement possible les débats qui se sont déroulés dans cette enceinte. J'aimerais enfin exprimer ma reconnaissance aux membres du Comité et au secrétariat pour son appui, aux interprètes pour leur disponibilité et aux messagères pour leur amabilité.

Notre rapport vous est soumis pour acceptation.

## **DRAFT REPORT - PART I**

## **PROJET DE RAPPORT - PREMIERE PARTIE**

## **PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE I**

### **PARAGRAPHS 1 TO 20**

### **PARAGRAPHERS 1 A 20**

### **PARRAFOS 1 A 20**

**LE PRESIDENTE:** Je remercie vivement le Président du Comité de rédaction. Nous allons, si vous le voulez bien, immédiatement commencer par le document CL 100/REP/1 du 8 novembre 1991, c'est-à-dire de ce jour. Nous allons suivre la tradition et commencer par le point 1, centième session tenue du 5 au 8. Nous pouvons ajouter au 8 novembre, à moins que certains n'aient l'intention d'atteindre 1 heure du matin pour arriver au 9. Je crois que durant la journée du 8 nous aurons l'occasion de le clôturer et de l'adopter.

Paragraphs 1 to 20 approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 20 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 20 son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 21 TO 26

PARAGRAPHES 21 A 26

PARRAFOS 21 A 26

**LE PRESIDENT:** Rapport de la soixante-troisième session du Comité du programme et soixante-douzième session du Comité financier, procédures du budget-programme, sous le paragraphe 21. Pas de remarques? Adopté. En ce qui concerne le paragraphe 22, on a distribué et vous l'avez certainement sous les yeux, le texte du paragraphe 22 qui fait l'objet du document CL 100/REP/1-Corr.1. Le paragraphe 22 contient un projet de résolution de la Conférence. Projet de résolution que nous soumettrons à la Conférence et qui contient les amendements aux Textes fondamentaux concernant le schéma du Programme de travail et budget. Il est clair que c'est une proposition de résolution faite à la Conférence qui sera examinée et certainement longuement examinée par la Commission III chargée des problèmes constitutionnels et juridiques et lors de la Commission de résolution, si je ne m'abuse. Pas de remarques en ce qui concerne le nouveau paragraphe 22? Veuillez oublier le paragraphe 22 qui se trouve dans le document REP/1 et ne retenez uniquement que le paragraphe 22 qui se trouve dans le Corr.1. Pas de remarques? Adopté. Nous arrivons maintenant au paragraphe 23? Pas de remarques sur le paragraphe 23? Adopté. Paragraphe 24. Pas de remarques?

**Ray ALLEN (United Kingdom) :** I would like to add a paragraph in here or in a paragraph after paragraph 25 - just a one liner - to say, "Concern was expressed with problems experienced on the implementation of FINSYS". This would be a new paragraph.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Cette proposition devrait être faite après le paragraphe 24 et pas après le 25 ou bien vous faites un nouveau paragraphe 25(bis).

**Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia):** En primer lugar, convendría aclarar, como usted lo ha solicitado, señor Presidente, cuál es el sitio que indica el colega del Reino Unido. Pero, en segundo lugar, creo que él ha encabezado esa frase por la expresión neutra "se", que involucra a todos los miembros del Consejo. La delegación de Colombia no dijo eso. Podríamos decir tal vez "unos pocos miembros".

**LE PRESIDENT:** En réalité ce n'est pas "quelques rares membres" c'est "un". La question a été soulevée uniquement par le membre du Royaume-Uni. Et j'ai même eu l'occasion de répondre que le problème ne se posait pas uniquement à la FAO mais également parfois à l'échelon national pour certains pays. La presse en a fait cas du reste. Alors je passe la parole au Président du Comité de rédaction pour nous faire part de son sentiment sur la proposition du représentant du Royaume-Uni.

**Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Président, Comité de rédaction):** Tout d'abord sur le plan de la forme, je pense que si l'on doit ajouter un nouveau paragraphe, c'est après le paragraphe 24 et laisser le paragraphe 25 tout seul sous le point "Autres questions". Maintenant, sur le plan du fond, cette question n'a pas été abordée par les membres du Comité de rédaction. Je pense qu'elle est du ressort du Conseil. C'est au Conseil de décider si on peut ajouter ce nouveau paragraphe 25, ou 24(bis). Mais cela n'a pas fait l'objet de discussions au Comité de rédaction.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Si je peux me permettre de faire une suggestion au collègue britannique, ce serait plutôt de ne pas le mettre dans le cadre du budget-programme, cela n'a rien à voir avec le budget-programme. S'il pouvait reprendre sa suggestion dans le cadre du REP/4 qui concerne les Affaires budgétaires, financières et administratives? On trouvera certainement un endroit où reprendre sa suggestion sous la rubrique point 15.5 de l'ordre du jour de la Conférence, parce que la procédure du budget-programme et FINSYS PERSYS sont deux questions totalement différentes, tandis qu'au REP/4 sous le point 15.5 de l'ordre du jour on pourrait reprendre la suggestion de notre collègue britannique.

**Ray ALLEN (United Kingdom):** I am content wherever it goes, so long as it goes somewhere. I raised it here because this is where I mentioned it, but I am content to put it somewhere else as long it does go somewhere else.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je n'oublierai pas et nous reprendrons cette question sous le point 15.5 de l'ordre du jour.

**Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia):** Entiendo, señor Presidente, que esto lo veremos cuando lleguemos al REP/4; pero muchos colegas han dicho que la delegación de Colombia habla demasiado. Entonces, si cada asunto que planteé la delegación de Colombia, que es un país como cualquier otro, fuera a ser incluido como un párrafo separado, creemos, señor Presidente, que aquí pasaríamos todo el fin de semana.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Colombia es un país como los demás, pero tiene un representante especial.

**Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Président, Comité de rédaction):** M. le

Président, je voulais vous faire part de mon sentiment sur la question. Effectivement, comme je l'ai annoncé dans ma brève introduction, tout au long de nos débats au Comité de rédaction, nous avons essayé de refléter ce qui avait été dit par l'ensemble des membres du Conseil. Maintenant, effectivement, nous avons là une proposition concrète qui est de refléter l'idée avancée par une délégation. Je confirme donc ce que j'ai dit tout à l'heure; je m'en remets pour cela à la décision du Conseil. Mais avant de passer au paragraphe 24, comme vous l'avez dit, si le délégué de la Grande-Bretagne pouvait faire parvenir le texte de sa proposition au Secrétariat, cela nous aiderait quelque peu.



**LE PRESIDENT:** Puis-je demander à notre collègue britannique de rédiger sa proposition et de la faire parvenir au Secrétariat?

En ce qui concerne le paragraphe 24, pas d'autre, remarque? Adopté.

Autres questions: paragraphe 25. Pas d'observation? Adopté.

Invitations d'Etats non membres à des réunions de la FAO: paragraphe 26. Approuvé.

Paragraphs 21 to 26 approved

Les paragraphes 21 à 26 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 21 a 26 son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary. Part I. was adopted

Projet de rapport de la Plénière. Ière partie, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria. Parte I. es aprobado

## DRAFT REPORT - PART II

### PROJET DE RAPPORT - DEUXIEME PARTIE

### PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE II

#### PARAGRAPHS 1 TO 13

#### PARAGRAPHES 1 A 13

#### PARRAFOS 1 A 13

**LE PRESIDENT:** Nous allons passer au document CL 100/REP/2 qui concerne les activités de la FAO.

Paragraphs 1 to 13 approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 13 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 13 son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary. Part II. was adopted

Projet de rapport de la Plénière. IIème partie, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria. Parte II. es aprobado

## DRAFT REPORT - PART III

### PROJET DE RAPPORT - TROISIEME PARTIE

### PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE III

#### PARAGRAPHS 1 TO 4

#### PARAGRAPHES 1 A 4

#### PARRAFOS 1 A 4

**LE PRESIDENT:** Nous passons maintenant à la troisième partie du rapport, le document CL 100/REP/3, qui concerne les activités de la FAO. Il comporte, au titre du point 5 de l'ordre du jour, le rapport de la cinquante-huitième session du Comité des produits et, au titre du point 6 de l'ordre du jour, le rapport intérimaire sur les préparatifs de la Conférence internationale sur la nutrition.

Je salue la présence de notre ami, M. Dutia.

Paragraphs 1 to 4 approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 4 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 4 son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 5 TO 11

PARAGRAPHES 5 A 11

PARRAFOS 5 A 11

**LE PRESIDENT:** Le représentant de l'Allemagne a demandé la parole.

**Harald HILDEBRAND (Germany):** As far as I remember the statement of the Observer of the EC Commission, the reference to the help by the Community in the sense of flexibility for the oilseeds problem, and that this flexibility might be possible within a global and balanced solution is still valid. So I thought it appropriate to add it to the text in the following way. The last sentence, third to last line to read as follows: "Commission, as the Community's negotiator, during the Ministerial Meeting in December 1990, had indicated areas where flexibility might be possible within a global and balanced solution, and now should have liked to add the following phrase "that this offer was still valid."

After a brief contact with the Observer of the Commission, I know that this phrase should be included to reflect the contents of his statement.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Maintenant je demanderai peut-être au représentant de l'Allemagne de relire sa proposition qui vient à la fin du paragraphe 5 et je lui demanderai de la relire très lentement.

**Harald HILDEBRAND (Germany):** I apologize for intervening on the incorrect paragraph.

I would like to make the following change beginning at the third to last line of paragraph 5: "Commission, as the Community's negotiator, during the Ministerial Meeting in December 1990, had indicated areas where flexibility might be possible within a global and balanced solution...", and now add: "and that this offer was still valid."

**Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Président, Comité de rédaction):** Nous avons écouté attentivement la proposition du délégué de l'Allemagne. A mon sens, au niveau du Comité de rédaction, cet ajout ne pose pas de difficulté. Aussi, nous en remettons-nous entre vos mains. Mais le Comité de rédaction n'éprouve pas de difficulté à insérer ces deux propositions à la fin du paragraphe 5.

**C.B. HOUTMAN (Netherlands):** I would just like to say that we have nothing against the insertion of these few words, but I would like to make a plea to members not to open discussions on what the Drafting Committee has been achieving so far.

**Gonzalo BUIA HOYOS (Colombia):** Con mucha cordialidad, creo que quería decir algo parecido. Si en el Comité de Redacción, del cual fue parte Alemania, se hubiera planteado este asunto, la discusión sería más fácil. Sin embargo, el contenido no nos ofrece dificultad y podemos aceptarlo.

**LE PRESIDENT:** L'Allemagne est un grand pays qui a beaucoup de responsabilités et il est possible que le représentant de l'Allemagne ait commis un certain oubli. Mais il n'y a pas de problème si l'on signale que l'offre est encore valable. Cela ne change strictement rien. Je crois que M. Dutia n'y voit pas d'objection. Je vous propose de retenir l'amendement de l'Allemagne tel que libellé. Pas de remarque? Il en est ainsi décidé le paragraphe 5 est donc adopté tel qu'amendé. Je remercie le représentant de l'Allemagne de sa contribution.

Paragraphs 5 to 11. as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 5 à 11. ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 5 a 11. así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 12 TO 14

PARAGRAPHERS 12 A 14

PARRAFOS 12 A 14

Paragraphs 12 to 14 approved

Les paragraphes 12 à 14 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 12 a 14 son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary. Part III as amended, was adopted

Projet de rapport de la Plénière. IIIème partie, ainsi amendé, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria. Parte III, así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT - PART IV

PROJET DE RAPPORT - QUATRIEME PARTIE

PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE IV

**LE PRESIDENT:** Nous en arrivons de la sorte à la quatrième partie du rapport, le document CL 100/REP/4: Programme, affaires budgétaires, financières et administratives. Nous n'allons pas oublier la remarque de notre collègue britannique et nous passons immédiatement à la nomination du Commissaire aux comptes, point qui ne présente pas de problème.

PARAGRAPHS 1 TO 4

PARAGRAPHERS 1 A 4

PARRAFOS 1 A 4

**LE PRESIDENT:** Paragraphe 3: Il doit réjouir la délégation du Royaume-Uni puisqu'il comprend une résolution qui a été adoptée par le Conseil. Il n'y a pas de commentaire à faire sinon à souhaiter un travail fécond pendant la période de deux ans qui vient pour le Contrôleur et Vérificateur général des comptes du Royaume-Uni, que nous félicitons. Ce paragraphe est adopté. Paragraphe 4: Pas de remarques? Adopté.

Paragraphs 1 to 4 approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 4 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 4 son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 5 TO 18

PARAGRAPHERS 5 A 18

PARRAFOS 5 A 18

Paragraphs 5 to 18 approved

Les paragraphes 5 à 18 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 5 a 18 son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 19 TO 22

PARAGRAPHERS 19 A 22

PARRAFOS 19 A 22

**C.B. HOUTMAN (Netherlands):** I think in paragraph 21, Phase 2 "Construction of a new Eighth-floor" I think it should be Building "E" instead of "F". "F" Building is the Cristoforo Colombo, something like that but not here.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je crois qu'il y a une confusion, parce que le building F de Cristoforo Colombo devient le building F de Caracalla. Il n'y aura plus de building F à Cristoforo Colombo.

**Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia):** Creo que todos compartimos el contenido de este párrafo 22, sobre el reconocimiento al Representante Permanente de Italia ante la FAO. Hoy todos sabemos quién es, pero como estos informes van pasando a la historia, proponemos que se diga "las intervenciones personales del Embajador Gian Luigi Valenza, Representante Permanente de Italia ante la FAO".

**LE PRESIDENT:** On pourrait peut-être compléter en disant: Son Excellence l'Ambassadeur Valenza et ses dévoués collaborateurs.

**Oscar MAS HERRERA (Costa Rica):** Para apoyar la proposición del señor Embajador de Colombia, debidamente completada por usted, señor Presidente.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** ¿Están de acuerdo en que no solamente se diga "el señor Embajador Luigi Valenza", sino también "sus próximos colaboradores"?

Est-ce que le Président du Comité de rédaction est d'accord?

Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Président, Comité de rédaction): Certainement.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Le point 22, amendé et sous-amendé, est adopté.

Paragraphs 19 to 22. as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 19 à 22. ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 19 a 22. así enmendados, son aprobados

**LE PRESIDENT:** On propose l'insertion d'un point supplémentaire qui deviendrait le point 23, où nous reprendrions la suggestion de notre collègue du Royaume-Uni.

Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Président, Comité de rédaction): Nous allons lire cette proposition dans la version originale telle que proposée par la délégation du Royaume-Uni. Il s'agirait dans ce nouveau paragraphe 23 de dire la phrase suivante:

"Concern was expressed at problems experienced in the implementation of the FINSYS system".

**LE PRESIDENT:** Pour ne pas entamer une longue discussion, on pourrait dire, comme l'avait remarqué M. Bula Hoyos, qu'il y avait une délégation qui avait manifesté sa préoccupation. Le problème a été soulevé, c'est un problème important, mais il n'y a pas eu une large discussion.

Paragraphe 23: adopté.

**Konan Daniel YOMAN (Côte d'Ivoire):** Je voudrais que l'on nous relise le paragraphe 23.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Est-ce que je peux demander au Président du Comité de rédaction de relire ce nouveau paragraphe 23?

**Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Chairman, Drafting Committee):** "Concern was expressed by one member at problems experienced in the implementation of the FINSYS system".

Paragraph 23 approved

Le paragraph 23 est adopté

El párrafo 23 es aprobado

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

## DRAFT REPORT - PART V

### PROJET DE RAPPORT - CINQUIEME PARTIE

#### PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE V

**LE PRESIDENT:** Nous passons maintenant au REP/5, qui concerne les activités de la FAO, les questions constitutionnelles et juridiques et autres questions.

#### PARAGRAPHS 1 TO 12

#### PARAGRAPHERS 1 A 12

#### PARRAFOS 1 A 12

Paragraphs 1 to 12 approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 12 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 12 son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary. Part V. was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la plénière. Vème partie, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la plenaria. Parte V. es aprobado

## DRAFT REPORT - PART VI

### PROJET DE RAPPORT - SIXIEME PARTIE

#### PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE VI

**LE PRESIDENT:** Nous allons passer maintenant au REP/6, Questions concernant le programme, le budget, les finances et l'administration.

#### PARAGRAPHS 1 TO 17

#### PARAGRAPHERS 1 A 17

#### PARRAFOS 1 A 17

Paragraphs 1 to 17 approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 17 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 17 son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary. Part VI. was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la Plénière. VIème partie, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria. Parte VI. es aprobado

## DRAFT REPORT - PART VII

### PROJET DE RAPPORT - SEPTIEME PARTIE

#### PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE VII

**LE PRESIDENT:** Nous allons passer à la septième partie contenue dans le document CL 100/REP/7, qui concerne le point 17 de notre ordre du jour: Questions constitutionnelles et juridiques.

PARAGRAPHS 1 TO 13

PARAGRAPHERS 1 A 13

PARRAFOS 1 A 13

Paragraphs 1 to 13 approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 13 sont approuvés

Les párrafos 1 a 13 son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary. Part VII, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la Plénière. VIIème partie, est adopté

El propecto de informe de la Plenaria. Parte VII, es aprobado

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je poserai maintenant la question au Secrétariat de savoir quand nous pourrions disposer du REP/8. Je donnerai la parole à l'Assistant du Directeur général pour nous éclairer sur la suite de nos travaux.

**LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL ADJOINT:** Les prévisions sont que le REP/8 devrait sortir dans quelques minutes et le REP/9 à 18 heures.

**Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Président, Comité de rédaction):** Je vous donnerai mon sentiment personnel parce que c'est une question qui concerne tous les membres du Conseil, parce qu'ils doivent avoir le temps de lire les documents. Il me semble que nous pourrions nous réunir à 18 h 30.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Permettez-moi de suggérer 18 h 25, cela nous permettra de commencer certainement à 18 h 30.

The meeting was suspended from 17.15 to 18.30 hours

La séance est suspendue de 17 h 15 à 18 h 30

Se suspende la sesión de las 17.15 a las 18.30 horas

DRAFT REPORT - PART VIII

PROJET DE RAPPORT - HUITIEME PARTIE

PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE VIII

**LE PRESIDENT:** Nous reprenons nos travaux. La séance suspendue est réouverte. Nous allons maintenant examiner deux documents qui ont été distribués. Ces documents figurent sous la cote CL 100/REP/8 et CL 100/REP/9. Nous allons commencer par le REP/8. Huitième partie, Rapport de la cinquante-septième session du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques. Propositions d'amendements à l'Acte constitutif et au Règlement général de l'Organisation visant à permettre l'adhésion à la FAO des organisations d'intégration économique régionale, notamment rapport établi par le Comité conformément à la décision prise par le Conseil à sa quatre-vingt-dix-neuvième session.

PARAGRAPHS 1 TO 9

PARAGRAPHS 1 A 9

PARRAFOS 1 A 9

**Frank BUCHHOLZ (United States of America) :** I have one comment regarding paragraph 7. I remember that a number of delegates did express the viewpoint at the beginning of their comments that they had not time to refer the Chairman's text to their Capitals.

I propose that at the beginning of this paragraph we insert the words: "The majority of Council Members did not have an opportunity to refer the Chairman's text to their Capitals, and could therefore only give preliminary comments on the text on an ad referendum basis."

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je m'adresse au Président du Comité de rédaction. Je crois qu'il est difficile de parler de "majorité" ou "minorité". Certains pays ont un fax et d'autres n'en ont pas. Je suis convaincu que ceux qui ont des fax auront envoyé le texte par fax aux autorités. Donc, dire la majorité... je crois qu'il faudrait un texte plus souple.

**Frank BUCHHOLZ (United States of America):** I shall accept the word "many" - "many members".

**LE PRESIDENT:** Maintenant, savoir s'il faut dire some, many, members... je ne sais pas dans quelle mesure... La remarque a été faite par beaucoup, un certain nombre ont fait cette remarque, et je suis heureux de voir le Président du Comité, l'Ambassadeur Bula Hoyos. Nous avons suivi attentivement les travaux, et les membres du COIER ne se sont pas consultés sur ce point. Je vais demander au Président du Comité de rédaction de me donner son sentiment et son opinion. Nous demanderons également à la délégation des Etats-Unis de nous présenter un texte.

**Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Président, Comité de rédaction):** Je viens de consulter les minutes de nos travaux. Il n'y a pas eu de grandes discussions sur ce paragraphe 7, mais pour situer les choses telles qu'elles ont été dites durant les débats et compte tenu de la proposition des Etats-Unis, je pense que parler de "quelques membres" serait la formule la plus convenable.

**Antonie DE JONG (Netherlands):** I also thought it was "Some members". I think that is the most correct reflection of the debate.

**Kiichi NARITA (Japan):** Based on my memory when I was carefully listening to the many interventions, many countries expressed what was said by the United States delegation, so I support putting in either the word "many" or "majority of".



**Joseph TCHICAYA (Congo):** C'est toujours la même question. Savoir quel est le terme qu'il faut utiliser pour mieux rendre le débat. Non. Je crois que l'on ne peut pas parler de majorité. Je pense, pour ma part, que le Président du Comité de rédaction vient de donner une formule qui me semble très appropriée. C'est pour cette raison qu'il convient de retenir ces mots "quelques membres".

**Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia):** Señor Presidente, apoyo lo que ha dicho mi colega y vecino de la derecha, el Embajador Joseph Tchicaya, del Congo.

**Frank BUCHHOLZ (United States of America):** I do not wish to delay our proceedings any longer. In the absence of actually sitting down and counting who said what on this issue, I believe it is "many", but I will accept "some".

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je tiens à remercier le représentant des Etats-Unis pour son esprit de conciliation. Il rejoint la proposition du Comité de rédaction. Est-ce que vous pouvez marquer votre accord M. le Président?

**Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Président, Comité de rédaction):** Tout à fait, puisque j'avais fait moi-même la proposition. Mais je voudrais simplement demander au représentant des Etats-Unis si nous pouvions avoir lecture du texte. Je pense que le Secrétariat...

**LE PRESIDENT:** Il faudrait lire la phrase au début du paragraphe 7. Puis-je vous demander de la lire?

**Frank BUCHHOLZ (United States of America):** "Some members did not have an opportunity to refer the Chairman's text to their Capitals and therefore could only give preliminary comments on the text on an ad referendum basis."

**Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia):** Al menos en castellano, señor Presidente, hace falta una precisión. Seria necesario decir: algunos miembros expresaron que;... expresaron que no tuvieron el tiempo.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je crois que c'est une nuance importante, suivant que l'on a, ou que l'on n'a pas, de fax. Je ne crois pas que l'Ambassade des Etats-Unis ne dispose pas de fax, mais de toute façon la FAO dispose d'un fax qu'elle met généreusement à la disposition de ceux qui le demandent. Peut-on accepter le texte qui va être lu par le Secrétariat? Le texte tel qu'amendé par le Président du Comité, l'Ambassadeur de Colombie. Puis-je demander que l'on relise le texte?

**Michel SAVINI (Secretary, Drafting Committee):** I have just got the beginning of this text and the United States delegation will give us the final piece. The beginning of it should read now, "Some members said that

they did not have an opportunity to refer the Chairman's text to their Capital... ", and so on.

**Frank BUCHHOLZ (United States of America)** : I will complete it - "... did not have the opportunity to refer the Chairman's text to their Capitals and therefore could only give preliminary comments on the text on an ad referendum basis."

**Michel SAVINI (Secretary, Drafting Committee)**: "Some members said that they did not have the opportunity to refer the Chairman's text to their Capital and therefore could only give preliminary comments on the text on an ad referendum basis."

**CHAIRMAN**: The United States of America agrees with this text. Y a-t-il d'autres observations sur le paragraphe 7? Adopté.

Paragraphs 1 to 9. as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 9. ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 9. así enmendados, son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary. Part VIII. as amended, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la Plénière. VIIIème partie, ainsi amendé, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria. Parte VIII. así enmendado, es aprobado

## DRAFT REPORT - PART IX

## PROJET DE RAPPORT - NEUVIEME PARTIE

## PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE IX

**LE PRESIDENT**: Nous allons, si vous le voulez bien passer au projet de rapport dans sa neuvième partie. Il va de soi que le paragraphe 9 implique son annexe reliée directement au paragraphe 9. Soumettre le second rapport, voir annexe, et le numéro de l'annexe sera indiqué comme toutes les annexes précédentes. Nous avons bien stipulé que vous laissons annexe I, annexe II, annexe III, annexe IV, etc. Nous avons maintenant sous les yeux le document CL 100/REP/9, Activités de la FAO, point 7 de l'ordre du jour. Je salue M. Walton. Faits nouveaux concernant le PAFT.

### PARAGRAPHS 1 TO 8

### PARAGRAPHS 1 A 8

### PARRAFOS 1 A 8

**Miss Ting WEN LIAN (Malaysia)**: In paragraph 5, I would like to add a few words in the fourth sentence which begins "The Group may decide", and after "decide" I would like to add the words "on the participation and". The sentence will then read "The Group may decide on the participation and on

the status of participation... ", and after the second "participation" I would also like to add "as observer". Therefore, the sentence will read "The Group may decide on the participation and on the status of participation as observers in its work of the interested intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations" etc. to the end of the paragraph.

**C.B. HOUTMAN (Netherlands):** Looking at what has been proposed I think that this is a degradation, especially when we talk about the second insertion, "and on the status of participation as observers". As you try to decide on the state of participation, you should not add "as observers" because that is what you want to have the Group decide on. I do not think the first insertion very opportune so I ask the delegate of Malaysia to withdraw the proposal and keep paragraph 5 as it is.

**John MACHIN (United Kingdom):** I would simply like to endorse what my Dutch colleague said particularly regarding the addition of the word "observers". In my view, firstly, it was not reflected in our discussion and secondly, as my Dutch colleague observed it actually obviates the decision that the Group itself may take. Therefore, I think it ought to be omitted.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je vais donner la parole au Président du Comité de rédaction car ce comité s'est longuement penché sur ce paragraphe.

**Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Président, Comité de rédaction):** En effet, le Comité de rédaction s'est longuement penché sur le paragraphe 5 puisque cinq membres de ce comité sont intervenus à seize reprises sur la question et nous avons même dû demander l'appui technique de M. Murray qui, à trois reprises, nous a donné certaines explications. Excusez-moi pour ces chiffres, mais c'est pour vous montrer l'intérêt porté à la question sur laquelle nous avons passé un temps certain.

S'agissant de la proposition qui nous est faite, le Comité de rédaction a adopté ce paragraphe dans l'état où il est présenté. Il y a donc eu consensus, à la fin, sur ce paragraphe et nous avons tous convenu que tout le paragraphe devait être rédigé au conditionnel, ce qui laisse la possibilité aux membres du groupe de déterminer effectivement le type de participation; ils seront tout à fait indépendants pour prendre leurs décisions. Nous avons simplement convenu que les modalités de mise en place de ce groupe étaient prévues statutairement par l'Article VI.5 de l'Acte constitutif de la FAO, mais que les membres du groupe auraient quand même toute latitude dans le choix des participants qu'il désirerait inviter. C'est pour cela que nous avons considéré que la quatrième phrase, qui dit que "le groupe déterminerait le type de participation à ses travaux des organisations et du président du Groupe de conseillers forestiers du PAFT" est tout à fait acceptable pour le Comité de rédaction.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Avant de donner la parole au délégué de Madagascar, je voudrais souligner que, dans le texte espagnol que j'ai sous les yeux, comme dans les autres textes, on dit: "Concedería, seleccionarían, invitaría, podría".

Cela me paraît une belle suite de conditionnels.

**Raphaël RABE (Madagascar):** Je voudrais seulement poser une question au Président du Comité de rédaction pour mieux comprendre. Si l'on examine cette phrase, "le Groupe déterminerait le type de participation à ses travaux", cela veut-il dire que les organisations intergouvernementales et non gouvernementales participeront systématiquement, de toutes façons, à ses travaux mais que c'est le type de participation qui sera déterminé? Est-ce le sens de cette phrase?

On se souviendra que ma délégation avait dit que l'on pourrait peut-être effectivement laisser la possibilité au Groupe de déterminer l'opportunité de la participation et, bien entendu, le type de participation.

**LE PRESIDENT:** De toutes façons, le débat complet se trouve dans le procès-verbal. Le paragraphe 5 a fait l'objet de 80 interventions lors des travaux du Comité de rédaction et c'est une formule de compromis.

Je suis convaincu que le représentant de la Suède, qui a une grande expérience du Comité de rédaction pour en avoir été très souvent un magistral président, pourra nous aider.

**Sture THEOLIN (Sweden):** Thank you, Sir, for your confidence. I sincerely trust that I will live up to it, although I have my doubts.

Perhaps there is some reason to look at this sentence. After all the work we did in the Drafting Committee, from the start I want to defend this sentence. As a compromise, one could read the sentence as it is drafted that the interested intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations may participate in the ad hoc Group's work. This was never intended and never implied in discussion. Therefore, one could to accommodate the concern both of Madagascar and of Malaysia, change it to read: "The Group may decide on the participation and on the status of participation in its work", in order to make it perfectly clear that the ad hoc Group invites and decides on the status.

**Miss Ting WEN LIAN (Malaysia) :** Do you mean to say that those are the only comments we are going to hear from our colleagues in the Council? I am waiting for further comments.

**Jacques WARIN (France):** Je cède à l'affectueuse sollicitation de ma collègue, l'ambassadeur de Malaisie, en faisant mon propre commentaire. Je crois que la formulation établie par le Comité de rédaction est excellente. Elle a été mûrement pesée, comme vient de nous le dire le Président du Comité de rédaction, et elle a été défendue avant moi, je crois, par mes collègues néerlandais et britannique. Il est clair que nous devons laisser le Groupe, qui est souverain en la matière, décider du type de participation. On dit "du type" dans la version française; je dirais plutôt "des modalités", mais cela ne change rien, bien entendu, au texte anglais.

Ce que je veux dire, c'est que c'est le Groupe qui est souverain en la matière et qui doit pouvoir décider des modalités de la participation des ONG. Je crois que nous étions tous d'accord là-dessus et que nous l'avons montré, après ces longues discussions qui ont eu lieu au Comité de rédaction et qui sont parfaitement reflétées dans cette formule bien équilibrée.

**C.B. HOUTMAN (Netherlands):** It is a bit challenging when someone asks for comments. I shall try to do that in a way, but not on substance.

The discussions took place yesterday and the day before yesterday. Many comments were made at that time on certain issues. We are now talking about the work of the Drafting Committee. I could not agree more with the comments of my colleague from France. The paragraph is well balanced. I would prefer to keep the text as it is.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je crois de fait que, s'il y a eu 80 interventions, il serait peut-être préférable de ne toucher à rien, par mesure de précaution. Nous avons fait confiance au Comité de rédaction et, sur ce point particulièrement sensible, je crois vraiment que toutes les hypothèses et que toutes les alternatives ont été soigneusement disséquées et examinées. Je vais demander à M. Sinaceur, Président du Comité de rédaction, de nous faire part de son sentiment.

**Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Président, Comité de rédaction):** Je suis dans l'obligation de saisir la planche qui m'est tendue par le délégué de la Suède, qui a évidemment participé à nos travaux, pour dire que, lorsque nous avons discuté, au niveau du Comité de rédaction, de cette quatrième phrase, une idée a été développée, à savoir que cette invitation serait à la discrétion du Groupe ad hoc. Mais comme je vous l'ai dit, il y a eu consensus sur le texte qui vous est proposé. Maintenant, je serais enclin à vous proposer une formule qui pourrait convenir à tout le monde, en disant "le Groupe déterminerait la nature de cette participation à ses travaux", le reste sans changement. Je me hasarde, mais c'est une formule que je peux considérer comme une formule de compromis.

**CHAIRMAN:** May I ask the representative of Malaysia if she can agree with this compromise?

**Miss Ting WEN LIAN (Malaysia) :** In a great gesture of compromise my delegation could accept the suggestion of our colleague from Sweden and the Chairman of the Drafting Committee.

We would like to see the sentence read: "The Group may decide on the participation and on the status of participation in its work", etc. We will withdraw our two little words "as observers". May I read this sentence again: "The Group may decide on the participation and on the status of participation in its work of the interested intergovernmental", etc. to the end of the paragraph.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je remercie la représentante de la Malaisie de sa proposition et de son esprit de coopération. Je ferai remarquer que le texte anglais et le texte français me paraissent plus près que le texte espagnol qui mériterait peut-être d'être réexaminé. On parle, en effet, dans le texte espagnol, de "condición jurídica". Il me semble que la traduction espagnole n'est pas bonne et qu'il serait bon de l'adapter à ce qui vient d'être dit en anglais et en français.

Sur la base de la proposition telle qu'elle vient d'être faite par l'Ambassadeur de Malaisie, y a-t-il d'autres commentaires ou suggestions relatifs au paragraphe 5?

**Declan WALTON (Special Assistant to the Director-General):** I would like to suggest that one word be changed in the sentence that starts "The Secretariat"- I think it would be better that, instead of "Technical Support Group", it should read "Multidisciplinary Support Group". That would be clearer.

**Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Président, Comité de rédaction):** Je n'ai pas de remarque particulière à faire. Nous pouvons tout à fait accepter cette précision. Je voudrais simplement faire remarquer que c'est M. Murray qui a proposé de parler de groupe d'appui technique.

**C.H. MURRAY** (Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department): It should be Multidisciplinary. I have no problem.

**LE PRESIDENT:** On pourrait dire "multidisciplinairement technique" ou "techniquement multidisciplinaire". Pas d'autre remarque sur le paragraphe 5? Adopté.

Paragraphs 1 to 8. as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 8. ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 8. así enmendados, son aprobados

**LE PRESIDENT:** Nous passons aux questions constitutionnelles et juridiques, point 18 - Changement du titre de la Commission des forêts pour l'Amérique Latine. Il y a une résolution adoptée par le Conseil, qui s'intitule "Modification du titre de la Commission des forêts pour l'Amérique Latine et les Caraïbes". Il en est de même pour le Bureau régional. Nous nous réjouissons de cette expansion de compétence et nous sommes heureux pour les pays des Caraïbes.

PARAGRAPHS 9 TO 10

PARAGRAPHERS 9 A 10

PARRAFOS 9 A 10

Paragraphs 9 to 10 approved

Les paragraphes 9 à 10 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 9 a 10 son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary, Part IX. as amended, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la Plènière. IXème partie, ainsi amendé, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria. Parte IX. así enmendado, es aprobado

**LE PRESIDENT:** Mesdames, Messieurs, nous arrivons au terme de nos travaux et je voudrais, avant de passer la parole au Président du Comité de rédaction, ce que je vais faire immédiatement, le féliciter. J' avais l'intention de dire que M. Sinaceur a suivi les traces de notre presque ancien collègue et ami, Sture Theolin, dont j'ai mis en exergue les éminentes qualités. J'ai pu les apprécier comme Président du Comité de rédaction dans les années écoulées.

Je voudrais dire combien j'apprécie la manière compétente, courageuse, énergique, avec laquelle le représentant du Royaume du Maroc, M. Sinaceur, a mené à bien ses travaux dans des circonstances qui n'étaient quand même pas faciles. Le Conseil s'est réuni pendant deux jours et demi et le Comité de rédaction s'est réuni très longuement avec une tâche compliquée puisque toutes les matières soumises étaient des matières, que je ne qualifierai pas de litigieuses, mais des matières compliquées et complexes.

En votre nom à tous, je voudrais le remercier et remercier tous les membres du Comité de rédaction. Il est tard, je n'ai pas l'intention de prononcer des discours. Je conclurai après son intervention, mais je voudrais immédiatement passer la parole au Président du Comité de rédaction en le remerciant vraiment très chaleureusement pour l'enthousiasme qu'il a mis en assumant cette délicate mission.

**Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Président, Comité de rédaction):** M. le Président, permettez-moi de vous dire que vos paroles aimables sont un grand honneur pour moi et pour la région au titre de laquelle j'ai eu le privilège de présider ce Comité de rédaction.

Je voudrais m'excuser auprès de vous-même et des membres du Conseil, tout d'abord au niveau de mon introduction et au niveau de la discussion du REP/8. J'espère rattraper les choses à ce niveau du débat, mais j'ai omis de dire que le Comité de rédaction à l'unanimité, à l'occasion du débat sur la question relative à l'adhésion à la FAO d'organisations d'intégration économique, a rendu un vibrant hommage au Secrétariat de la FAO pour les efforts qu'il a déployés et plus spécialement à M. Moore et à son Adjoint, M. Stein. Il était de mon devoir de faire ce rappel parce que le Comité de rédaction a été unanime à le dire.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je crois qu'en notre nom à tous, je peux remercier chaleureusement M. Moore qui se tient modestement à l'arrière du podium et qui pourrait le rejoindre. Nous le remercions et le félicitons.

Nous arrivons aux termes de nos travaux. Il est clair que nous devons remercier non seulement le Président et les membres du Comité de rédaction, mais également le Secrétariat pour tous les efforts qui ont été accomplis.

Je donne maintenant la parole à M. l'Ambassadeur du Congo, Son Excellence Joseph Tchicaya.

**Joseph TCHICAYA (Congo):** Le réseau de communications qui me relie à mon voisin de gauche, l'Ambassadeur Bula Hoyos, m'amène à vous présenter à vous-même, M. le Président, toutes nos félicitations pour le doigté et l'excellente manière avec laquelle vous venez de diriger nos débats.

Comme il s'agit de la dernière session de votre mandat, de ce premier mandat, je voudrais vous avouer qu'au cours de cette centième session, malgré les sujets fort délicats que nous avons abordés, vous avez su grâce à votre sens aigu d'équité et votre pointe d'humour toujours intéressante, qui a souvent détendu l'atmosphère, vous avez su mener à bon port cette session. Cette réussite personnelle, réalisée grâce votre expérience, à vos compétences multiples, se poursuivra au cours du second mandat qui vous sera sûrement confié à l'issue de la vingt-sixième Conférence de notre Organisation.

Le succès de cette session, nous le devons aussi à M. Sinaceur, Président de notre Comité de rédaction, qui a élaboré un excellent rapport. Au nom de tous, nous lui présentons nos félicitations. Nous associons à ces félicitations tous les membres du Comité de rédaction.

Je profite de l'occasion pour remercier également les interprètes et les charmantes messengers qui nous ont permis de communiquer au cours de nos débats.

J'associe à ces remerciements tous ceux qui, dans l'ombre, ont travaillé pour le succès de cette centième session, et je pense particulièrement au Secrétariat de la FAO qui a préparé d'excellents documents.

J'espère que le bon esprit qui a prévalu au cours de cette session se poursuivra à la Conférence, afin que des résultats probants soient atteints au cours de la vingt-sixième session de la plus haute instance de notre Organisation.

**LE PRÉSIDENT:** M. l'Ambassadeur Tchicaya, ma modestie a quelque peu souffert des paroles très aimables que vous venez de prononcer à notre égard. En tant que Président indépendant du Conseil, je ne suis que l'expression de la volonté du Conseil, et si ce Conseil, comme les précédents, a été fructueux et utile, c'est grâce à l'extraordinaire esprit de collaboration, de vraie coopération, et je me permettrai d'employer le terme d'amitié, qui a uni tous les membres du Conseil.

J'arrive au terme du premier mandat que vous m'avez confié. J'ai essayé modestement de l'assumer dans la mesure de mes moyens. Je peux vous assurer que le Conseil a bien travaillé, a beaucoup travaillé, et je suis convaincu que l'esprit de consensus, l'accord et la volonté de poursuivre le chemin sur lequel nous sommes engagés, nous permettra peut-être, si vous l'estimez, si vous me confiez un second mandat - ce sera la prérogative de la Conférence et c'est pour cela que je souligne le terme "si" - de relancer la FAO qui est une Organisation qui doit pouvoir répondre au gigantesque défi d'un monde en mutation, d'un monde qui change, qui évolue, et dont les besoins sont de plus en plus grands. La qualité de cette Organisation doit pouvoir non seulement être maintenue mais renforcée. Elle doit être l'instrument de conception et de pensée, d'action et d'exécution pour répondre au défi de notre temps.



Nous sommes dans la dernière décennie d'un siècle qui a connu une évolution rapide dans l'histoire du monde. Qu'est-ce que dix ans?

Les dix ans qui viennent sont un défi et peut-être ensemble pourrons-nous l'amorcer.

Merci de tout ce qui a été dit. Merci à tous les membres du Conseil, merci à tous les membres du Secrétariat. Merci à tous ceux qui ont travaillé dans l'ombre, qui ne sont pas en exergue ni sur le podium, ni ailleurs, mais qui ont contribué au succès de ce Conseil, court mais réellement très efficace. Merci à tous.

The meeting rose at 19.00 hours.

La séance est levée à 19 heures.

Se levanta la sesión a las 19 horas.